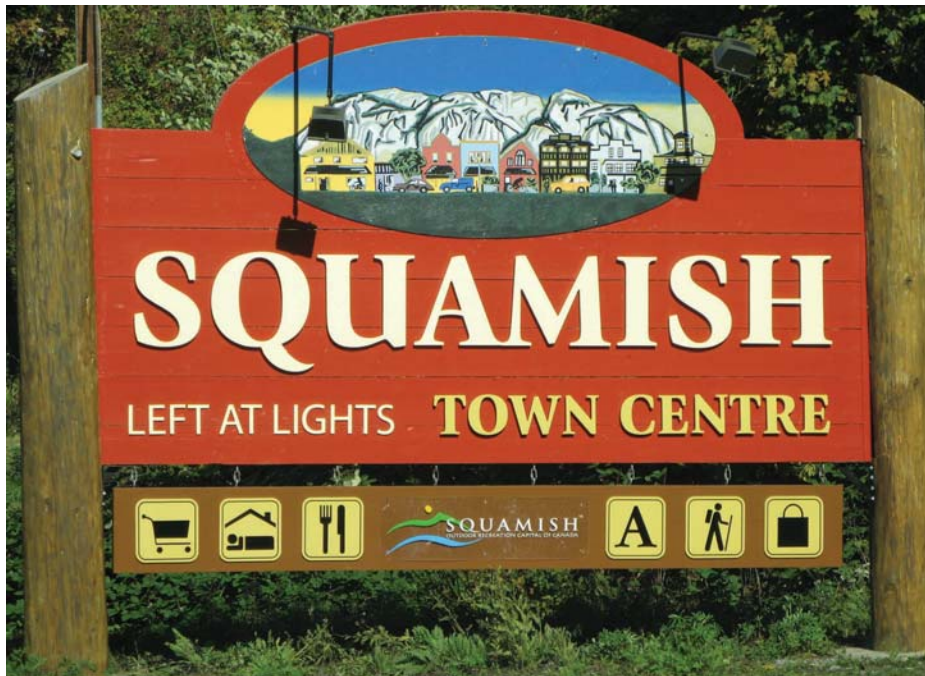


DISTRICT NEWS

SQUAMISH COMMUNITY IN ACTION



Have You Noticed?

The entrance to Squamish sign looks a whole lot brighter after receiving a redesign over the summer, including new paint and lettering.



The Squamish Emergency Operation Centre was the centre of attention October 12, as the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, announced that the Government of Canada is providing a payment of \$3.5 million to the Province of British Columbia under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement for flooding, which occurred in 2003. Joan McIntyre, MLA West Vancouver-Garibaldi accepted the cheque on behalf of the Provincial Government. Squamish Mayor, Ian Sutherland, and several members of Council attended for this significant announcement.

Council Attend UBCM

Squamish Council was well represented at the annual convention for the Union of BC Municipalities held recently in Vancouver. The theme for this year's conference was Gauging Temperatures and Forecasting Opportunities, Local Government in a Climate of Change.

Convention Highlights

Green City Award Finalist: Squamish was a finalist in our population category for the first ever Green City Awards. The awards recognize leadership in local government for implementing best practices and progress towards sustainability.

Meetings with Provincial Ministers: Meetings took place with five different Cabinet Ministers on a variety of topics, including dyking and dredging, court services, Olympics, expansion of Capilano College and Crown Land issues. These meetings are part of ongoing discussions and are an excellent opportunity to put important Squamish issues in front of the appropriate ministers.

Keep Squamish Clean

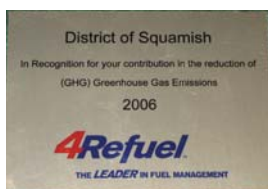
The District of Squamish passed a motion this summer on an initiative to work towards reducing plastic retail bags in Squamish by 50% by 2010. Almost all of the major retailers in town have responded that they have already made the move to offering customers reusable cloth bags for their purchases!

Sister City Visit

During August, the District of Squamish welcomed 20 high school students and their leaders from Squamish's Sister City Shimizu, Japan. School District 48 hosted the group where the students attended English language classes, activities and sight-seeing excursions in Squamish and Vancouver.



Squamish Recognized...



The District of Squamish was recognized by 4Refuel in acknowledgment of its work on reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by switching the District's fleet vehicles to Biodiesel (a blend of bio fuel and diesel fuel which, when burned in a diesel engine, gives a reduction in emissions and greenhouse gases without any engine modifications). 4Refuel is Canada's largest Fuel Management organization specializing in onsite delivery, fuel logistics, automated fleet management and biodiesel solutions.

Upcoming Events

RCMP Town Hall Meeting
November 5, 2007 • 7:00 p.m.
Brennan Park Recreation Centre

The RCMP invites the public to come and meet some of the local RCMP members and the Officer in Charge Sea to Sky Regional Police Services, Squamish Detachment, Inspector Norm MCPHAIL.

Please join us for an exciting and informative meeting – an opportunity for residents to hear about the RCMP's priorities and policing initiatives and a chance to ask questions.

Official Community Plan (OCP)
 Open House

The District of Squamish invites you to a meeting to discuss the OCP Draft No. 2

Thursday, November 8th, 2007
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sea to Sky Hotel – Ballroom
40330 Tantalus Way, Garibaldi Estates

A formal presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

See page 6 for further details on the OCP

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YOUR GOVERNMENT



Councillor Greg Gardner
ggardner@squamish.ca



Councillor Patricia Heintzman
pheintzman@squamish.ca



Councillor Mike Jensen
mjensen@squamish.ca



Councillor Raj Kahlon
rkahlon@squamish.ca



Councillor Corinne Lonsdale
clonsdale@squamish.ca



Councillor Jeff McKenzie
jmckenzie@squamish.ca

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates

Tuesday, October 16
Tuesday, November 6
Tuesday, November 20
Tuesday, December 4
Tuesday, December 18

Mayor's Message

Our community welcomed a new family in September. That family is Quest University.

After years of planning and hard work, Quest opened its doors to its first class of students. Even among all the other positive changes taking place in Squamish and throughout Sea to Sky Country, I've said several times that I believe Quest and the eventual expansion of Capilano College will have the biggest long-term impact for our community.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. David Strangway, Peter Ufford and everyone else who saw this project through to completion. It's hard to believe now that some people doubted this University was "real" just six short years ago.

Along with the creation of many "head of family" type jobs, Quest brings with it a wealth of potential community volunteers and leaders, and amenities that will be available to all citizens of Squamish. As the University grows, other businesses will be attracted to Squamish as they form business and research alliances with Quest.

Combined with a thriving and expanding Capilano College, we have the beginnings of a knowledge based economy that will create many business opportunities and several well paying jobs in our community. There's also the matter of the economic spin-off and business opportunities that will be created as we ramp up towards a community that will include 5,000 students between the two institutions over the next 10 years.

You can't concretely measure the impact Quest will have on our community. However, in conjunction with the highway upgrades and general growth of the business community, we do know that Squamish continues to gain in stature across British Columbia.



2007 Budget Highlights

Balancing Fiscal Restraint and Services in a Growing Community.

Operating Revenue and Expenditures:

Budgeted operating revenue from taxation is up 2.3% from 2006. Municipal residential tax rates increased by 11% and business rates by 8% to offset the loss of \$2,000,000 in property tax revenue from the Woodfibre mill.

Taking into account a reduction in the 2007 Provincial School Tax Levy, the combined increase in property tax was 4.8% on residential property and 1.5% on business property (based on an average home assessed at \$382,424 and an average business assessed at \$417,593).

Budgeted operating expenditures are \$20,270,604

- 5.3 million - Protective Services (includes RCMP, Fire Dept, Emergency Program, Bylaw Enforcement and Animal Control).
- 4.3 million - General Government Services (Legislative & Admin costs, Building, Maintenance, Insurance, Community Grants and Library).
- 2.5 million - Recreation Centre & Parks.
- 1.6 million - Operations (Dyke, Drainage and Road Maintenance).
- 6.6 million - Development Services 2.4, Landfill & Cemetery 1.3, Fiscal Services 2.9 (Development Services includes Community Development, Building Inspection, Planning, Economic Development and Transit. Fiscal Services includes debt payments and transfers to reserves).

Capital Works:

- \$693,000 Library, Municipal Hall and Information Technology Projects.
- \$746,000 Protective Services Equipment including a new Fire Truck.
- \$6,500,000 Road and Drainage projects.
- \$900,000 Recreation Facility and Park Improvements.

Water Works:

- \$1.7 million Operating budget. Capital projects include completion of wells 5, 6 & 7 at Powerhouse Springs and Watermain replacements in Valleycliffe.

Sanitary Sewer Works:

- \$2.4 million operating budget. Capital projects include pump station and force main upgrades.

New Initiatives:

- Asset Management - improved Property Management processes. Squamish Wind Energy Plan Phase II.
- UBCM Community Tourism Program Community Grants: \$110,000 in Community Grants to local non-profit organizations.

Environmental Initiatives:

- Implementation of biodiesel fuel program.

Council Committee Update

Affordable Housing Task Force

The Affordable Housing Task Force is nearing completion on its policy. The role of the Task Force will culminate with an Open House to provide public input and feedback on the policy which encompasses: the Housing Legislation in BC; the 2005 Affordable Housing Strategy; and the 2007 proposed Mixed Income Housing Program.

Corridor Trail Select Committee

The Committee continues to concentrate on establishing a multi-use commuter corridor trail. Current work is focusing heavily on options for the routing of this trail. A public open house is planned for the New Year to discuss and receive feedback on the routing, surfacing and amenities proposed for the trail. Stay tuned.

Community Advisory Committee on the Downtown Neighbourhood Plan

The Community Advisory Committee on the Downtown Neighbourhood Plan has been providing District staff with expertise and insight regarding effective course of actions for the Downtown Neighbourhood Plan. Most recently, the Committee made recommendations on groups to involve during a series of Focus Groups. The Committee also reviewed the community's input on issues that were raised throughout the planning process, and is now reviewing a series of 'issue papers' for Council's discussion and direction addressing four key policy areas for Downtown: view protection, parking, local economy, and Cleveland Avenue legacy.

Select Committee on Seniors Issues

The Select Committee on Seniors Issues has had a very active year thus far in 2007. The focus has been contributing information and thoughts on the design and function of the new Seniors Activity Centre presently under construction, including the operational model. Discussions have also taken place on bicycle routes and accessibility issues within the community.

Advisory Design Panel (ADP)

The ADP continues to review and provide feedback on the siting, massing, form and character of development projects planned for Squamish. See page 6 for examples of some proposed permits the ADP may be assessing in the near future.

Smoke Bluffs Park Committee

Recent priorities of the Smoke Bluffs Park Committee include: improving the trail network within the park, improving signage, rerouting the east loop trail with a sturdy set of stairs, and continuing work on the Loop Trail. Vegetation management is occurring along a variety of bluffs within the Park, to allow more light onto some of the cliffs with climbing routes. The added light should help prevent moss growth on specific rock climbs and hence improve access. Other initiatives that will be undertaken include re-cleaning older routes that have fallen into disuse and renewing or installing suitable anchors at the tops of routes that at present do not have anchor stations.



MAKING NEWS

2007 Capital Projects

Watermain replacements - Water mains are underground pipes that carry water from the pumping stations to your property. Watermain replacement is important to upkeeping the District's infrastructure.

- Hospital Place Watermain Replacement \$50,000
- Hemlock Watermain Replacement \$150,000
- Westway Watermain Replacement \$500,000

Drainage Project- Valleycliffe – Guilford Road

- Replacement of culvert at Little Stawamus creek crossing completed - \$500,000

Paving Projects –

- Cheakamus River Bridge area- portion
- Paradise Valley – 1km
- Ayr Drive – portion
- Hospital Place
- Loggers Lane – portion by the Adventure Centre
- Mamquam Road – portion

Thank you to the citizens of Squamish for your cooperation and complying with road signs and slowing down in work areas. Your patience is appreciated, as we work hard to move Squamish forward.

Community Feedback

The District of Squamish values the opinions of Squamish residents and over the past year commissioned Ipsos Reid, a public opinion research company, to conduct three surveys: Quality of Life and Financial Planning in the District of Squamish, 2007 Recreation & Physical Fitness Study, and Municipal Solutions to a Greener Earth (results to be released in November).

These surveys are public opinion surveys to gather opinions from community members on certain topics, issues and concerns. It also gauges how the District is meeting the needs of the community. It is important for Council and Staff to hear and consider opinions from the citizens of Squamish and the results from these surveys is one way for Council and Staff to receive feedback from the community.

Survey Highlights:

Quality of Life and Financial Planning in the District of Squamish

- Squamish residents responded favorably when asked about the overall perception of quality of life in Squamish with 94% saying very good/good.
- 86% of residents were satisfied with Squamish's overall level and quality of services.
- Residents prefer tax increases to service cuts with 52% of respondents in favor of increase taxes to enhance or expand services/to maintain services at current level.

District of Squamish 2007 Recreation & Physical Fitness Study

- 43% of responders chose walking as their main source for physical activity or exercise on a regular basis and 31% of responders chose cycling/biking.
- When asked overall, what important factor is helping you become physically active, 94% said access to paths, trails and green spaces was the most important.
- Residents cited lack of time/too busy as the number one barrier to participating in physical activity and exercise.

Keeping Your Roads Safe This Winter: Be Nice – Clear Your Ice

The District of Squamish establishes snow-clearing standards by taking into consideration public safety and budget availability. Snow clearing, sanding and salting are conducted on a priority basis covering firstly – main roads, emergency and school routes; secondly – secondary roads; and thirdly – remaining residential areas. From time to time, snow will be pushed to the center of wide roads to open priority access and later removed in its priority sequence.

During winter snowstorm events, crew priorities may cause delays in clearing secondary areas. We respectfully request the public to exercise patience in these conditions.

We ask our residents to:

- Ensure that you are prepared, if you know that there is a snowfall forecasted.
- Remove all vehicles and empty garbage totes from the street before and during plowing or clearing operations.
- Help others, especially seniors and disabled persons to clear their driveways and sidewalks.
- Shovel out the catch basin in front of your house.
- Never push snow onto the street. Any snow placed back on the road is very dangerous to all motor vehicles.
- Clear the snow from your sidewalk as soon as possible.
- Advise children to walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic; against building snow structures in snow banks on the side of the streets; against playing sports on the streets when the streets are to be plowed.

We ask Businesses to:

Remove snow, ice and rubbish from the sidewalk and footpath bordering on the property not later than 10:00 a.m. in the morning of any day except Sunday or a Statutory Holiday in accordance with Traffic Regulation Bylaw 779.

Be patient and thoughtful.

The District is out there working on your behalf. A little consideration and common sense can go a long way when weather conditions are difficult.

Ready, Set, Action



Squamish continues to see increased film activity throughout the town. Inquiries are up as film companies continue to seek out our unique and diverse locations.

Welcome back "Men In Trees", as they begin their second season of filming. "Men In Trees" will be shooting periodically here in Squamish from now until April 2008. (Men In Trees can be seen Friday nights at 10 p.m. on ABC).

Squamish is now home to a new film production company Air Sea Productions. This new production company is filming and producing "Search & Rescue", a new prime time series for Global Television slated to air in March 2008. Search & Rescue is a character-driven drama delving into the lives of four members of a Canadian Coast Guard Search and Rescue team serving in the Pacific Northwest.

The film industry brings new business, new employment opportunities and economic benefits to our District. The District of Squamish appreciates and thanks the town for its continued support of filming in our community.



New Coast Guard Building down at the Oceanfront lands? It is a prop for the filming of the new production "Search & Rescue, a Brightlight Pictures original series for Global Television.



H&R Block transforms into EAM Marine Supplies in Elmo, Alaska for the hit TV series Men in Trees, back filming here for its second season.



Acting Mayor Jeff McKenzie accepts a framed cast photo of the show "Men in Trees," from the show's creator Jenny Bicks and star of the show Anne Heche, as a thank you to Squamish for welcoming them to town and for the community's support of the film industry.

Squamish Community Energy Action Plan

The first quarter of 2007 saw the completion of the Bridging to the Future project for Squamish. This project helped bring together three important new directions for the District including an approach to integrating energy system design; targets and a framework for managing the process of change over the longer term; and 'catalyst' projects and policies for quickly directing the community onto a sustainable pathway.

Thanks to funding from the District of Squamish and the Community Action on Energy Efficiency "Gold" program, the fall of 2007 will see the hiring of the consulting team of Holland Barrs, Bunt Engineering, Compass Resource Management, Eco-Industrial Solutions, Shaun Martin Consulting and Westcoast Environmental Law to undertake the Community Energy Action Plan and assist with:

- Develop a detailed catalyst project plan – Smart Growth Block;
- Develop Policies and Incentives for three other catalyst projects being a responsive local network for electricity, district heating and power systems, and an alternative energy transport hub;
- Develop a discussion paper for the creation of a regional energy collaborative;
- Develop energy efficiency policies for new buildings;
- Develop energy efficiency policies for new and existing Municipal Buildings.

By the spring of 2008, the above noted pieces of work will be compiled to formulate the Squamish Community Energy Action Plan.



Letter from the Chair

Dear Squamish Residents:

The Squamish Oceanfront Development Corporation is extremely pleased the District of Squamish will be managing a master planning process that provides us with the opportunity to write a new chapter in the Oceanfront story. Our objective, as always, is to create a vibrant, innovative, sustainable world class "work-live-recreate" Oceanfront community showcasing the spirit, cultural heritage and values of the people of Squamish.

The success of the Squamish Oceanfront Development Corporation to deliver on this objective is our ability to work together with an extended team to create a shared vision that will inform the master plan.

That extended team includes:

- the District of Squamish Council, staff and consultants, representing our shareholder,
- the Board of Directors at SODC and its consultants,
- our fellow members of the Peninsula Land Owners Collaborative and,
- most importantly the people of Squamish.

We are committed to contributing to the total team effort through effective and open communication between the extended team members, which will help us all to develop and achieve our shared vision.

We look forward to community involvement and participation in public meetings to be scheduled by the District of Squamish, as well, community input is welcome anytime by visiting our office, telephone, email or through our website.

Yours truly,



John Turner – Chair
Squamish Oceanfront Development Corporation

Janice MacLean – Managing Director
Squamish Oceanfront Development Corporation
info@squamishoceanfront.com
www.squamishoceanfront.com
37321 Galbraith Avenue, Squamish, BC
604-815-5075

Community's Oceanfront

The District of Squamish is pleased to announce that it is renewing the planning process for the oceanfront peninsula. Following several months of consideration, the District has determined the best approach is for the District to lead the planning process and community engagement to determine the future of this community asset. In the coming months, the District will be retaining a top-notch planning team to guide the planning process, and most importantly an extensive community consultation process.



The Oceanfront trail now completed is a 1.5 km scenic trail along the waterfront with breathtaking views of Howe Sound, Shannon Falls, the Chief and Mount Garibaldi.

The Peninsula Landowners Collaborative (PLC)

The PLC created this spring as a District Lead initiative to bring together the peninsula landowners, The Squamish Oceanfront Development Corporation, Westmana Developments, and BC Rail Properties, to plan and develop these lands as one planning cell and under one comprehensive Sub-Area Plan. The PLC are landowners with lands located south of Vancouver Street and east of Cattermole Slough.

PLC Achievements to date:

- Agreement in principle to the Terms of Reference.
- Agreement to a cost sharing formula to fund the District's planning efforts.
- Agreement to the Terms of Reference and funding for a Downtown Transportation Plan Waterfront Walkway Design event: The PLC coordinated a half-day workshop to develop design specifications for the waterfront walkway to ensure continuity with current development proposals along the northern portion of the Mamquam Blind Channel.
- Oceanfront public event: Celebration by the Sea held September 22, 2007 a kick-off to the community planning process.

Squamish Oceanfront Development Corporation (SODC)

SODC, a corporation created by the District of Squamish, to oversee the development of the oceanfront land (formally known as the Nexen Lands) on behalf of the community. The oceanfront land is approximately 59 acres of land and 44 acres of fee simple water lot for a total of 103 acres.

Celebration by the Sea

A Community Celebration of the oceanfront lands took place September 22, 2007 down at the waterfront. It was a well-attended event with over 700 people coming and going throughout the day. The day started with a canoe race down the Mamquam Blind Channel. A variety of boats took up the challenge including dragon boats, canoes, and kayaks. Lots of entertainment delighted residents all day including Norman Foote, children's entertainer extraordinaire.

The Squamish Emergency Program (SEP) was in charge of the BBQ making sure everyone was well fed. All proceeds go to the Squamish Emergency Program Society.



Mayor Ian Sutherland, John Turner, SODC Chair, Cameron Chalmers, Director of Planning District of Squamish, Rene David, Westmana



Squamish First Nations Welcome



Oceanfront South Beach, Canoe Race Finish Line



Mount Cha- Ki Warriors Dragon Boat – Captured an easy 1st Place



A new rock wall provides a wind break for visitors



ACTIVE LIVING



Squamish Active Community Success Story

Grade 11 Students Receive Get Active, Stay Active Cards

The "Get Active, Stay Active" card was created from the vision of one teacher and then developed by a team of representatives from the District of Squamish and School District 48 to encourage Grade 11 students to try some new activities in their own backyard. Similar cards are available in other areas and the focus for this community is to give Grade 11 students incentive to participate in activities while exposing the students to all the activities Squamish has to offer. The team applied for and received a grant from the Squamish Community Foundation to cover the coordination, printing and delivery of the card. The District of Squamish provided the staff time that it took to pull the project together, as well as creating the actual card.

The community has really come together and is very supportive of this initiative and has donated a variety of activities to the Grade 11s so that they can try them FREE of charge. Some of the activities include: kite boarding, martial arts, archery, curling and cross-country skiing.

The cards came out in October and the Grade 11s have all winter to take advantage of the opportunity to get out and get active as the cards will be collected in the spring 2008 and put into a draw for great prizes.

Thank you to all the businesses that have donated activities.

Community Trails

The Trails Coordinator has been hard at work during the summer months. Projects include:

- Clearing of Nexen Beach trail, Loggers Creek trail with Peak Potentials group, and Dyke Trail along Third Avenue to Vancouver Street.
- Assisting The Squamish Trails Society with the new Trail Connection, from Cleveland Avenue to the Nexen Beach Trail.
- The Replacement of the Pixie Corner Staircase and realignment of the Smoke Bluffs Park Loop Trail.
- Building of Loggers Creek Bridge with the Squamish Trails Society.
- Installation of signage and kiosks on the Ray Peters Trail.
- Working with Kiewit, Sea to Sky Trails Committee, Trans Canada Trail Committee, SLRD Corridor Trail Contractors, and various user groups and work parties.
- Staff representative on the Select Committee for the Corridor Trail and Tourism Squamish.

Seniors Centre Update

Preparation and planning continues for the construction of the new Squamish Seniors Activity Centre on the Block R site. Through an amenity contribution in excess of \$1M. by Solterra, the developer of the Block R site, a new 10,000 square foot area has been dedicated for the Seniors Centre. In the past 18 months a number of charette planning exercises have been undertaken with representatives of the senior population within Squamish and a beautiful and functional design has been created. Initial construction has begun and it is hoped that the new facility will be open in late November of 2008.

Included in the facility are areas for arts, crafts and painting, music, multi use areas and a large multi-purpose room suitable for events, fitness and other large area uses. Also included is a full kitchen which will provide daily lunches at some point following the opening of the facility.

For further information on this project you may contact Bob Kusch, Director of Recreation, Parks and Tourism at 604.898.3604.

Upcoming Seniors' Wellness Fair

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Brennan Park Recreation Centre



Health and Fitness Information

Get your annual FLU shot at the Fair.

Demonstrations and Displays

Pneumococcal vaccine available for those 65 years and older (also for those with other chronic medical illnesses)

Bring your Care Card and wear clothing with short sleeves



Keeping our community connected: Loggers Creek Bridge joining the Squamish Adventure Centre with the Loggers Creek Trail

What is anticipated in the coming weeks and months:

- Upgrading portions of the Discovery Trail.
- A newly built Mountain Bike Trail In the Diamond Head area.
- Re working of the Amble Path Trail.
- BRAND NEW Adopt a Trail Program and website.
- Creating a Trails Information section on the Tourism Squamish website.
- New trail connection for Motorbikes and ATV's off the Rip to allow them to safely exit before the Plunge.

Seniors Falling Prevention

Anyone can fall, but the risk of falling becomes greater with age. There are a number of simple steps you can take in and around your home to help prevent falls and the injuries caused by falls.

Minimize Your Risk - Protect Yourself

In the bathroom:

- Use a rubber bath mat for the tub and shower.
- Wipe up any moisture or spills right away.

In the living room and bedroom:

- Reduce clutter. Get rid of loose wires, cords and other obstacles.
- Scatter mats are tripping hazards. Get rid of them or make sure they are non-slip.

In the kitchen:

- Store kitchen supplies, pots, and pans in easy-to-reach locations.
- Use a stable step stool with a safety rail for reaching high places.



Around stairways:

- Make sure your stairs are well lit.
- Remove your reading glasses when you go up or down stairs.

Around the exterior of your home:

- Keep front steps and walkways in good repair and free of snow, ice and leaves.
- Put gardening implements and other tools away when you are not using them.

Information provided by Health Canada

Highlight a Trail: Smoke Bluffs Park Loop Trail



Looking down the new staircase on the Smoke Bluffs Park Loop Trail

Distance: Approx. 3½ km
Time to allow: Approx. 1 to 1½ hrs.
Ability: Steep sections, staircases and uneven ground

The trail is located in the Smoke Bluffs Municipal Park a short distance from the Squamish Adventure Centre and Downtown.

Start at the Smoke Bluffs Climbers' Parking Lot off Loggers Lane just past the Adventure Centre and head up the hill behind the yellow gate following the trail to the left. This trail will take you below some of the climbing areas of the Smoke Bluffs called "Neat and Cool." Continue along for a short distance until the next junction; stay left to begin the Smoke Bluffs Loop Trail. Begin the loop by heading towards the "Pixie Corner" climbing area and staircase. Climb these stairs and follow the trail signage around the park ending up back at the starting point of the loop. Retrace your steps under "Neat and Cool" and head back down the hill through the yellow gate to your car.



BUSINESS NEWS

Funding for Tourism Development

With only short term funding in place, the Tourism Squamish Strategic Projects subcommittee is focusing on developing a sustained tourism-funding source. One option available is Additional Hotel Room Tax (AHRT). The additional hotel room tax would be paid by the visitor not the local taxpayer or business community. Meetings have been taking place with hotel owners to determine their level of support and identify any associated issues.

An initial information brochure and survey has been distributed to the nine properties that would be applicable to the additional hotel room tax (AHRT). The majority of surveys have been completed and further attempts are being made to have the remainder of the surveys completed as soon as possible.

The initial results show properties indicating support for the AHRT. Completed surveys show conditional support based on overcoming the following issues: funding collected for the industry is not controlled by a government organization; that other local industry player's contribute somehow besides just hotels collecting a tax for the industry; there is a contribution from the local government; that local tourism businesses determine how funding is committed; and that there is fair and equitable representation of our diverse tourism industry.

In November 2007, Tourism Squamish will host a facilitated local industry workshop to discuss the issues raised through the initial survey and work to a consensus on sustainable funding for tourism development efforts.

For more information on the additional hotel room tax, contact Dan McRae 604.815.5082 or email dmcrae@squamish.ca. For information on Tourism Squamish, contact Lesley Weeks 604.815.5080 or email lweeks@squamish.ca.

OCP Process Nears Completion

In September 2007, the District released the latest draft Official Community Plan (OCP). Building on the neighbourhood and stakeholder consultation sessions in late 2006, a number of changes have been made.

Based on the input received and discussions with Council, three policy option papers were prepared by the consultant team (The Sheltair Group) and staff on some of the more complex issues:

- Options for the Cheekye Fan Area
- Options for Residential Growth Allocation and Phasing, and
- Options for Industrial Land Supply Land Use Designations.

Council provided direction on each of these issues in the spring of 2007 and based on Council's direction and the input received as part of the consultation process, the consultant team and staff updated the OCP and presented it to Council in September 2007.

Highlights of the key changes to the OCP include:

- New chapter added on relations with First Nations
- Introduction of specific phasing and sequencing policies for newly designated greenfield expansion areas
- Establishment of the Cheekye Fan Special Study

Inside Edge - New Media Gathering

Our community has all the right factors to attract the 'high tech' sector to its employment base portfolio; available real estate, high speed fibre, access to college and university graduates, location to US and Asian markets, and a lifestyle second to none in Canada. Because of these great qualities, there is an abundant array of high tech industry and new media professionals calling Squamish home.

It is important to keep the community informed and up-to-date and one way is to offer meetings at the Adventure Centre dubbed "Inside Edge New Media Gatherings." An impromptu group of like-minded professionals who gather once every three months over burgers and beverages to comment on current trends in the industry, share resources and network their talents. Each 'Gathering' includes an evening sponsor as well as a keynote speaker.

The last 'Gathering' took place in September with the Squamish Chamber of Commerce as the evening sponsor with keynote speakers from the company Air Sea Productions who are currently working in Squamish developing the 12 episodes of Search and Rescue for Global TV. Lively discussion during the evening centred around the film industry, new technologies being utilized, and how communities like Squamish can better prepare itself to attract future major film productions into its economic base.

The next 'Gathering' is scheduled for Monday December 10, 2007, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Squamish Adventure Centre.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Business Development Lead, David Thomson at dthomson@squamish.ca to be added to the invite list.

New Tourism and Business Websites Launched

The Squamish Sustainability Corporation has recently launched two new websites: Tourism Squamish and Business Squamish. Both are superb resources for visitors to the area or businesses looking to relocate - and plenty of information for current residents. Check it out today!

www.tourismsquamish.com

The Tourism Squamish website has had a 'facelift' and will be relaunching in October. The site offers plenty of Squamish tourism information for visitors and locals alike. Highlights include: a "feature article of the month," an "Inside Scoop" offering a locals perspective on various activities, attractions, restaurants and retail, as well as an image gallery that generates ecards, a "Book Now" option and an interactive itinerary building component. Be sure to have a browse at www.tourismsquamish.com.



Tourism Squamish has also introduced its eye-catching new logo. Destined to become a staple branding feature for the newly established entity.

www.businesssquamish.com

The new Business Development website offers a one-stop-shop approach for questions relating to doing business in Squamish. Following a theme around "Squamish FIRST, Squamish NOW, Squamish NEXT", the new website offers its visitors ample information on researching, opening, and maintaining/expanding their business in Squamish. There is an abundant array of information available on the site including: news stories, photo galleries, success stories, current projects on the go, and a business resource library.

Interested in becoming a member of Tourism Squamish? Visit the website or drop by the Squamish Adventure Centre to learn more about what programs are available to promote your business.

Wondering What's Developing Around Town?

The District of Squamish is busy with many applications for both rezoning and development. A few of these include the following:

Approved

Studio SQ:
Rezoning and Development Permit approved
38741 Cleveland Avenue
33 units
2 affordable housing units
Unit mix (bachelor/studio apartments)

Streams at Eaglewind:
Development Permit approved
Eaglewind Boulevard/Stone Mount Way
50 townhouse units,
Unit mix (2 bedroom, 2 + den, 3 bedroom)

Queens Way
Development Permit approved
38936 Queens Way
Light Industrial development (three buildings)

Proposed

The Bailey:
Rezoning required
1150 Bailey Street
62 units
Unit mix (bachelor/studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom)

River Gardens
Rezoning required
40504 Government Road
62 units
6 affordable housing units
6 adaptive units
Unit mix (2 bedroom, 2 + den, 3 bedroom)

1360 Second Avenue:
Development Permit required
1360 Second Avenue
Commercial (ground floor +/- 3,000 sf) and residential units (27 units) Four storeys
Unit mix (1 bedroom, 2 bedroom)

1365 Second Avenue:
Development Permit required
1365 Second Avenue
Commercial (ground floor +/- 3,000 sf) and residential units (27 units)



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sea to Sky Highway

Construction will continue along the Sea-to-Sky Highway this fall and winter. While passing through the work areas, please take care as the days shorten and winter driving conditions return.

In Squamish, work continues in a number of areas:

- To the south, work continues from Gonzales Creek to Shannon Falls. Crews will grade and pave in some areas, weather permitting. Major rock work is finished through Darrell Bay, and the next stage is to complete the new lanes and eventually move traffic onto them so that the existing highway can be rebuilt.
- Work will ramp up at the Stawamus Chief Park in October. Rock beside the parking lot will be removed, and crews will continue to prepare for grading and paving through the area. New parking areas will be constructed in time for the busy tourist season in late May 2008.
- At the Mamquam Blind Channel Bridge, concrete girders have been placed for a new two-lane bridge to the west of the existing one. Once constructed, traffic will be diverted onto the new bridge, and the old one will be demolished and replaced with a new structure. Though the pedestrian underpass will remain closed, once the new bridge is in use, pedestrians will have a new sidewalk on the east side protected from traffic by a concrete barrier.
- Between Industrial Way and Commercial Way the bottom lift of pavement will be completed this year.
- Clearing for the Centennial Way underpass has begun, and excavation should start later in the spring. Work will continue on the Mamquam River Bridge throughout the winter.
- Between Mamquam Road and Garibaldi Way land clearing, preload installation and utility relocation are underway, and widening to four lanes with a median barrier will continue from Garibaldi to Depot Road. The pedestrian overpass near Mamquam School will remain as is for the rest of the school year.

For more information visit: www.seatoskyimprovements.ca or call the 24/7 toll-free traffic information line, 1-877-4SAFE99.

Working Towards Becoming a Disaster Resilient Community

Observing River Level Gauges



Mamquam - Near the Mamquam rewatering project



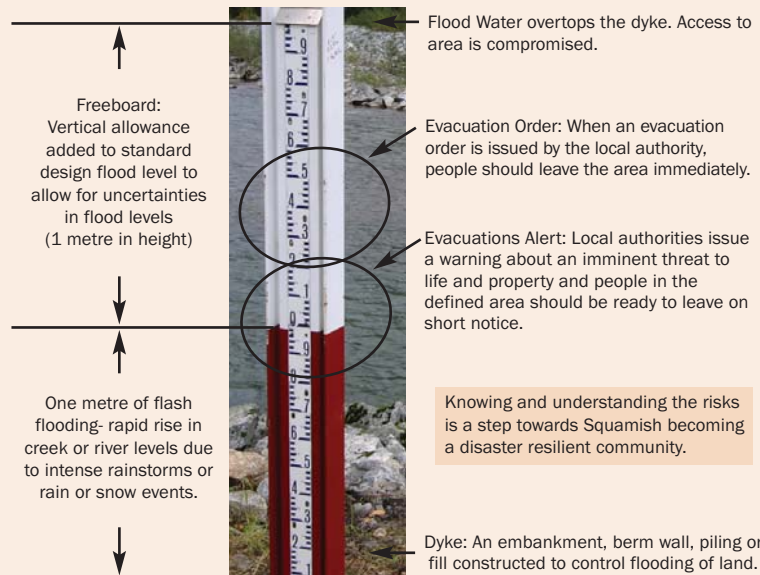
Squamish River - at the Dryden Creek Pumping Station/Eagle Run



Chekamus River - Paradise Valley near the Bailey Bridge

The river gauges are a visual indicator of rising river levels. The District of Squamish uses these gauges as a tool to observe the hazard level to help determine the best course of action i.e. Issue an Evacuation Alert. The picture below explains how the river gauges are read. Residents can also observe the levels to be prepared to activate the family emergency plan.

The river gauges are only one observation tool used to determine flood level risks within the District of Squamish. Weather forecasts, freezing levels, the amount of precipitation forecasted, snow pack, tide levels are all taken into consideration and observed before a decision is made whether it is necessary to give an evacuation alert or order.



Local 2010 Involvement

The Callaghan Valley Local Organizing Committee (CALOC) is the Squamish-based organization committed to the staging of world-class Nordic sport competitions (cross-country, biathlon, ski jumping, and Nordic Combined) in the Sea-to-Sky Corridor in preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and beyond.

Staging national and World Cup competitions prior to 2010 will allow the corridor to expand its event hosting capabilities in Squamish and at the Olympic Nordic Centre in Callaghan Valley. The 2008 national competitions will serve as training events, while the 2009 World Cup competitions will serve as test events for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. CALOC will also develop an exciting roster of recreational non-sporting events and festivals to complement the major sporting competitions.

The corridor will see a significant economic benefit from the back-to-back Nordic events by hosting over 10,000 athletes, coaches, spectators, technicians, support crews and media. Hosting these events are expected to generate approximately \$6.5 million into the community over the next two years. The recognition and profile created through television broadcasts to Europe, North America and Asia will equally enhance the profile of the entire corridor and boost the destination tourism market of Squamish and surrounding areas.

For more information on CALOC Nordic Sports and the Callaghan Valley Nordic venue, including the 2008 Nordic Competition Schedule, visit www.boldtracks.com.



Helping drive the logistics behind CALOC is VANOC's Nordic event sports managers who all made Squamish their new home: (Left to right) Max Saenger (Biathlon), John Aalberg (Nordic Director), Rob Bernhardt (Cross Country Skiing), and John Heilig (Ski Jumping / Nordic Combined)

Call For Volunteers

Are you hoping to volunteer in 2010? VANOC will give preference to volunteers in 2010 who have experience prior to the games, therefore, now is the time to get involved.

A variety of volunteer jobs are available including course work, administration, marketing, sponsorship, banquets, ceremonies and more.

To get involved contact: denise@squamishchamber.com

Community Policing with Corporal Foulon

What is Community Policing?

Community Policing (CP) is a variety of volunteer programs to help alleviate crime by fostering partnerships between the community and the local police force to create safer homes and a safer community.

What are some of the volunteer programs and volunteer opportunities?

Squamish Citizens Patrol Network-Citizens - Is a program where volunteers assist the RCMP by patrolling designated areas and watching for any possible criminal activity and help the Members by Observing, Recording and Reporting back to the local detachment. The patrollers work in pairs using their own personal vehicle. Patrols are not intended to replace regular law enforcement, but to act as an extra set of eyes and ears for the police.

Speed Watch Program - Using our Speed Watch Van, equipped with portable radar and an electronic digital speed board, volunteers monitor speeds in neighbourhoods, particularly in school and playground zones to caution speeders to slow down. Speed records are forwarded to the CP office coordinator to submit to ICBC.

Lock out Auto Crime Program - Aims to generate owner awareness of crime prevention measures that can be taken to avoid theft from their vehicle. Volunteers complete a visual inspection of vehicles and put notification of the inspection on the windshield of the vehicles.

Home Security Check Program - Specially trained volunteers visit residences and conduct an internal and external inspection of the premises and offer tips on how to secure their home to avoid break-ins, property damage, graffiti, etc.

Business Link - Volunteers do monthly visits to downtown businesses, deliver a crime prevention newsletter, talk with the businesses and document any concerns made.

Block Watch

Block Watch is a Crime Prevention Program of neighbours helping neighbours. The Block Watch Program is a free community-based crime prevention program administered by the Squamish RCMP. Residents on a street or in a complex form a communication chain, aided by a block map of names, telephone numbers, and addresses. They make a commitment to watch out for each others' homes, and report suspicious activities to the police and to neighbours. Residents keep each other informed about neighbourhood occurrences, burglary, thefts, and other crimes or problems occurring on their street.

Call the Community Policing office to find out more information about a Block Watch Program in your neighbourhood 604.892.9213

Child Identification Program- Volunteers help to fingerprint children at group clinics or at the Squamish Community Policing Office.

How can Residents of the Community Help?

We are actively looking for new volunteers to help participate in any one or more of our community policing programs and for volunteers to work in the Community Policing Office. We require volunteers to be 18 years of age or older, community minded, work within a team environment and be able to pass a security check.

What kind of commitment is required?

We are asking for 8 hours a month. The hours are very flexible and up to the volunteer. We also ask for a one-year commitment. The RCMP provide on-the-job training, manuals, and partner up new volunteers with senior volunteer members.

For more information, or to volunteer, please call the Community Policing Office at 604.892.9213.

Squamish Fire Department



Results of Backyard Burning Survey

The District of Squamish is in the process of reviewing the Fire Prevention Bylaw. As part of this review, the Fire Department undertook a survey to solicit feedback from property owners on the issue of backyard burning. The following results were compiled from the survey responses:

- 29% of respondents take advantage of backyard burning week in spring and fall, however only 44% support continuing to allow backyard burning. Reasons stated ranged from cost effectiveness to convenience.
- 55% did not support backyard burning, due mainly to smoke nuisance and health concerns.
- 33% feel that a curbside pickup service should be paid for by user fees, 22% feel the cost should be incorporated into utility fees, and 11% would have the service paid from property taxes.

The review is prompted by air quality - impact to the environment, and the number of complaints the Fire Department responds to. Eliminating these complaint calls would enable the Fire Department to direct their efforts towards other activities.

Squamish Public Library News

Book Reading Programs

Registration for the fall session of Books for Babies programs at the Library filled up quickly. However this year the Library was able to add more classes to meet the demand because of additional funding from the District. The Library now offers seven preschool literacy programs plus a family drop in program each week. The drop in program takes place every Wednesday beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the library meeting room.

Summer Reading Program

Over 200 children registered for the library's summer reading club and read a combined total of over 1100 hours! Acting Mayor, Jeff McKenzie and Royal Bank representative Tom Sloan presented reading medals donated by the Royal Financial Group to seventy children for their summer reading achievements.

The Meaning Behind a Name

Did you know the Library meeting room is named Aox Tanoyop Tse-Tsob (pronounced Ay yuk ta Noyup Tsce Tsob)? Elders of the Skomish Nation gave permission to use these Skomish words to name the room and the phrase conveys a meaning of all the people working together.



The First Nations carving on the meeting room doors was designed and carved by local Skomish Nation carver Xwe-luck-tun (Rick Harry). The images of an adult and a young eagle were chosen to represent the reality that the older vision teaches the past by being the parent/elder while the younger vision teaches the new ideas of the future. Each make the other stronger.



Be Bear Aware

With support from the District of Squamish and the British Columbia Conservation Foundation, Bear Aware has been actively teaching Squamish residents that the best way to control conflict is to prevent it.

Why?

- Because 10 bears have been destroyed in Squamish this year due to their high level of human habituation (not afraid of people) and conditioning to garbage.
- Because over 1000 black bears and over 50 grizzly bears are killed within B.C. every year due to human/bear conflict issues.
- Because when we choose to live in bear habitat, we have a personal responsibility to ensure any encounters with bears are positive and free from conflicts.
- Because we are not living in a sustainable manner, if we reactively kill our wildlife and do not seek a proactive solution to the issue of human/bear conflicts.
- Because the solution is simple: manage your attractants and the bears will move on.

How?

- Secure all garbage in your garage or with a bear proof lock until collection day.
- Keep smelly garbage bagged tightly to reduce odours. Stash food scraps, especially meat, fish, bones and fruit by-products in the freezer or in an airtight container until collection day.
- Harvest all fruit and do not let it collect on the ground.
- Bring all pet food and bowls inside.
- Burn off barbecues.
- Feed the birds over the winter or hang birdfeeders so that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
- Maintain odour free compost by turning and cover with lime frequently and avoid adding fish, meats, fats, oils or any cooked food.

Winter Driving Tips

From the District's Fleet Department

- If you must drive in bad weather, plan and make sure you have enough fuel. Try to keep the fuel tank at least half full, if you are stranded the engine will be your only source of heat.
 - Be alert, well rested and sober behind the wheel.
 - Remember to turn on your lights, because daytime running lights do not include tail-lights on most vehicles.
 - If visibility becomes poor, find a place to safely pull off the road as soon as possible. If the roadside is your only option, pull off the road as far as you can. In reduced visibility, make sure your emergency flashers are on to alert other drivers.
 - Check weather and travel conditions before heading out. Give yourself extra time for travel, and if the weather is bad wait for conditions to improve.
 - Wear warm clothes that do not restrict movement, and be sure to bring water and non-perishable food supplies, it's a good idea to carry a cell phone and keep a blanket in the trunk, always be prepared for the unexpected emergency.
 - Make sure you have snow tires on all four wheels, never mix radial tires with other tire types.
 - Wear sunglasses to prevent eye fatigue when there is snow on the ground and the sun is very bright.
 - Every car has different handling characteristics. You need to know what your car can or cannot do in the snow. You need to know if it has anti-lock brakes and traction control, how they work and how they help. See your owner's manual for details.
- Jackie Stewart, ex-Formula 1 World Champion once said, "Imagine that there is a full glass of water on the hood of your car, the challenge is not to spill any water from the glass while you are driving, accelerate smoothly, brake slowly and smoothly, steer smoothly" if you follow this tip you will be amazed at how well you can drive in all conditions.

ORDER OF SQUAMISH 2007 CIVIC MERIT NOMINATIONS

The Order of Squamish recognizes individuals, businesses and not-for-profit groups in our community who have made a significant contribution in one or more of the following areas: Customer Focused Service; Environmental Stewardship; Excellence in Governance; Visionary Leadership; Volunteerism; and Strong Community Partnership.

We invite you to nominate a community member, business or not-for-profit group who has made a difference in our community in 2007. Please select only one: a community member, a business or a not-for-profit organization for each entry.

Community Member: _____
 Business: _____
 Not-for-profit Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Supporting Information

On a separate sheet of paper, please provide comments/description of the community member/business/not-for-profit's noteworthy performance and why this award should be awarded to your nominee (attach additional paperwork if necessary).

Nomination prepared by: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Submission Deadline:
December 14, 2007

To: District of Squamish, 37955 Second Ave, PO Box 310, Squamish, BC V8B 0A3
 Phone: 604.815.5025, Fax: 604.892.1083, Email: kmuller@squamish.ca

