

CITY NEWS

Monthly Utility Newsletter | AUGUST 2021



Lake-to-Lake Bike Route now open for public use



Penticton is working on enhancing its cycling network to meet the needs of recreational riders and commuters. The need for a safe and convenient cycling route through the city and connecting the Okanagan and Skaha lakes was first identified in the 2012 Cycling Plan Update and reaffirmed in the draft of the 2019 Official Community Plan. It will be a route that can be enjoyed by cyclists of all ages and abilities.

With construction now complete in the downtown, sections three and four of the route, starting at Lakeshore Drive and Martin Street and ending at Fairview Road and Duncan Avenue, are ready to use.

Learn more about the route on pentiction.ca/lake-to-lake.

Protect Penticton and conserve water!

Drought conditions this summer have made conserving water more important than ever. To protect Penticton's water sources and to have the capacity to respond to emergencies, such as wildfires, residents must avoid unnecessary water consumption.

Outdoor watering is one of the leading causes of water use in the Okanagan and residents must follow their designated schedule. In persistent hot, dry conditions, it's not sustainable to keep your grass bright green. Fortunately, there are ways to be more effective on your watering day.

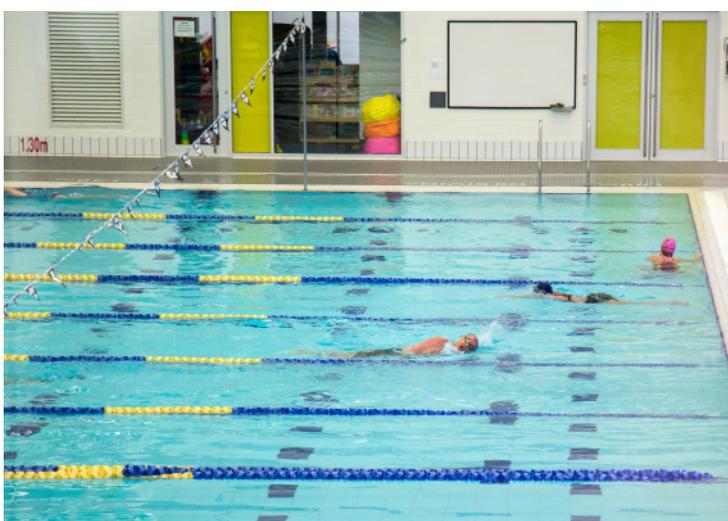
Watering less often but more deeply will promote better root growth, making plants healthier and more drought-resistant. Lawns only require one inch of water per week, and in drought conditions, it is normal for your grass to go dormant before it comes back with precipitation. Avoid mowing your lawn too often by keeping your grass over 2.5 inches long as it provides more root shade and improves water retention.

The Okanagan has one of the highest rates of water use per person in Canada and is very susceptible to more frequent drought conditions. This summer is the perfect time to practice water conservation and prepare for the possibility of multi-year drought.

For more information on water restrictions and conservation, please visit www.pentiction.ca/water.



Community Centre pool to close for annual maintenance



The Penticton Community Centre's aquatic facilities will be closing for its annual maintenance and cleaning August 14-29 and will re-open August 30.

The purpose of the annual closure is to complete preventative maintenance on all areas of aquatics including the pools, steam room, hot tub, change rooms and mechanical areas as well as inspecting for damage and executing major repairs or upgrades that can't take place during the rest of the year.

During the closure of the pool, the community can look forward to the Fall 2021 Recreation Guide on www.pentiction.ca/recreation to view upcoming programming through the Community Centre.

Newly elected Councillor, James Miller, sworn in



Council greeted its newest member during a swearing in event held Tuesday, July 5, 2021. Led through his oath by Judge Greg Koturbash, James Miller became the City's seventh Councillor, replacing long serving Councillor and former Mayor, Jake Kimberley, who stepped down in February. "All of Council looks forward to working with Councillor Miller in the months ahead," said Mayor John Vassilaki. "His familiarity with the issues, challenges and opportunities before us made him the winning candidate during our recent by-election. With Councillor Miller on board, we can once again serve the public with a full complement of elected decision makers. Welcome James!"

Breaking down stigma

Addiction to drugs and alcohol is more highly stigmatized than any other health condition.

Ending stigma is one way we can all make a difference in the ongoing opioid overdose crisis. Anyone can make a difference by changing the way they think and talk about substance use. Research shows that although people who use drugs alone understand the risks of a fatal overdose, the shame of coming forward and seeking help is felt so strongly that they hide their drug use. Some people also feel stigma about carrying a naloxone kit. The stigma continues if a person is receiving methadone or Suboxone with the sense that 'you are treating a drug with a drug'. In summary, some people feel stigmatized for using drugs, stigmatized for trying to reduce



Interior Health

the risk of overdose, and stigmatized for seeking treatment.

The shame and blame associated with substance use often prevents people and families from getting the help and support they need.

Learn more. Watch and share the #EndStigma videos



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 pentiction.ca/council.

Emotive Clean Transportation Targets and Planning Pilot Funding Program

Council directed staff to submit an application to the Emotive Clean Transportation Targets and Planning Pilot Funding Program for the amount of \$20,000 for the purpose of developing clean transportation targets, plans, and policies for incorporation into the new Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Cannabis Retail Sales Policy – Two-Year Review

Council endorsed the review process for the Cannabis Retail Sales Policy as outlined in the report dated June 15, 2021 titled "Cannabis Retail Sales Policy – Two Year Review" and allowed for the temporary extension of hours of operation of cannabis retail to 11pm while the Cannabis Retail Sales Policy review is underway.

Activate Pentiction – Downtown Ice Rink

Council supported the Activate Pentiction Society's proposal for an outdoor ice rink located at 107 Main Street and directed staff to develop an Agreement and Licence to Use between the City of Pentiction and Activate Pentiction Society for the use of the lands at 107 Main Street and the operations and maintenance of the rink. Council approved the sale of the City's upcoming replacement of ice resurfacer, unit 336, to the Activate Pentiction Society for \$18,000 and directed staff to submit an application for grant funding for landscaping, lighting, bike lockers, benches, and new parking design for the ice rink facility through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative. Should it be required, staff were also directed to bring back a budget amendment for the City contribution to infrastructure upgrades required to accommodate the rink.

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