

Photo credit: Kerry Wagner

City to pursue a grant to help address daycare shortage

A grant from the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund could help alleviate Penticton's childcare shortage and provide a solution for a few of the City's aging buildings. At the Council meeting on November 5, staff introduced a plan to work with a partner and apply for funding to replace the Edmonton Avenue Centre building in Kiwanis Park with a new, expanded childcare facility.

"There are waitlists for most daycares in Penticton and this lack of childcare is often cited as a deterrent to families looking to relocate to the city," says Ben Johnson, Acting Director of Development Services. "If successful, this grant could provide up to \$3 million towards a new childcare facility with space for more children."

The City issued an Expression of Interest to identify partners following the Council meeting. "The City does not provide daycare services, but we can certainly support efforts to meet this important need," says Johnson. "By having a partner, we can leverage



their knowledge of the childcare needs in the community and their expertise to design and operate the service."

In addition to the Edmonton Avenue Centre building, Kiwanis Park is also home to the Little Triumphs Daycare building and a storage building used by the Safety Village.

All three buildings are City-owned and were rated in poor condition in the 2013 Facilities Master Plan. The City intends to work closely with all of the groups currently providing services in Kiwanis Park to develop a proposal that addresses their interests and the condition of the buildings.

Volunteers help honour passed loved ones

In conjunction with Adopt-a-Park, a volunteer special project program that invites individuals, organizations or service groups to register and perform light-duty maintenance tasks within City-owned parks and green spaces, the City of Penticton Parks Department is partnering with Schoenne Homes to restore and repair monuments and headstones at the Lakeview Cemetery.

"We were pleased to learn that Schoenne Homes had an interest in participating in the Adopt-a-Park program," said Parks Supervisor, Todd Whyte. "The City completed a cemetery Masterplan in 2013 and the volunteer work that Schoenne Homes is proposing aligns perfectly with the restoration and repairs outlined in that masterplan."

Through the partnership, Schoenne Homes will coordinate volunteers to Lakeview Cemetery to restore and clean older and untidy headstones. The goal is to help with beautification of the cemetery as well as show respect to those in the community who have passed away. Many headstones have moss and other dirt and grime that could benefit from a thorough restoration.



"We think this a great opportunity to help out in the community and show respect to citizens that the community has lost," says Chris Schoenne of Schoenne Homes Inc. "We are looking forward to taking on this project and would like to thank the City of Penticton for accommodating our proposal."

Sidewalks should be clear of snow and ice

The City is reminding residents who own or occupy properties in Penticton to clear snow and ice from sidewalks bordering their properties. The Good Neighbour Bylaw requires all sidewalks adjoining private properties to be cleared of snow and ice before 11am following a weather event.

“We all have a role to play in removing snow and ice. City sidewalks bordering public property are cleared by crews in accordance with the City’s snow clearing priorities while sidewalks bordering private property are the responsibility of the adjacent owner or occupant”, said Public Works Manager, Len Robson. “If the sidewalk bordering the property you own or occupy is covered in snow or ice, please see that it is cleared.”

For more information on Penticton’s snow and ice clearing program, visit www.penticton.ca.



Public Works Manager, Len Robson, shovels snow off the sidewalk near McLaren Park Arena.

Penticton Vees volunteer at skating lessons

Recreation Penticton is taking its Kids Community Hockey Club program to new heights this season with the addition of two Penticton Vees as volunteer coaches.

The Kids Community Hockey program, launched in the fall of 2018, was an instant hit in last year’s Fall/Winter programming line-up. With a focus on teamwork and fun,

this is a hockey program for children of all skill levels.

“When we launched this program last year, we couldn’t believe how popular it became,” says Recreation Coordinator – Adult, Fitness & Volunteer, Shaun Ironstone. “We’re really excited to have the Vees join us and give the kids a chance to learn from their heroes.”

Kids Community Hockey Club runs two days a week and has children learning basic hockey skills, weekly drills and cross ice games. Children must have basic skating skills to enter into this program. For more information about this program, how to register and other skating options, go to www.penticton.ca/recreation.



Council Highlights

Council highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council meetings. To view the official meeting minutes and other council related information, visit penticton.ca/council.

Lake-to-Lake Cycling Route Engagement Update

Engagement Strategist, JoAnne Kleb, provided Council with an update on the Lake-to-Lake Cycling Route Engagement activities that have taken place to date as well as the next steps.

Arena Update – McLaren Ice Plant

Director of Recreation and Facilities, Bregje Kozak, provided Council with an update regarding the current challenges associated with the McLaren Arena ice plant due to aging infrastructure and the upcoming capital request to replace the ice plant.

Asset and Amenity Management Project Charter

Council approved the Asset and Amenity Project Charter and the proposed budget of \$378,000 in 2020 and \$205,000 in 2021 to define a clear approach and actionable plan to manage and fund the City’s assets in a fiscally responsible manner.

Sharps Response Update

Council received the report titled “Sharps Response Update” which provided an update on the progress to date regarding options to regulate the distribution and collection of sharps in Penticton.