

Village of PEMBERTON | Community Update



It's raining eggs! When the Easter Bunny lost a load of chocolate eggs in Pioneer Park on Sunday, the Pemberton Lions Club was on hand to ensure that local kids, including 2 year old Stuart, could fill their baskets at the Lions' annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Report Gives Local Seniors Fire-power to Enhance Pemberton and Mount Currie's Livability

The Village of Pemberton and Mount Currie Band partnered up on a recent phase of the Winds of Change project, geared at assessing how age-friendly our communities are.

Turns out, we're not.

But we want to be.

Pemberton's 2008 Strategic Plan sees having a multi-generational community as key to achieving social sustainability. Many of Pemberton's mature faces have grown up here, or relocated here to be close to their families and grandchildren, and they're an integral part of our social fabric.

The key to achieving social sustainability is in supporting area residents to age in place.

In 1991, 27 seniors had to leave Pemberton to find the housing and care they required.

Currently, Pemberton and Mount Currie, have 1150 people over the age of 40, most of whom expect to age in place.

Which means the 105 seniors currently living in Pemberton have become the key advocates in a Village of Pemberton initiative that is exploring options for social support, housing and services that will ultimately benefit everyone.

Projections indicate there will be 440 people over 60 years of age in Pemberton in 2026.

Walkability, community gathering spaces, access to trails and recreation, volunteering opportunities, involvement in community groups, and a healthy mix of families, singles and seniors are all hallmarks of a "socially sustainable" community - benefits which apply to people of all ages.

In conjunction with the Seniors Society, the Lions Club and the Mount Currie Band, the Village of Pemberton received funding last year to develop a Seniors and Elders Friendly Community Plan.

The report identified issues around town that impact seniors - many of which are equally challenging for anyone with mobility issues, including new parents, young families, people in rehabilitation for sporting or other injuries, or those with disabilities.

A lack of sidewalks and walking trails, snow-removal issues, insufficient signage identifying public washrooms, a lack of public benches, unreliable transit services and a lack of handicap accessible transportation, unleashed dogs, and a lack of health care services specifically for seniors were amongst the issues identified.

In response, the Village has prioritized several actions for 2008 including incorporating age-sensitive trail design in trail and park plans, installing additional public benches, improving the front steps to the Village Office for better access, and exploring and supporting opportunities for handicap accessible transportation and transit.

The New Community Centre and Library will also provide enhanced community services for seniors, as well as the broader community, by acting as a central gathering place that caters to all ability levels.

The Village also hosted Joan Birchall from the BC Seniors Games when she came to encourage all 55+ athletes and active folk to enter this year's BC Seniors Games, set to take place September 10-13, in Prince George, and represent Pemberton's grey-power as competitors or volunteers.

Most importantly, the Village wants to see Pemberton residents with the opportunity to age in place, and will continue to support and facilitate the process to develop seniors housing.

The first step in this process is to determine feasibility and access funding for a seniors housing facility that would include assisted living and complex care spaces.

The Village of Pemberton recently created a 12 person Select Committee on Seniors Housing that will, by August 31 2008, conduct a needs assessment and develop a business case for the construction of senior's housing to serve the Pemberton Valley (including communities as far north as Anderson Lake).

The Lions Club recently received a \$10,000 grant to do this feasibility study on affordable housing.

The Village also recently received a \$35,000 grant from the Union of British Columbian Municipalities to offer a pilot elders transportation program in cooperation with Mount Currie.

Utility Billing Offers 10% Discount by April 7. Utilities bill were mailed on March 7th. Rates are calculated to meet the annual fixed cost for maintenance, operations and administration of the system, totaling approximately \$435,000. The cost is shared amongst the 950 residences, 41 commercial operations and 18 industrial facilities in Pemberton.

In 2008 water rates have increased 3% over 2007, while sewer rates have stayed the same. Single family residences will pay a flat rate of \$304.74/year or \$25.40/month for their water and \$415.700r \$34.64 / month for their sewer. Residences with a secondary suite pay an additional half-share for their utilities, as part of the Village's Statutory Declaration process geared at making the billing more fair.

A 10% discount applies to invoices paid in full before April 7, 2008.

A 5% discount applies to invoices paid in full before May 7, 2008.

Favourite things about Spring. #1 Getting in the swing of daylight saving. #2 The promise of bulbs peeking up. #3 Local runners start pounding the pavement. #4 Watching progress on the Community Centre. #5 Seed catalogues arrive. #6 Sunshine offers miracle cure for Vitamin D deficiency. #7 Ichinomiya Friendship Society hosts students from Japan. #8 Easter Bunny might leave something nice.



Least favourite thing about spring. Discovering all the winter term deposits of doggy-doo. NOT the kind of Easter treats we're after. Please! Pick up after your pooch.

Pemberton's Puppy Love Award. Purchase PAWS membership at the same time you pick up your 2008 dog licence from Twisted Whisker this month, and your dog will be entered into a draw to win the ultimate doggie-bag, valued at \$150.

Upcoming meetings will be held in Council Chambers at 1350 Aster Street (above the Fire Hall) on April 1, 7pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on these or any other topics, please:

*Visit our website at www.pemberton.ca,

*Email us at admin@pemberton.ca,

*Call us at 604.894.6135, or

*Drop by the Village Office

