



News Release

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City staff challenged to support rising building wave – creative resourcing to the rescue!

The City of Campbell River has found help from nearby local governments to ride the rising local building wave.

“With the number of commercial projects occurring in Campbell River, and the interest from the development community to discuss potential plans with City staff, we’ve made temporary arrangements with the Strathcona Regional District and Comox Valley Regional District to help us keep up with rising demand to process building permits,” says Ron Neufeld, the City’s General Manager Operations.

In addition to the short-term assistance from the Strathcona Regional District and the Comox Valley Regional District, the City is currently working to recruit a building inspector.

Neufeld emphasizes that streamlining the process for permits is in place for all applicants, but efficiency depends on builders and developers having the required details available to process applications.

“Larger building projects often rely on a certified registered professional to sign off on aspects of the job, which often helps these projects run more smoothly,” Neufeld explains. *“Once all the required paperwork is submitted to the City, then the permit process is expedited.”*

To support the local building and development sector, the City of Campbell River’s Land Use Department offers a series of regular lunchtime forums that highlight different aspects of the permitting process and provide an opportunity for industry representatives and City staff to discuss the steps required to keep the permitting system moving forward.

Campbell River’s interaction with property owners and builders and the City’s fees and speedy turnaround time for building permits were recently praised by *Building Links*, a publication that released second quarter statistics comparing Campbell River and the Comox Valley in July.

The stats show year-to-date construction values total \$55.7 million in Campbell River, \$29 million more than last year. The construction values from Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland and the CVRD total \$28.5 million - \$17 million less in construction values than the City of Campbell River.

In Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland and in the Comox Valley Regional District, construction values have declined during the first six months of 2013 compared to the same time period in 2012. In Campbell River, construction values have increased by more than 100 per cent from January to June 30 this year, compared to the same time in 2012.

Campbell River has additional new projects going through the building permit process, and *Building Links* estimates that Campbell River will top \$100 million in construction values this year.

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