



JULY 2020

LADYSMITH LINKS

Ladysmith receives \$3.3-million for Arts & Heritage Hub projects

The Town of Ladysmith is receiving \$3,307,500 through the Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Program to continue implementing the shared vision for the Arts & Heritage Hub – the ‘public heart’ of the Waterfront Area Plan (WAP).

Centred around the historic Machine Shop, the Hub is identified as a key priority by both the Town and Stz’uminus First Nation in the award-winning Waterfront Area Plan created by DIALOG.

A significant part of this federal and provincial investment will help build a 4,500 sq ft studio for local artists, including Stz’uminus First Nation carvers, creating opportunities to showcase over 5,000 years of Indigenous cultural history in the area.

Coast Salish craftsmanship will feature prominently as well in the architectural design of the new studio space, which will front onto Oyster Bay Drive, surrounded by open spaces allowing for social interaction and diversity of activities.

The Town also plans to incorporate sustainability elements where possible, aligning with our commitment to green building practices.

Also a result of the funding, the Town will construct an above-grade boardwalk running the full length of the Hub, connecting the Machine Shop with the studios and serving as an entry point as you arrive and start to explore.

Additionally, the Town will make some renovations and upgrades to the existing roundhouse and car shop buildings in order to preserve these heritage assets, which are important representations of Ladysmith’s industrial past.

“The Arts & Heritage Hub is the public heart of our entire Waterfront Area Plan and the receipt of this critical funding is another big step forward in our ongoing work to return our waterfront to a place for locals and visitors to explore history, culture and art in an integrated way,” said Mayor Aaron Stone.

“Through our ongoing collaboration with Stz’uminus First Nation, we are adding value and economic opportunities for our communities, and today marks another milestone in that shared journey. We are thankful for the opportunity to create a space that not only showcases our industrial heritage and flourishing arts community, but is an opportunity to embrace and bring Stz’uminus culture back to this side of the harbour as we build cultural connections so important to reconciliation.”

The Town will contribute a portion of the project costs as part of the first implementation phase of the Arts & Heritage Hub Concept Plan. We have also applied for grant funding for the Hub through the Island Economic Coastal Trust.

Improvements to public parking and overall landscaping and site design are also being prioritized during this initial phase of the work.

We look forward to welcoming community members and tenants back to the Machine Shop once these renovations are complete.

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www.ladysmith.ca

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Partnering organizations launch new investment tools for Ladysmith and area

A new website highlighting local tourism and investment opportunities, as well as a walking app will help drive economic development for Ladysmith and the surrounding area.

The new one-stop mobile-friendly Tourism Ladysmith and Invest Ladysmith website is for locals, visitors and anyone looking to do business here.

The tourism side of the site has you covered with where to shop, eat and play on the 49th Parallel. You'll also find a listing of trails waiting to be discovered, information on the arts and suggested heritage walking routes.

A quick click of the mouse and you can find labour force indicators, up-to-date information on investment opportunities, and other resources that demonstrate the advantages of doing business here.

The investment tools are supported by a Ladysmith Heritage and Investment Walking App - a snapshot of our rich cultural and industrial history, and the prosperous future we are building together.

These important initiatives are the result of a working

collaboration between the Town of Ladysmith, Stz'uminus First Nation, the Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce, Ladysmith Downtown Business Association, Nanaimo Airport, Economic Development Cowichan and Community Futures Central Island – a group collectively known as The Partnership for a Vibrant Local Economy.

The app can be downloaded through Google Play or Apple App Store by searching 'Ladysmith Heritage'. You can also access it through your browser as a web app with no download required.

Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce is managing the implementation and operations of the website and app through an expanded service agreement with the Town.

Thank you to all of the project partners, and a special thanks to the Ladysmith & District Historical Society for their important contributions to this project.

Ladysmith receives \$25,000 UBCM grant for Poverty Reduction Plan

The Town of Ladysmith has received a \$25,000 grant from the Union of BC Municipalities to help fund the creation of a Poverty Reduction Plan that will deliver actionable steps for our community and make a difference in the lives of those needing it the most.

Local Burning Bans and Wildfire News

Fire Restrictions and Wildfire News for our area is sent out by the Coastal Fire Centre. Please check B.C. Wildfire for updates, and practice fire safety at all times.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions>



The Town will work with Social Planning Cowichan to create the Poverty Reduction Plan, with the goal of supporting our residents' specific needs around emergency response, support services, housing and food security.

A significant part of developing the made-in-Ladysmith strategy will be engaging with organizations and residents, including our Indigenous population.

Brown Drive Park - Engagement and Next Steps

The Town of Ladysmith has partnered with the Cowichan Trails Stewardship Society (CTSS) Ladysmith Chapter to promote safety and respect for our green spaces as together we explore recreation opportunities in the forested area behind Brown Drive Park.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Town's online engagement through PlaceSpeak about this topic. Your opinion is important in shaping next steps.

Remembering former Councillor, community volunteer John T. Wilson

The Town of Ladysmith Council and staff wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family of John T. Wilson on his passing.

John proudly served our community as a member of Council between 1979-83, 1987-1996 and as a lead volunteer on many of the Town's committees and commissions up until 2019.

We all owe a great deal to John as a result of his tireless energy, enthusiasm and belief in making Ladysmith a better place.

John is remembered as a strong advocate for the environment and believed we could all do our part, big or small.

He returned to Town volunteer life in 2008, when he joined the Advisory Planning Commission, Liquid Waste Management Committee, and the newly formed Environment Commission.

He served as Chair of the Environment Commission for several years, and became Chair of the Liquid Waste Management Committee in 2011, a position held until he retired in 2016.

His role on the Liquid Waste Management Committee helped lead to the creation of a long-term plan for how Ladysmith safely processes raw sewage. The plan was a necessary part of securing infrastructure funding from senior government to build the award-winning Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Thank you John for your service to our community. We will miss you.

Utility Bill Payments Due August 27, 2020

Utility Bills for April to June are due August 27, 2020. Payments can be made in person at City Hall by debit, cash or cheque, by online banking, by mail or by using our after-hours drop box. If you have questions about your bill, please call 250.245.6400 or email: billing@ladysmith.ca.

Please note that new utility rates came into effect January 1, 2020.



Town Receives \$13,500 ICET Grant to Support Economic Restart Initiatives

The Town of Ladysmith is receiving \$13,500 from Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) as part of a recently launched program supporting time-sensitive initiatives during this economic restart period from COVID-19.

The grant funding awarded to the Town through ICET's Small Capital Restart Funding Stream will directly help add vibrancy to our downtown as we promote a business-friendly environment to attract residents and visitors to explore, shop and dine locally.

In addition to the investments approved by Ladysmith Council at its meeting held June 16, the ICET grant will help fund the purchase of up to 18 concrete patio tables.

Local non-profit organizations and the business community are adding to the momentum of our local economic restart effort by donating towards downtown recovery efforts.

Edison-style lightbulbs, interactive lighting and umbrellas are also among the contributions by local businesses that will add to the unique sense of place experienced when exploring Ladysmith's heritage downtown.

SIGN UP FOR OUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Want to stay connected? Sign up for our newsletter and make sure you are always in the know. Click the button on our website, call City Hall at 250.245.6400, or email info@ladysmith.ca to be added to our mailing list. You can choose to receive Council News, Parks, Recreation and Culture News and/or Town News, including emergency information right in your e-mail inbox.






STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Stage 2 Water Restrictions for the Town of Ladysmith, Diamond Improvement District and Stz'uminus First Nation are in effect until further notice.

Water restrictions are intended to help control water usage as demand increases with the hot, dry weather, and are in place annually from May 1 to October 31. Remember, being water-wise throughout the year can also save you money. With a little effort, we can reduce the amount of water we use at home by as much as 40 per cent!

Thank you for your co-operation. For more information please visit <https://www.ladysmith.ca/ourservices/water>

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY. CONNECT WITH US:

-  Send an E-mail to info@ladysmith.ca
-  Mail a Letter to Town of Ladysmith City Hall, 410 Esplanade, Box 220, Ladysmith, B.C. V9G 1A2
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