

May 19, 2015

Foreshore restoration complete at Frank James Park

The beach along Frank James Park is now easier to reach and better protected from winter wave erosion, thanks to shoreline restoration work completed this month.

The City of Campbell River Parks Department has continued waterfront restoration done last year in front of the Sybil Andrew Cottage, moving north along Frank James Park to the Highway 19A-Hilchey intersection. Adjustments and re-paving of the seawalk were included in the restoration work.

“The work done by parks staff and our contractors is a great investment to protect the shoreline at this location and improve public beach access,” says Ross Milnthorp, the City’s general manager of parks, recreation and culture. *“People visiting this year’s Shoreline Arts Transformations on the Shore carving contest can look forward to some beach time as well.”*

The work placed 580 cubic yards (approximately 450 cubic metres) of new gravel along the foreshore, including 250 yards (200 metres) from the Ken Forde boat ramp and 330 yards (250 metres) of gravel from the Big Rock boat ramp, with another 50 yards (40 metres) of special locally sourced fishery rock.

The project was monitored by a qualified environmental professional to ensure the work follows the procedures and meets the standards outlined in the City’s agreement with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The agreement allows the City to maintain both boat ramps from May through September each year, using recovered gravel and driftwood to restore public locations along the shoreline with a natural beach. The City’s work follows the same standards that landowners are asked to adhere to in the development permit process when work is completed on or near the marine foreshore.

A natural slope improves access to the beach and helps prevent erosion caused by storms to better protect the seawalk, roads, sewer and water lines. As much native vegetation was salvaged as possible and additional plantings are scheduled for the future.

Before the work started, a forage fish specialist sampled the beach to ensure that no surf smelt embryos were present in the construction zone. Surf smelt are a primary food source for salmon, lingcod, rockfish, sea lions, killer whales and many types of sea birds. They spawn in the high intertidal zone at or within metres of the log line. The primary threat to surf smelt is habitat loss from upper beach scouring caused by wave action against seawalls or shoreline armoring (such as rip rap – large boulders).

If you would like to learn more about foreshore restoration and City foreshore restoration projects, visit the City booth this coming Ocean’s Day, June 6, at the Maritime Heritage Centre.

This spring, the Parks Department will also restore the shoreline at the base of Rockland Road, south of Ellis Park, and across from Best Western

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