



# Press Release

## ACCOLADES MARK A BUSY YEAR FOR PORT COQUITLAM

**Port Coquitlam, BC – January 9, 2012...** 2011 was a year of accolades for Port Coquitlam, bringing the City recognition for its waste-reduction efforts, website and the Coast Meridian Overpass.

At Monday's City Council meeting, Mayor Greg Moore continued his tradition of reviewing the City's accomplishments of the previous year and offering the community a look at what's planned for the coming year.

At the top of the list were two best practices awards received by the Union of BC Municipalities – first place in the Leadership and Innovation category (large communities) for the waste-reduction strategy, and honourable mention in the website category – along with three engineering awards for the Coast Meridian Overpass, which opened in early 2010 and continues to receive industry attention from throughout North America.

"We haven't listed this as a specific highlight, but overlying everything we did in 2011 was a recognition of today's economic realities and the need to be thoughtful and accountable in how we're spending taxpayer's money," Mayor Moore said. "That's a theme that will continue in 2012."

Other highlights from 2011 included:

- completing the Broadway Street reconstruction and holding a successful business fair;
- active development in the Fremont Village and Dominion Triangle growth area;
- adopting the Corporate Strategic Plan and beginning the update of the Master Transportation Plan;
- introducing three-bin waste-sorting stations at City facilities, events and downtown;
- expanding green cart services to multi-family buildings and blue/green cart services to schools;
- completing upgrades to the exterior and interior of the Hyde Creek Recreation Centre;
- creating a new Lifetime Volunteer Award to honour long-serving volunteers;
- starting the Up the Creek 10 K run to provide a local alternative to the Sun Run;
- building on the legacy of the 2010 Olympics with a Spirit Week festival;
- opening a new dog off-leash area in the downtown area;
- constructing a live fire training facility;
- receiving a Certificate of Recognition for employee health and safety programs, bringing a savings of \$150,000 in WorkSafeBC fees every three years; and
- implementing paperless Council meetings with the use of tablet computers, saving the equivalent of nine trees and about \$17,000 in labour, paper and ink each year.

Activities planned for 2012 include:

- developing a Fire Strategic Plan;
- developing and promoting more active lifestyle programs and initiatives;
- improvements to various recreation facilities, including ball fields and tennis courts;

- introducing a volunteer litter clean-up program for local trails;
- continued development of the Dominion Triangle area;
- a new Mayor's Task Force on Business Development Opportunities;
- continued efforts to engage the community in diverting waste from the landfill;
- changes to the Bylaw Notice Enforcement System to improve how parking tickets are issued and heard;
- beginning to phase-in bear-proof garbage bins at parks;
- initiating a staff plan to address retirements, vacancies and training; and
- developing a Strategic Communications Plan to help improve communications with the community and within the organization.

The 2011-2012 Highlights presentation is available for download at [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca).

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