



## City's bear management efforts start to show results

DAN SCOONES PHOTO

**A hungry bear tries dumpster-diving near a townhouse complex in Port Coquitlam on the Labour Day weekend. Bear sightings in Port Coquitlam are down this year from 2008, thanks to growing public awareness.**

### Enforcement begins for cases of "persistent non-compliance"

Proactive steps by Port Coquitlam residents to bear-proof their homes is helping make local neighbourhoods less attractive to bears.

Bear sightings are down this year, as more and more people are complying with the new Solid Waste Bylaw and securing their garbage carts and other bear attractants.

Introduced Aug. 4, the bylaw is part of the Bear Aware program the City introduced this year to address the community's escalating bear problem.

The City focused on education for the bylaw's first six weeks, sending out more than 300 letters and affixing stickers to waste carts to remind people to secure their garbage and keep the carts off the street at night.

After the education blitz, 85% fewer homes were leaving their carts on the street at night.

But with the arrival of fall – when bears gorge themselves to prepare for hibernation – the City is now starting to enforce the bylaw in cases of persistent non-compliance.

Visits from enforcement officials and fines of up to \$150 may occur as the City steps up its efforts to keep local

neighbourhoods safe from bears.

Local bear sightings this year are down, with about 300 sightings this year to date (there were 900 sightings throughout 2008). As well, two bears have been killed to date this year, compared to nine throughout 2008.

This may be due in part to the Bear Aware program, which has visited 64 classrooms, fielded 678 phone calls, set up 18 booths at community events, hosted two public functions, trained nine volunteers and conducted many other activities in an effort to educate people about what they need to do to keep bears away from their homes.

But not all the bear statistics are positive. For the first time, bears entered local homes four times this year, indicating that they are growing bolder in their search for food.

The City views enforcement of the new bylaw as a last resort, but believes the bylaw is a necessary measure to ensure the community's safety.

The hope, however, is that residents will choose to secure bear attractants and keep their carts off the street at night for the safety of their families and their neighbours, not because of the threat of a fine.

For more information about protecting your home from bears, please visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears).

### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



We'll be doing far more than just dusting off and adjusting our Corporate Strategic Plan as we launch our comprehensive review this fall.

A lot has changed – in the world and in our community – in the seven years since we adopted our current Strategic Plan. Our taxpayers have different priorities and needs, and our community is facing different challenges.

For example, we're dealing with economic and social issues today that we didn't envision in 2002. A different approach is required. But we also can't lose sight of the fact that there are core services that we as a City need to deliver, and to deliver well.

Our Strategic Plan guides our City's decisions, so it's critical that it accurately reflects the community's vision for the future. It needs to be current and it needs to be realistic.

Most of all, it needs to reflect your needs and your priorities. We'll be launching a community engagement process as part of our review, and I'm looking forward to finding out what you have to say about what's important to you, and how you envision Port Coquitlam in the future.

This is your chance to help shape your community and create the Port Coquitlam you want. Keep an eye on [www.portcoquitlam.ca/getinvolved](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/getinvolved) and other City publications this fall for opportunities to participate.

I'd also like to thank those residents in our community who are helping make our neighbourhoods safer by bear-proofing their homes. We understand our new Solid Waste Bylaw has caused some inconvenience for people. At the same time, the bylaw is a direct response to requests for the City to take action about our escalating bear problem. Judging by the article to the left, it seems to be helping. Again, thanks for working with us to help achieve a safer community for everyone.

Mayor Greg Moore

## Port Coquitlam first in Metro Vancouver to collect all food scraps

Leftovers, pizza boxes, bones and more will be accepted in green waste carts in Port Coquitlam as of Nov. 2.

The City will once again lead Metro Vancouver in the recycling of organic waste when it expands its kitchen green waste collection program to accept all kinds of food scraps, including meats, dairy, bones and food-soiled papers.

That's in addition to the yard waste and vegetable and fruit scraps that are already accepted in green waste carts.

The new program could save as much as \$45,500 each year in tipping (waste disposal) fees, which property owners pay through their utility taxes. Regional garbage disposal rates are expected to rise almost 14% next year, to \$82/tonne from \$72/tonne, while green waste disposal will remain at \$50/tonne.

Given that up to 34% of all garbage is compostable kitchen waste, the savings can be significant if enough people join in.

In a six-week pilot of the new program this summer, 200 households diverted almost 36% of their household waste into their green waste carts (about a 9% increase) plus a further 29% into their recycling carts (about a 7% increase), for a total diversion of almost 65% of their household waste. The study also tested bi-weekly garbage collection.

Metro Vancouver has set a goal of diverting 70% of all household waste from the landfill. Port Coquitlam residents currently divert 52-55% of their household waste through existing kitchen waste, yard waste and recycling collection.

The City also promotes backyard composting as the most

environmentally sustainable method of addressing organic waste. For details, visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/composting](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/composting).

The following can go into green waste carts after Nov. 2, in addition to what is accepted now:

- anything from the dinner plate: meat, bones, pasta, bread, rice, dairy, sauces, vegetables and desserts
- eggshells, coffee grounds/filters and tea bags
- food-soiled papers: pizza boxes, plates, napkins, ice-cream cartons

For details, visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/greenwaste](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/greenwaste).

After Nov. 2, it will be even more important for residents in areas that attract bears to secure their green waste carts, as required by the City's Solid Waste Bylaw (see article above).

## Off-leash area coming this fall



In response to long-time public demand, the City of Port Coquitlam will begin developing its first dog off-leash area in Shaughnessy Park this fall.

Resident surveys this summer continued to show overwhelming support for the off-leash area, which will be more than an acre in size and located in the 3300-block of Shaughnessy Street, across from Chester Place.

The parking lot has now been cleared and the tender for construction will be issued shortly. Phase 1 of the project, to be completed in November, will include the parking lot and a 292-metre-long unfenced forested trail circuit.

Future amenities are to include an enclosed area with a 45-metre-long trail circuit and possibly drinking water facilities for dogs. Completion of the project is expected in 2010, depending on funding availability.

In response to public feedback this summer, the trail surface will be a mixture of gravel and wood chips, and fencing in the fenced areas will be four feet high.

While the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, some concerns were raised about tree removal, traffic, vandalism in the parking lot and dogs on the Traboulay PoCo Trail. These were addressed through meetings and Council input.

For more information, contact Ron Myers, Manager of Parks Planning & Design, at [myersr@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:myersr@portcoquitlam.ca) or 604-927-7920, or visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/dogpark](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/dogpark).

## Fundraiser supports services for seniors

A new fundraising campaign by the Wilson Centre Seniors' Advisory Association will help provide services to homebound and isolated seniors after a recent funding cut.

Fraser Health Authority terminated funding for the Community Volunteer Services for Seniors program on September 30. The program provides a variety of services to more than 200 seniors, including:

- grocery shopping for those who are unable to shop for themselves due to physical limitations,
- visits by volunteers to homebound seniors, to provide support and companionship,
- telephone calls by volunteers to isolated and lonely seniors, for a friendly chat and check-in,
- information and referrals for seniors by phone, email or in person through the volunteer services office, and
- a Caregiver Connection Program that provides caregivers with education, resources, support and compassion to help them better support their senior.

Donations to the Seniors' Advisory Association are accepted at Wilson Centre or at any City recreation facility. Donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax deductible receipt. For more information, call 604-927-7970 or visit [www.cvss.org](http://www.cvss.org).

## Heritage workshop Oct. 7

As the City of Port Coquitlam moves into the next stage of developing its Heritage Strategy, residents are invited to attend a community workshop on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m. in the Outlet (behind City Hall), at 2253 Leigh Square.

Consultants Donald Luxton and Associates will first present a summary of information received to date and the initial directions for the strategy. Then, through open discussion, the consultants will help participants work towards consensus on primary strategies to achieve our community's heritage goals.

Those interested in participating are asked to RSVP to ensure adequate seating. To RSVP or for information, contact Bryan Sherrell, [sherrellb@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:sherrellb@portcoquitlam.ca) or 604-927-5244.



Youth outreach activities in Port Coquitlam have included graffiti removal and cooking with seniors.

## Youths reach out to community

Instead of hanging out at the mall, many local youths are filling their time with activities that make Port Coquitlam a better place.

Through Port Coquitlam Youth Services, local youths are not only staying active, but they're learning how to be contributing members of their community.

This summer, for example, 13 teens with an Ismaili Muslim Civic group partnered with the Hyde Away Youth Centre's Teens Against Graffiti (TAG) program to clean up more than 67 tags from local businesses, bus stops, lamp standards, portables and other surfaces. Another TAG outing took place in mid-August, focusing on the downtown core.

Another initiative is a weekly intergenerational cooking program, which started last season and is continuing this fall. Every Wednesday, youth and seniors come together at Wilson Centre to prepare and eat meals, including ethnic specialties.

Youths age 13-18 and seniors over age 55 are invited to drop by Wilson Centre on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to enjoy a meal for \$3. Or, they can join in the cooking by calling Sarina Mawji at 604-927-7938. By the



end of last season, 35 youths and seniors were showing up every week.

The Youth Team Action Force also meets weekly at the Hyde Away Youth Centre to plan activities, such as monthly Random Act of Kindness days and youth participation in community events.

One example is the Haunted House at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre's annual Halloween Howl, which this year takes place Oct. 24, 1-8 p.m. The event's Haunted House is organized and run by youth, who spend hours designing and building different themed rooms in the Hyde Away. Experience it for \$1 on Oct. 24, from 3-5 p.m. for ages 7 and under and from 6-8 p.m. for ages 8 and up.

Visit [www.pocoyouth.com](http://www.pocoyouth.com) for more information about youth programs and activities.

## Get active in Grade 5, and stay active in Grade 6!

Card programs offer local students free visits to City recreation centres

In a partnership to promote youth involvement in physical activity, the cities of Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, and Port Moody are offering Get Active! Cards for all Grade 5 students and Stay Active! Cards for Grade 6 students.

The Get Active! Card gives Grade 5 students unlimited free admission to drop-in swimming, skating and gymnasium-based activities at civic recreation centres. The program is available to all Grade 5 students from Sept. 15, 2009 to Aug. 31, 2010.

It is hoped that offering free admission to drop-in activities will encourage young people to try out different recreational activities, and start them on the path of having an active and healthy lifestyle.

In addition, for the 2009/2010 school year, a new transition program is being offered to Grade 6 students. The Grade 6 Stay Active! Card allows for 12 free visits to recreation centres by all Grade 6 students, enabling them

to continue to develop healthy lifestyles. Grade 6 students will be able to use their 12-visit card from Sept. 15, 2009 to Aug. 31, 2010.

To receive and activate a membership card, students must bring the following documentation to: Hyde Creek Recreation Centre (1379 Laurier Avenue), Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex (2150 Wilson Avenue) or The Outlet (#2100-2253 Leigh Square):

- A letter of verification from School District #43 identifying them as a Grade 5 or 6 student.
- Birth certificate or Care Card showing the student is of the applicable age to be in either Grade 5 or Grade 6 as of Dec. 31, 2009.
- Proof of residency – students must live in Port Coquitlam.

For more information on this program, contact Nathan Taylor, Program Coordinator – Active Communities, at 604-927-7983 or [taylorn@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:taylorn@portcoquitlam.ca).



SNC-LAVALIN CONSTRUCTORS (PACIFIC) INC. PHOTO

Above, the final stage of works takes place to link the overpass structure to the north approach.

## Final six-month push for CMO construction

Layers of steel and concrete are now being added to the new skeleton base structure for the Coast Meridian Overpass, as construction of the City's largest-ever infrastructure project proceeds according to schedule.

At the end of August, SNC-Lavalin Constructors (Pacific) Inc. completed the five-month push-launch process that used hydraulic jacks and rollers to slowly nudge five massive steel span structures – each up to 125 metres in length – into place over the Canadian Pacific Railway yards.

The new base structure will support roughly 1,000 pre-cast deck panels that are being installed this fall. SLCP will be attaching the panels and pouring concrete until November, followed by the addition of other concrete elements, sidewalks and security fencing, as well as other works.

The benefits of the project are already being felt, with completion in July of improved intersections at Lougheed Highway/Dominion Avenue, at Lougheed Highway/Lougheed Meridian Connector and at Coast Meridian Road/Riverwood Gate. On the south side of the project, the City completed the widening of Kingsway Avenue and opened new intersections at Kingsway/McLean Avenues and Kingsway/Broadway Street at the end of September.

Completion of the south embankment is also now in progress. On the north side of the project, structural work over the Lougheed Highway is underway this month to link the new CMO structure to the completed north embankment.

To be completed in early 2010, the CMO will provide a much-needed third north-south route in Port Coquitlam, serving to alleviate traffic and improve access to businesses, homes and services.

For more project information, please visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/cmo](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/cmo).

### FINANCES: FUTURE OUTLOOK

## PLANNING FOR TODAY, TOMORROW AND BEYOND

One of the more important tasks of a city is to plan for the delivery of municipal services today and into the future. The services delivered by a city are essential to the well being of the community and valued by its citizens.

By ensuring the services continue into the future, we are able to maintain our quality of life.

Police services, fire protection, water and sewer services, roadways, recreation facilities, planning, development and city parks are some of the many services offered by our City. City Council is proud of the services we offer and that we are able to provide these services in a cost effective manner.

As with many people and organizations in our country and around the world, the City of Port Coquitlam is experiencing some challenges this year. The current economic climate has affected development in our community and has added pressures to the City's finances. We are being asked by our residents to implement environmentally friendly initiatives and to have a heritage presence.

Along with all these challenges, we are greatly concerned about being able to pay for the replacement of major infrastructure, such as roads and watermains, that will be needed in the future.

The City is preparing for these challenges. One of the first steps in the process is to develop, with the assistance of our community, the City's goals and vision for the upcoming years and then build a plan to achieve the desired outcomes. A second very important consideration is the need to keep tax rates at a reasonable level. These two strategic issues will be up for discussion through the City's Corporate Strategic Plan and the City's 2010-2014 Financial Plan processes.

City services impact all of us. Your voice is very important in our search for the appropriate levels of service and related costs. Please join us this fall and into 2010 as we build our future.

For updates, please visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/getinvolved](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/getinvolved).

**"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."**  
– Benjamin Franklin

## Council goes on the road Oct. 13

The gym at Kwayhqitlum Middle School will stand in for the Council Chambers at Port Coquitlam City Hall on Tuesday Oct. 13, as City Council meets in a community setting for the second time this year.

By holding meetings in a less formal setting from time to time, Council hopes to encourage greater participation from the community and increase public interest in local government. Council last met in the community on April 14 at Westwood Elementary School.

The meeting on Oct. 13 will start at 7 p.m., and Council will conduct its business as it would if the meeting was held in the Council Chambers. A public question period will follow the proceedings. One key difference is that the meeting will not be televised because – due to the Thanksgiving holiday – it falls on a Tuesday, when Shaw Cable is not available for filming.

Agendas and minutes for all Council meetings are posted on the City website; the page can be accessed through [www.portcoquitlam.ca/council](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/council). Kwayhqitlum Middle School is located at 3280 Flint Street.

## More functionality, new look for website

The recent update of [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca) was more than just a facelift. Aside from a fresh new look, the City's website is now easier to navigate and its homepage is more dynamic than ever.

Launched Sept. 11, the update aimed to make the City's website easier to use and more appealing than typical government websites, in order to reach more people. The website is playing an ever-increasing role in the City's efforts to engage the community, having logged almost one million page views and received 360,000 visitors from January to September 2009.

The homepage, as the most viewed page on the website, experienced the biggest transformation. The more friendly, modern design includes prominent links and additional content that will change regularly. As well, a Parks and Recreation link was added to the homepage navigation bar after statistics showed it to be one of the most popular sections of the website.

Other new website features and improvements include:

- full functionality on all modern-day browsers for both PC and Mac platforms,
- a new Shaping Your Community page highlighting opportunities to become more involved in the community, including providing input and volunteering,
- new webpage footers with links to the City's social media sites (Facebook, Twitter), a search engine, contact information for further assistance, and What's New topics, and
- improved legibility, including wider line spacing.



# Join in a province-wide fire escape drill on Oct. 7

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCT. 4-10

During Fire Prevention Week this year, Port Coquitlam Fire and Emergency Services is inviting local residents to participate in a province-wide Community Fire Escape Drill on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Practicing fire drills in your home ensures your family knows what to do in the event of a fire. The five components to a successful fire drill are:

1. Review your escape route.
2. Test your smoke alarms.
3. Practice your escape plan. (Go to [www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire) for instruction sheets.)
4. Gather at your meeting place.
5. Know two ways out of every room.

The 2009 Fire Prevention Week theme is *Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned.*

Other Fire Prevention Week activities by Fire and Emergency Services include visits to schools, education for children and parents, and draws for *Fire Chief for the Day*, *Captain of the Day* and a computer for students who complete the *Fire Safety Starts with You!* activity booklet. The booklet educates children about preventing fires at home, and includes parent fire safety tips.

Visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire) for more tips, information and activities.



Six-year-old Liam Kennedy, in Grade 1 at Mary Hill Elementary, was Fire Chief for the Day in 2008.

## Images of Port Coquitlam sought for City calendar

Calling all shutterbugs! Do you have a photo of Port Coquitlam you'd love to see published?

The City of Port Coquitlam is seeking submissions for its 2010 Waste Collection Schedule & Calendar of Community Events, a glossy 9"x12" calendar that will land on doorsteps throughout Port Coquitlam the week of Dec. 2.

The City is looking for photos that support the following themes:

- parks and facilities
- healthy/active living in Port Coquitlam
- City landmarks
- cycling
- PoCo spirit and winter sports
- Summer in the City events and activities

Submitted photos will be placed in the online gallery at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/photos](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/photos), and also be considered for the calendar and other City publications.

Photo credits are applied to all submitted photos used in the calendar, and whenever possible when used in other City publications.

To be considered for the calendar, photos must meet the following criteria:

- Format: jpeg or tiff
- Orientation: horizontal
- Size: at least 300 dpi at a size of 13" wide by 10" deep OR a file size of at least 2 MB

For more information or to upload photos, please visit our website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/photos](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/photos).

## Events offer family fun

Mark your calendar for these free or low-cost public events this fall, hosted by the City and local community organizations.

Visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/events](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/events) for information about these and other events.

### Harvest Festival: Oct. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Lions Park

Hosted by the Business Improvement Association, this free event will feature an array of music, song, dance, games, contests and demonstrations. BIA member businesses, food and novelty vendors, non-profit societies and community groups will also set up booths in the park. Make sure to visit the City Info tent- for a variety of City information. Shuttle service is available from the West Coast Express parking lot.

### Harvest Festival Run: Oct. 3, 9 a.m. in Lions Park

No registration is required for this fun run for kids and adults, sponsored by PoCoMotion, the Business Improvement Association, VanCity Credit Union and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Enjoy a 100m route (kids five and under), or a 5km route (kids and adults) along the Traboulay PoCo Trail. Includes prize draws and snacks. Entry fee is a minimum \$5 donation to the Heart & Stroke Foundation.



### Halloween Howl: Oct. 24, 1 to 8 p.m. at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre (1379 Laurier Ave.)

All-day fun for children and adults, including a swim from 1-3 p.m., a carnival from 3-5 p.m. and a haunted house from 3-5 p.m. (ages 7 and under) and from 6-8 p.m. (ages 8 and up). Tickets available at Hyde Creek, for individual events or \$5 for all events (kids under age three are free). Information: 604-927-7946.

### Hyde Creek Salmon Festival: Nov. 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre (1379 Laurier Ave.) & Hyde Creek Education Centre (3636 Coast Meridian Rd.)

This free event, hosted by the City and Hyde Creek Watershed Society, celebrates the salmon as they return to their spawning grounds. Enjoy activities for all ages, including nature walks, educational displays, hatchery information, site tours, children's activities and a first-hand look at the salmon in Hyde Creek.

### Art Exhibit: *I Dream of Africa*

Works in all media by community artists are on display at Leigh Square until Nov. 15. Check out a free showing of the movie *African Queen* on Nov. 2, 7 p.m. in the Terry Fox Library.

## HELP PLAN THE FUTURE OF LIONS PARK



STEVE SMITH PHOTO

Those attending Harvest Festival in Lions Park on Oct. 3 can help shape the future of one of the City's most popular parks.

The City, along with landscape architects, will be on hand during Harvest Festival to collect input for the Lions Park Master Plan.

The plan will set out a short-term and long-term vision for the park, to help guide decisions about improvements made to the park in the next few years and into the future. Details such as the overall design and amenities will be addressed.

During Harvest Festival, residents will be invited to fill out a survey, sketch out a plan and speak to staff and the landscape architects about what they like about the park, how the park could be improved and what they think are the park's challenges.

For more information, contact Ron Myers, Manager of Parks Planning & Design, at 604-927-7920 or [myersr@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:myersr@portcoquitlam.ca).

### CITY CONTACTS

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT	604-543-6700	FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	604-927-5466
BEAR MANAGEMENT	604-927-5440	<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	9-1-1
BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS	604-927-5444	GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION	604-927-5496
24-Hour Request Line	604-927-5445	HYDE CREEK RECREATION CENTRE	604-927-7946
BUSINESS LICENCES	604-927-5238	LEIGH SQUARE COMMUNITY ARTS VILLAGE	604-927-8400
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	604-927-5440	MAYOR & COUNCILLORS	604-927-5410
CEMETERY	604-927-5251	OPERATIONS (Drainage/flood control; roads & lanes; sanitary, sewer; sidewalks, street lighting & traffic; signal outages, traffic inquiries, water system)	604-927-5488
COMMUNITY POLICE STATIONS		<i>Emergency - After Hours</i>	604-543-6700
3312 Coast Meridian	604-927-5451	POLICE (RCMP)	604-945-1550
2581 Mary Hill Road	604-927-2383	<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	9-1-1
DOG LICENCES	604-927-5425	PORT COQUITLAM RECREATION COMPLEX	604-927-7970
EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES	604-927-5479	PROPERTY TAXES & UTILITY PAYMENTS	604-927-5425
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR	604-927-5466	VECTOR CONTROL (Pest Control)	604-927-5447
FACILITY BOOKINGS	604-927-7903	WILSON CENTRE (Seniors Centre)	604-927-7970
FIELD CLOSURES	604-927-5455		