



Village of PEMBERTON | Community Update



Busy day on the balcony at the Pony - where civic engagement is always high.

It's hard not to think of an AGM as a dry affair, but the Village of Pemberton is going in a different direction, reformatting its annual general meeting as a town hall gathering at popular local watering hole, The Pony Espresso, Tuesday June 5, from 7pm-9pm. "The Town Hall meeting gives people a chance to find out what's planned for the coming year, and provide their input. We live in such a great community in that being engaged is fun and positive and social," says Administrator Lori Pilon. Babysitting for the Town Hall meeting will be available at Signal Hill Elementary School. Information packages containing the strategic plan, performance measures and audited statements can be picked up at the Village Office or downloaded from www.pemberton.ca. The regular Council meeting will also take place June 5, rescheduled to 4pm and will be held in the Council Chambers.

Questions for '07 with Councillor McLeod

Councillor *Kirsten McLeod* knows first hand how good Pemberton is for growing things... from growing up herself in the Valley, to helping on the family farm that her late grandfather Howie Ayers bought in 1956. "I have him to thank for my being here in the Pemberton Valley and for the passion I have for the community," she says, acknowledging that each of her grandparents have inspired her in different ways. A business consultant in construction and a Pemberton Secondary grad, McLeod's sense of adventure has also flourished here. She gets into snowmobiling, dirt-biking, horseback riding, mountain biking, camping, fishing, and anything that involves the outdoors, whenever she has the chance.

On her bookstand: Council packages. And Christopher Moore's "Bloodsucking Fiends." School memories: The annual trip to the Outdoor School. "It was the best learning experience and the most interesting part of school for me. We learned the history of BC and the Pemberton Valley, winter survival, camping skills, how to make candles and soap, how to collect honey, and how to be self-sufficient." Three words on community: Spirit, events, diversity. Pemberton's most under-rated asset: The ability to grow things - plants, trees... and the ability to provide the majority of food for our community. Most looking forward to in 2007: Completion of the Community Centre and new Library. Favourite way to unwind: Bath and a book.

Here We Grow Again.

The soil is ready for turning, and Pemberton's Community Garden wants you to get down and dirty! The Pemberton Creek Community Garden is in full swing for spring. In its second year of operation, the garden now has over half of its 40 plots committed to new and returning gardeners. The Garden Committee has been busy planning a new tool and potting shed and a second water line to service the plots. Many thanks to the local businesses and community groups who have thrown their support behind the garden, with Smartwood donating a picnic table, Pedrini Construction building the fence from materials contributed by Continental Log and the Women's Institute providing perennial flowers, herbs, trees and vines. Start greening your thumbs, and get into the Pemberton Creek Community Garden, with a seasonal membership and a 10x20 foot plot at Solstice Organics for \$50. Or drop in on a Garden Committee meeting, the first Tuesday of every month. More info at www.pemberton.ca

Village Gets Strategic About Navigating Forthcoming Year

The future may be uncharted waters, but the Village of Pemberton now has its Strategic Plan ready as a navigation tool.

The proverbial champagne will be cracked across the hull of the Plan on Tuesday, June 5, at 7pm, at the Pony Espresso, at a Town Hall Meeting, giving community members a chance to comment on details of the itinerary, as well as the overall direction.

Says Administrator Lori Pilon, "The Strategic Plan is a goal-setting exercise. There's always a long list of action items in a town, especially one that has grown as rapidly as Pemberton, so this is the chance to articulate realistic goals, prioritise them and ensure the resources are budgeted for them."

To keep the Village on an even keel, Pemberton's Plan has been developed with four directions in mind: social, economic and environmental sustainability, and good governance.

Each direction contains an overarching vision, followed by a series of action items for 2007 geared at bringing the community closer to that vision.

Amongst the worklist to enhance Pemberton's social sustainability is the Birch Street sidewalk improvement project, the Pemberton Creek bridge, enhancing the dock at One Mile Lake, developing an affordable housing policy, finishing the Community Centre, and completing phase two of the seniors-friendly feasibility study.

Economic sustainability will be furthered through the Airport Strategic Plan (for which \$100,000 in funding has been secured), supporting Tourism Pemberton, hiring an Economic Development Officer, and exploring boundary expansion issues.

To enhance our environmental sustainability, the Village will support the Pemberton Environmental Interpretive Centre, phase in water metering and establish an ad hoc Environmental Task Force to identify ways to green Pemberton.

As part of its governance initiatives, the Village will continue its commitment to develop a secondary well, encourage responsible waste management through the installation of bear-proof bins, host a community visioning workshop, and continue its commitment to keeping open channels of communication. The Village is also committed to exploring ways of funding Pemberton's recreational infrastructure ambitions, with the current focus on the developer-contributed amenity fund.

At the end of the journey, the Village wants to be docking at a future where Pemberton's unique character and enviable quality of life make it the place where people want to put down anchor and stay a while...

Everyone is invited to get their feet wet at the Town Hall meeting on Tuesday 5 June, from 7pm, at the Pony Espresso.

For more information, pick up a copy of the Strategic Plan at the Village office, or download it from www.pemberton.ca

