City of Maple Ridge
News Release

Maple Ridge Unveils New Land Development Application Viewer Search Tool

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, November 15 Maple Ridge Council was given a demonstration of a new online tool, the Land Development Application Viewer, developed by the City's Information Technology (IT) and Planning departments. This tool blends geographic information services with data from the Planning, Building and Clerk's departments to create a one stop search engine for all properties that are under application in the City.

"On behalf of Council I would like to thank our staff for their work developing this new online tool which builds on the recommendations we received as part of the Open Government Task Force and brings data from a number of departments together into one easy to search database," said Mayor Read. "Now citizens can easily get information on properties that have development information signs and see where in the development process those applications are. It also allows new residents the opportunity to see if there are older applications in process that pre-dated their move to the community. This new online tool reflects the expertise we have within the organization and a commitment to harness that talent to create greater transparency at City Hall.

Christina Crabtree, Chief Information Officer for the City of Maple Ridge notes, "We are really looking forward to citizens and the development community using this new application and providing feedback on how we can make the user interface better. This project represents a tangible step in our work to address the recommendations from Council's Open Government Task Force initiative. The Land Development Application Viewer represents a strong collaboration across departments and leveraging data along with digital tools to create a better portal for our citizens." The Land Development Application Viewer allows citizens to search

properties that are under application for rezoning, subdivision, development permits and a number of other processes. An example of how the application can benefit a citizen is;

A resident of the community is walking their dog around their new neighbourhood and they spot a development information sign on a lot a block from their home. They snap a quick picture of the sign on their smartphone and when they get home they go to *mapleridge.ca*, click on the Hot Topics, Maps or Online Services tabs and open up the Land Development Application Viewer. They enter the property address in the search field and the application information appears. This will allow the citizen to learn what is proposed for the site, that the application had a Public Hearing two years ago and is under a one year extension. The details tab has links to the relevant Council meetings which provides information on the development and the resident can view the reports or meeting videos to become fully informed on the application.

"The Land Development Application Viewer allows citizens to search for schools and the details tab will provide them with a link to the School District No. 42 website that has information on school enrollment," said Christine Carter, Director of Planning. "This will allow citizens to make informed choices about neighbourhoods they are looking to purchase their new home in. We will be working with the local developers and realtors to encourage them to add this application to their toolkit when dealing with clients."

The Land Development Application Viewer is now live and can be accessed via the Hot Topics, Maps or Online Services links or by accessing *www.mapleridge.ca/1673*. The IT Department encourages the public or the development community to provide feedback on the new application at *appfeedback@mapleridge.ca*.

For more information on the Land Development Application Viewer please contact Christina Crabtree, Chief Information Officer by email at *ccrabtree@mapleridge.ca* or by phone at 604-467-7457.

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