

MAPLE RIDGE COUNCIL QUARTERLY UPDATE



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Community Safety continues to be Council's highest priority. The implementation of the City's Community Social Safety Initiative included the roll out of the City's Community Safety Officers (CSO). This innovative program is getting attention from other BC Municipalities.

These specially trained Bylaw officers were deployed into the community to proactively deal with community safety concerns and work in a coordinated way to fill the gap between the private security and RCMP deployed in the community. These officers are specially trained to interact with citizens experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health issues and have developed partnerships with front line service providers to assist people in accessing shelter and health care supports.

The CSOs have been providing support for the 'Lock Out Through Environmental Design' (LOCTED) program in conjunction with the Downtown Maple Ridge BIA.

The City's Bylaw Officers are supporting Fraser Health inspections of local businesses to ensure that worksite safety plans have been implemented and are being followed.

The Community Social Safety Plan has a strong housing component. In 2020 Council passed Bylaws to regulate supportive recovery homes in residential areas to ensure that there are no impacts on neighbour and neighbourhoods. In addition, complementary work to the Supportive Homes Regulation to round out Assisted Living Resident regulation was delivered. Council also adopted the Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw. All of these pieces of legislation help create a comprehensive approach to community safety.

If you go to the City website at mapleridge.ca/305 you can access the City's Performance reports including the new Performance Dashboard Hub. These metrics are updated constantly and provide you with information on how the City is performing on Council's Strategic Priorities. A separate Community Social Safety Dashboard provides mapping and data related to the Community Social Safety Initiative designed to improve citizen safety.



COMMUNITY PRIDE & SPIRIT

The Aquatic Centre reopened with socially distanced swim programs. The BC Games Society has created a \$125,000 Legacy Fund and a Legacy Committee was formed to distribute these funds to local sports organizations. The City of Maple Ridge will host the BC Summer Games in 2024, which will be Maple Ridge's 150 Anniversary.

A virtual Remembrance Day ceremony was supported to help protect our veterans from the COVID-19 pandemic. Council thanks the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #88 for their leadership and support in 2020.

Our City adapted to the Public Health Orders in place and reimagined the Celebrate the Night event as a drive through concert and laser light show.

GLOW Maple Ridge displays were spaced out this year to ensure social distancing and some new elements were added to help make Christmas special for families. Video and photo materials were created for families who continue to stay close to home.



GROWTH

This is a key pillar of Council's Strategic Priorities, and in 2020 a number of significant projects moved forward. Council adopted the new Maple Ridge Zoning Bylaw, a comprehensive overhaul of the document to make it more user friendly for our citizens.

Council also laid a strong vision for the future by endorsing the Lougheed Corridor Study, the Yennadon area Concept Plan and design guidelines for ground orientated residential infill into the Official Community Plan.

Council is modernizing the short term rental regulatory framework to address the need for housing options across the spectrum of needs.

As the community grows, the need for spaces for people to decompress also grows. In 2020, your Council moved a number of projects forward including the upgrade of four neighbour park playground structures, consultations for a new park at 241A and 112 Street and the design process for the new Silver Valley Gathering Place. Construction of the new Community Centre on Albion is in full swing and is expected to open later in 2021.

Council continued to advance important roadwork projects including the work to move the Abernethy Extension forward and an update of the City's overall Strategic Transportation Plan.

Improved online building permit tracking, inspections and plan submissions continue to enhance our customer service to the development community were all rolled out to citizens.



CITY SERVICES

City Hall reopened in October with COVID-19 protocols in place including health screening, hand sanitizing and the requirement to wear a masks. 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.

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 with public participation via Zoom. It's important to note that Council did not miss any regularly scheduled meetings in 2020, embracing online meetings, to continue serving the community.

The City continues to build on its online services to serve the community, introducing online applications for burning permits, online payments and tree cutting permits. In addition to these customer service improvements, the organization moved to eliminate paper documents for many of its processes. In addition, a new online recruiting and applicant tracking system was developed. The City's also completed a successful WorkSafeBC COR safety audit which resulted in a \$90,000 fee rebate for 2021.

As this Quarterly Update is published, The BC Immunization Plan is being rolled out and the City of Maple Ridge is helping to amplify the important messages from Fraser Health Authority. Go to fraserhealth.ca for the latest information on COVID-19 vaccines and health orders.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE COUNCIL Q4 UPDATE

Mayor Morden, on behalf of Council, has recorded a video that highlights the work accomplished from July through to the end of September 2020. That video can be found at mapleridge.ca/2369 along with the staff presentation that was 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 mayorcouncilandcaol@mapleridge.ca.

Keep doing your part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and help share the information from Fraser Health on booking vaccine appointments. We will get through this together.

