



Village of PEMBERTON | Community Update



Santa celebrates Christmas with the past and presents.

Santa took time out from his busy pre-Christmas schedule at the North Pole to celebrate the season at the Pemberton Museum with local tots, and expressed his awe for the new Museum facility, to be completed in the spring, just in time to help celebrate Pemberton's role in the 150th anniversary of BC.

Mayor's Christmas message

As 2007 races to a close, and we busy ourselves with winter festivities, New Year celebrations, and plans for 2008, it's worth taking a moment to look back on the year past.

From the perspective of the Council of the Village of Pemberton, it's heartening to see the degree of community involvement in our town.

We congratulate our colleague Councillor Blundell and his wife Carolyn for the recognition given to the Pemberton Valley Grocery Store at the Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Awards earlier this month. Kudos, also, to the incredible volunteers behind the Child Care Society's accomplishment in constructing the Child Care Centre, and for their award of Citizen of the Year. We all benefit from their hard work and dedication. It's good to see the contributions of both the award-recipients and the nominees acknowledged.

But there are also many other people contributing to this community, without fanfare or acknowledgement, motivated not by financial or personal gain, but by the desire, I think, to love where they live. To all those willing to roll up their sleeves, we thank you.

Whether it be simply by attending one of our local events, like Winterfest, Equifest or Slow Food Cycle Sunday, sitting on a Board, contributing to local fundraisers like the Library's Next Chapter Campaign, joining an association or the Chamber, signing up for a sports team or activity at the Community Centre, decorating your house for Halloween, cheering on our local

athletes, admiring local art, or just shopping locally, Pemberton is full of supportive and engaged community members. We saw it simply with the enthusiastic response to the Village's two Town Hall meetings.

I anticipate we will see the same enthusiasm at the opening of the Pemberton Community Centre, in the New Year. It will provide a physical heart for this community, and we're very excited to see it come to fruition and to run into you all there over the coming years.

Even as we note the projects the Village has completed - from Birch Street improvements, to the Airport Strategic Plan, to the hiring of an Economic Development Consultant, to development of our second well, bear-proof bins and new street banners - we have to keep in mind that our social capital is our greatest asset.

As a Council, we are supported by a wonderful staff, whose skill, dedication and hard work contribute to the smooth-running of our town's infrastructure. They help keep us on track, and we thank them for their public service.

The year has also had its share of tragedies and disasters - from the recent flooding of Pemberton Creek to a tragic number of deaths on the highway. These events and losses remind us how fleeting life is, and how precious and irreplaceable people are, over and above anything else.

Let's look after each other throughout the festive season. Drive safely. Donate to the food bank. Support local businesses. And keep talking to each other. Even when we don't agree, as long as we keep talking, we're building towards a better, brighter future. Here at the Village, we're always happy to hear from you.

On behalf of the staff and council of the Village of Pemberton and our families, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and hope to celebrate with you at one of the many community functions taking place over the next few weeks.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Please note that the Village office will be CLOSED:

- Monday, December 24,
- Tuesday, December 25,
- Wednesday, December 26,
- Tuesday, December 1.

The office will be OPEN during regular hours, 8:30am - 4:30pm on:

- Thursday, December 27,
- Friday, December 28, and
- Monday, December 31.

Important dates and deadlines

•Monday, December 31:
Last day to pay outstanding 2007 tax and utilities without further penalty

•Monday, December 31:
Deadline to submit Statutory Declaration to qualify for lowest utility rate

•Tuesday, January 8:
First council meeting of 2008

•Tuesday, January 15:
Inspections to qualify for lowest utility rate to be completed

•End of January:
2008 Utility bills in the mail

New Village Policy Gives Suite-less A Break

Responding to concerns raised by residents at the Town Hall meeting in June, the Village of Pemberton has developed a new program to provide fairer billing for water and sewer services.

Residences that do not have a secondary suite will pay a lower single family water and sewer utility rate in 2008.

Residences with a secondary suite, whether the suite is legal or non-conforming, will be billed in recognition of that additional usage, ensuring that everyone is paying their fair share to the cost of operating Village water and sewer. This payment won't legalize the existence of a suite that contravenes zoning or building by-laws, but simply ensures that utilities are paid for on a more accurate usage basis.

For the purposes of this Statutory Declaration & Inspection

Program, a secondary suite is a self-contained unit in the same building as the principal use, but with a separate entrance.

If you DO NOT have a secondary suite, simply complete a Statutory Declaration and return it to the Village Office before December 31, 2007. An inspection will be scheduled before January 15 2008, to confirm the declaration. Statutory Declarations have been mailed to property owners who are currently being billed at single family utility rates. They are also available on our website and at our office.

If you do have a secondary suite, whether occupied or not, no action is required other than payment of your utilities once received.

For more information, visit www.pemberton.ca, or inquire at the Village of Pemberton office.

