



Village of **PEMBERTON** | *Community Update*



Photo: David Steers

The new Development Services team is getting down to business. Liz Jones joins the Village of Pemberton office as the Manager of Development Services, and will be working alongside Christian Staehli, new Manager of Community Services, and Suzanne Belanger, Development Services Assistant. The three bring a wealth of community knowledge and passion to their roles, and the Village is excited to have them on board.

Airport Planning Gets Lift With Strategic Plan Complete

On Monday, the Pemberton Regional Airport Authority, chaired by Councillor David Mackenzie, met to review and accept the Strategic Plan prepared by InterVISTAS Consulting, and accepted a recommendation to proceed with a Project Definition Report (PDR).

The Authority agreed to issue an RFP to qualified applicants to undertake the Report, which will arm the Village with accurate and detailed information on a development scenario for the airport, and act as a business case to support applications for federal and provincial funding.

The report will identify the optimum structures, systems and operations to allow the Pemberton Airport to support scheduled air service by major air carriers. This report will include a financial analysis, construction phasing, regulatory requirements, market analysis, design concepts for facilities, and traffic forecasts and will provide cost estimates to do the work.

The Pemberton Airport was started in the 1970s by the Pemberton Flying Club. In 1985, the Crown granted the Village the airport land. A federal plan to install navigational aids to enable a regular Dash 7 service didn't materialize, but the Village remained the owner of the airport.

Having been identified as the only site in the Squamish Lillooet region suitable for air access development, and with the 2010 Olympics as a key event horizon, the Pemberton airport has attracted the interest of the federal and provincial government, other stakeholders and two international air carriers (Alaska Airlines and WestJet) in the last decade.

In order to empower the community to make informed decisions about how to manage this asset, the Village of Pemberton has been undertaking a due diligence process. In 2005, the Airport Land Use Plan was commissioned and adopted. In 2006, governance models were explored through the Airport Governance Committee Report. In the spring of 2007, based on recommendations from that report, the Pemberton Valley Airport Society was established as a not-for-profit society, and now, the Strategic Plan has been completed and accepted by Airport Authority.

The Strategic Plan explored the strengths and weaknesses facing the Pemberton Airport, and stated that the vision of the Pemberton Regional Airport Authority is to develop an innovative airport creating best practices which generates benefits for the Pemberton Valley and Region, with an objective of creating a commercially-viable opportunity for aircraft carriers.

Currently, the airport is under-utilized with three main users (Prime Air, Pemberton Soaring Centre and Pemberton Helicopters) and revenue shortfalls in the last two years of an average of \$25,000 annually. Maintaining this status quo, with no further development to the airport, would mean the airport will continue to be a cost to the Village.

A limited development scenario, where some capital improvements are undertaken in an effort to slowly attract more users, will increase maintenance expenses but be unlikely to attract significant government funding to offset those costs.

Developing the airport to attract a major international aircraft carrier offers the most potential to turn the airport into an economic asset for the community. This would require lengthening the runway, a new terminal, expanded apron, a weather observation station and navigational aids.

Once the Olympics Games pass, the potential to attract provincial and federal monies to support this scale of infrastructure development, will decline.

For this reason, the Airport Authority decided to accept the consultant's recommendation, and move ahead with commissioning the Project Definition Report. With this business case in hand, the Pemberton Regional Airport Authority would be better able to lobby for funding

The Strategic Plan was funded in spring 2007 with a \$100,000 grant from the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Arts, and Ministry of Economic Development. This grant will also fund the Project Definition Report and the Archaeological Overview Assessment, which is currently underway to identify sites impacted by airport development that might be of significance to First Nations.

Copies of the Strategic Plan will be available on-line at www.pemberton.ca by October 19th.

Director Gimse at Helm of UBCM.

The Village of Pemberton offers congratulations to Area C Director Susie Gimse on her promotion to President of the Union of British Columbian Municipalities, and wishes her the best in this exciting new role.

Your Input Wanted, at Pemberton Townhall Meeting.

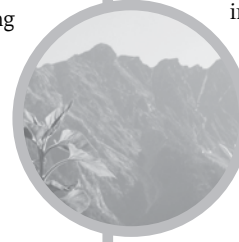
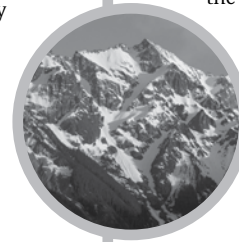
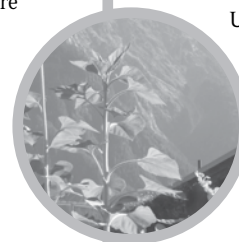
Join your Mayor, Council and Village staff for the Fall Townhall Meeting, November 6 2007 at 7pm. Celebrate the oncoming festive season with your neighbours, and find out what kind of New Year's resolutions the Village is planning. Location to be announced.

Frost in the Air Means Parking on the Odd Side of the Street Only.

In order to facilitate snow-clearing throughout the village, Winter Parking regulations are in effect from November 1. From 9pm to 9am, parking is permitted only on the ODD side of the street, all throughout the Village.

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Sign up at www.pemberton.ca to join the Village mailing list, and receive Council Agendas, Village Notifications and Updates via email.



Drug and Alcohol Treatment Options Presentation & Open House

With funding from the UBCM Community Health Promotion Fund, the Village of Pemberton and Lil'wat Nation have undertaken a Feasibility Study to assess the need for a drug and alcohol treatment facility and/or services for the Pemberton area. This groundbreaking collaboration is the first of its kind in the province. Following community input, the Feasibility Study is now at draft stage, and will be presented to the public for further input at open houses. Wednesday, October 17th at 7pm at the Pemberton Community Centre and Thursday, October 18th at 7pm at Xit'olacw Community School.

