



COMMUNITY UPDATE October 2009



Trees, Please. Pemberton Gets a Green-Thumb's Makeover

A population grows fast. Trees take a bit longer.

Pemberton's green infrastructure has been playing catch-up to its fast growing population over the last decade, but a recently developed Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan, combined with a grant from Trees for Tomorrow, aims to leap us into the future.

The Trees for Tomorrow funding will purchase 70 young trees and a variety of shrubs to be planted over the coming fall and spring with a long view to making Pemberton's downtown parks and open spaces more inviting.

France Lamontagne is a landscape designer and has spent two summers working on the Village of Pemberton's Public Works crew.

Lamontagne will be introducing some new trees to Pemberton's parks, selecting for colour, shade and tolerance to our climate. Quaking aspens, birch, maple, zatsura, thornless honey locust, golden rain tree, little leaf linden and dogwoods will all find their roots this spring. Low maintenance, heat-tolerant shrubs like lilac and hydrangea will add colour and interest, and fragrant rose bushes will tie-in with more historic areas like Pioneer Park and Fouberg Park.

Downtown Walkabouts hosted by the Village of Pemberton identified several parks in Pemberton that were under-utilised and could be more inviting.

While most of Pemberton's 15 parks are in good condition, the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan noted that they could be more widely used

if they featured better shade, play equipment, seating, trails and pathways, interpretive signage and off-leash areas.

The first step towards developing those amenities is in the hands of the Village's landscaping crew, who have been working hard all summer to keep grassy spaces and garden beds thriving. Says Lamontagne, "Each park will receive specific landscape improvements and then, as the landscape takes shape we can bring in more equipment, picnic tables and benches, so the places are more inviting."

Pioneer Park will re-claim its place as the senior's hangout it was over a decade ago. Steep curbs are being softened to make them more accessible for motorized wheelchairs, grass is being reseeded, the chess board pavers are being cleaned up, with plans in the works to commission giant chess and checkers pieces from the local woodworking class, and more benches will be added to anchor the gathering space.

Fouberg Park by the Artbarn boasts 300 year old cedars and central location, so it was selected to receive an irrigation system this fall to support new garden beds, with a view to improving the downtown experience for residents, visitors and merchants. Roses, a small maple and evergreens will create a relaxing, Zen-inspired space. A pedestrian pathway will also be created from the heart of town along Prospect Street to the park, to make the walk safer and more appealing, until the Village's Works budget allows for upgrades to the sidewalks. Newly acquired planter boxes, planted out in roses, will create separation

photo (above):

SKATE PARK GETS AIR

Last week's provincial and federal grant announcements promise to get shovels in the dirt across BC. In Pemberton, those shovels will be commencing two long-awaited projects, Water Main Looping and the Pemberton Skate Park, thanks to \$674,476 in new infrastructure funding, which will provide two-thirds of the project costs. Congratulations to the Pemberton Skatepark Society for all their work and vision over the years. Construction on the Skate Park, which will be located immediately east of the Pump Track, will begin in the spring.

between pedestrians and vehicle traffic.

The planter boxes, which were donated to the Village by Home Hardware's Jeff Clarke after a successful craigslist find, will be planted out with roses, shrubs, bulbs and flowers, to brighten the downtown and fulfil Ministry of Highways requirements to clearly separate parking spaces from the roadway.

Native plantings and a gravity fed water tank will also be installed at One Mile Lake this fall and will add to the bridge and trail upgrades to keep One Mile as Pemberton's number One park.

With one in ten Pembertonians currently under the age of 5, the trees for tomorrow project is one more step towards making Pemberton a great place to grow. "Good landscaping improves your quality of living," says France Lamontagne, and she's happy to get her hands dirty to do it.

■ **PUMP TRACK IS A WORK IN PROGRESS** - The Pump Track got a good work out this summer, thanks to a huge effort from equipment operators, track designers and community volunteers in getting this first phase into action. The Pemberton Valley Utilities & Services Committee is pleased to contribute \$10,000 to the next phase, which will see the PVTA, the new BMX Society, local businesses and volunteers construct a master-planned BMX park with jumps, by late October. This next phase of the Bike Park next-levels both the challenge and the safety factors for users, and will lead into 2010 improvements including trail connections, seating and other amenity features to make the Bike Park the hot-spot for kids of all ages.

■ **SPEED CHECK THE SCHOOL ZONES** - Help keep Pemberton a safe place for students to walk and bike-ride to school, by checking your speed when driving through the school zone. Drive under 30km/hour from 8am to 5pm and keep those shorter-than-average pedestrians on your radar.

■ **CITIZENS ON PATROL** - The RCMP has responded to 70 reports of vandalism in Pemberton this year. Repairs and clean-up work is expensive and takes away from money that could be spent on new projects. The RCMP is encouraging the community to support a Citizens on Patrol volunteer program, to complement community policing, and deter crime and vandalism. At least 15 volunteers are needed to get the program off the ground. Sergeant Steve Wright will speak about how the program works on Thursday, October 8, at 7pm at the Community Centre. Interested community members are asked to RSVP by emailing admin@pemberton.ca

■ **BEAR SMARTS** - Bears are on a mission this time of year, to gain enough weight to hibernate for four to six month. A fed bear is a dead bear. Please be smart about bear attractants around your home.

Datebook

COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, October 6, 7pm, 1350 Aster Street.

VANDALISM PREVENTION AND CITIZENS ON PATROL PRESENTATION:

Thursday, October 8, 7pm, Community Centre.

PEMBERTON FIRE RESCUE GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Big Sky Golf & Country Club, Friday, October 9.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GROUP:

Mondays, 10am-11am, Pemberton & District Public Library.