

# MAPLE RIDGE COUNCIL QUARTERLY UPDATE

## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The City of Maple Ridge has developed and implemented site safety protocols at all of our facilities consistent with the BC Restart Plan and WorkSafeBC guidelines.

With assistance from the Information Technology team, Council continued with its regularly scheduled meetings, with some members in Council Chambers and others participating via Zoom. These meetings continue to be live-streamed via the City's website and available for public participation via Zoom. City Hall reopened in October with COVID-19

protocols in place including health screening and the requirement to wear a mask while in the building. We've received great feedback from residents, with many saying they're grateful to be able to conduct business with the City in person again.

As this Quarterly Update is published, BC and the rest of Canada are dealing with a second wave of COVID-19 transmissions. Mayor and Council ask that we all continue to do our part to help flatten the curve once again and follow Public Health Orders and guidance from Fraser

Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control. As Dr. Henry has noted, we need to come together to ensure our schools and local businesses can remain open as we move into the winter months. We are all in this together. Here are the highlights for Council's Strategic priorities along with information graphics to give you a sense of the work that's going on as we continue to deliver services to citizens and move forward with our vision for this growing community.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

In October of 2020, Fire Hall No. 4 in Albion reached substantial completion. This new facility delivers important fire infrastructure by providing prime accessibility to the neighbouring area and vital resources from an information technology and parks perspective. It will also allow the Fire Department to separate shifts to support the ongoing COVID-19 safety plan by limiting exposure risks among firefighters.

We continue to advance the Community Social Safety Initiative through monthly stakeholder meetings with the internal Action Table and the external Task Group, which is comprised of local experts and key community service agencies. In addition, Bylaw Compliance and Community Safety Officers undertook preventative training to support crews on the front line and the community they serve.

With the final BC Election results being announced we look forward to working with our senior government partners to advance elements of the Community Social Safety Initiative.



## COMMUNITY PRIDE & SPIRIT

Throughout the summer, the Recreation & Community Engagement team methodically, and safely, re-opened recreation facilities including the Hammond Outdoor Pool, Greg Moore Youth Centre and Maple Ridge Leisure Centre. These facilities are following the City's COVID-19 safety plan to protect customers and staff. The re-openings have resulted in increased usage through September.

A new recreation service was also introduced, bringing programming to neighbourhoods through 'Pop-Up Recreation in the Park' which was very successful at both Maple Ridge and Albion Parks.

A new Maple Ridge Tourism video launched in September highlighting Maple Ridge as not only a place to live but one to come and explore. It offers an authentic view of our community and features local businesses and faces alongside local spaces. It encourages visitors and residents to visit or revisit some of the numerous 'gems' that Maple Ridge has to offer. That video can be viewed at [mapleridge.ca/1908](http://mapleridge.ca/1908).



## GROWTH

COVID-19 has emphasized the importance of outdoor spaces for citizens to live active lifestyles while staying physically distanced. In the third quarter of 2020, the virtual grand openings were held for Beckett Park in South Haney and Telosky Stadium adjacent to Thomas Haney Secondary School. Both of these facilities have been well received by the community and we have seen significant use by patrons.

A number of area planning processes are underway and will be brought forward to Council for discussion and input in the coming months. Area planning projects underway include the Yennadon lands, Lougheed Corridor and Northeast Albion Area Plan. The Planning and Bylaw Departments continue to bring applications forward to Council for new cannabis retail stores and policy work around vaping regulations, including a proposed ban on stand alone vape stores.

Council approved phase two of the Albion Community Centre construction and crews are working on this exciting new facility with anticipated completion Q4 2021. This will be an important community hub for the fast growing Albion neighbourhood.

Maple Ridge continues to see significant development activity and investment with developer-built infrastructure expanding to over \$6M this quarter. This includes roads, storm and sanitary sewers, sidewalks, street trees, trails and water works.

A study on residential water metering is underway and will be brought forward to Council at a future date.



## LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE COUNCIL Q3 UPDATE

Mayor Morden, on behalf of Council, has recorded a video that highlights the work accomplished from July through to the end of September. That video can be found at [mapleridge.ca/2369](http://mapleridge.ca/2369) along with the staff presentation and Ridge Meadows RCMP update that were provided to Council.

Council looks forward to hearing your feedback on this update and the ongoing work towards their Strategic Priorities for Maple Ridge.

You can email your feedback to [mayorcouncilandcao@mapleridge.ca](mailto:mayorcouncilandcao@mapleridge.ca). Council would like to thank citizens, businesses and staff at City Hall for their efforts to keep the COVID-19 curve as low as possible. As Dr. Henry has noted, we need to recommit to the things we did in the early days of the pandemic to break the chain of transmission we are seeing in the Fraser Health Region. Wear a mask if you are out in public, stay physically distant from other people, wash your hands frequently. To quote Dr. Henry, 'be kind, be calm and be safe. We will get through this together.'