

August 2, 2011

City working to re-open Ken Forde boat ramp

The City continues to press for approval to remove gravel clogging the Ken Forde boat launch.

The City's boat ramp maintenance is required to comply with the Federal Fisheries Act, and the boat ramp was first cleared in late June this year when the City received the green light from Department of Fisheries and Oceans to remove approximately 300 cubic metres of material that had collected on the boat ramp. The material was used to restore other storm-damaged shoreline locations to a more natural state.

"Since that time, gravel that had accumulated on the rip-rap breakwater on the south side of the launch has been washed over the breakwater and into the launch," explains Ross Milnthorp, the City's general manager of parks, recreation and culture. *"We estimate there is approximately 50 to 75 cubic metres of material, a fraction of what was in the launch in June, but enough to make the launch unusable."*

The City has begun the application process to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for permission to move the material that has since built up at Ken Forde to the beach directly north of the launch.

"Because applications are now processed in Nanaimo rather than in Campbell River, we are unable to offer a time estimate for how long the approval process will take," Milnthorp says. *"We will remove the material as soon as we receive the required approval."*

The City and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are developing a pre-approved schedule for re-locating material trapped in boat ramps to restore priority foreshore locations.

"We appreciate the community's continued patience while we work to get this plan in place," Milnthorp says. *"Boat ramp maintenance must meet acceptable foreshore habitat management regulations, and the long-term plans we are developing will help us get the boat ramps open earlier in years to come,"* Milnthorp adds.

– 30 –

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