



Progress through Innovative Projects

City Council is focused on building a complete and vibrant community by providing sustainable programs, services and infrastructure. Through meaningful and purposeful projects, the City is managing facility upgrades, renovations and improvements to secure longevity of service to community residents. Each project is a puzzle piece that interlocks with the next and when combined with other pieces, it creates the whole picture of a balanced, comprehensive community.

Clock Tower Restoration Project

The Harbour Quay Clock Tower has been an iconic structure in Port Alberni since 1984. This distinctive structure, visible from many parts of the community, was constructed to be a focal point providing a bird's-eye view of the Alberni Harbour, Uptown District, Argyle Corridor and Mount Arrowsmith. Harbour Quay is located immediately adjacent to where the first sawmill on the west coast of Canada was constructed in 1860. That sawmill was constructed on the site of a former Tseshah village, Tlukwatku-is. The displacement of Tseshah from Tlukwatku-is and the immediate redevelopment of that site represents a pivotal moment in Alberni Valley history. This project will involve structural & cosmetic upgrades, addressing the effects on the Clock Tower of almost 40 years of exposure to the elements. The project will include replacement of the clocks with art pieces that were made locally, based on designs by Willard Gallic Jr, a Tseshah artist. The Clock Tower restoration project represents a tangible example of the City's commitment to meaningful reconciliation of past wrongs.

Public Safety Building Renovation Project

In an effort to improve community safety and to help address current and emerging public safety challenges, the City is renovating a newly acquired facility in the Uptown District to serve as the Public Safety Building. Renovations include HVAC system upgrades, the addition of a public washroom, reception counter, and work spaces for Bylaw Services and Community Policing staff as well as office space for partnering agencies. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.



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PORT ALBERNI

*A vibrant, safe and
connected community.*

AV Multiplex Lighting Upgrade Project

In June, the Alberni Valley Multiplex will undergo renovations to replace the existing metal halide and fluorescent induction lighting with state-of-the-art LED lighting. These upgrades will provide enhanced functionality such as programmable light scenes and dimming capabilities, and it will meet NHL broadcast quality standards. This project qualified for a BC Hydro Power Smart incentive totalling \$28,263.00. Additionally, the lighting improvements are estimated to garner an annual energy savings of 142,609 kWh.



Train Station Rehabilitation Project

All aboard! The City is embarking on a project to preserve and restore the Port Alberni Train Station. Built in 1911, this City-owned heritage building has been awarded a \$390,000 grant from the

Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP).

The grant funding will allow for structural improvements, enhanced energy performance, roof installation and electrical and mechanical upgrades. Historically, the Train Station was a place of

community connectivity with the arrival and departure of rail passengers, freight, news and mail. Through rehabilitation efforts, the City seeks to preserve this unique heritage structure and revitalize the site, bringing vitality to the area, while honouring and respecting historical integrity.



City Hall Reopens for Citizens!

City Hall will reopen to the public on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Public access will be available during the hours of 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Staff are excited to welcome citizens back to City Hall. We do continue to encourage property owners to pay their taxes and utilities online through their respective financial institutions when possible. You can also use the secure drop box at the front doors of City Hall to submit a payment after hours.

The City of Port Alberni continues to support the Province of BC's Public Health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic the City has continued to provide essential City services whether virtual or in-person.

If you are visiting City Hall there will be a number of safety protocols in place, in order to protect both residents and staff. Visitors will be greeted at the front door, masks will be required, and physical distancing will be maintained.

Please do not visit City Hall if you are feeling unwell, if you have been in close contact in the past 14 days with someone who is a confirmed COVID-19 case, if you have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days or if you have any of the following symptoms: coughing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, fever, aches, chills or shortness of breath.

The Government of BC recently introduced legislation to amend the Home Owner Grant Act.

What does this mean?

- The Province is now entirely responsible for the Home Owner Grant program (new or retro).
- The City of Port Alberni and banks cannot accept Home Owner Grant applications - the program is centralized through the Province.
- All eligible home owners must apply directly to the Province by phone or online.
- Eligible home owners must still apply by July 2, 2021 to avoid late payment charges.



Please note: the amendments do not change the eligibility criteria for the program.



Look out for your property tax notices!

Property Tax notices for City of Port Alberni residents will be mailed out during the week of May 24, 2021.

For further information or to apply for your grant, please phone 1-888-355-2700 or visit www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant.



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