

CITY NEWS

Monthly Utility Newsletter | SEPTEMBER 2019



Photo credit: Cindy Williams

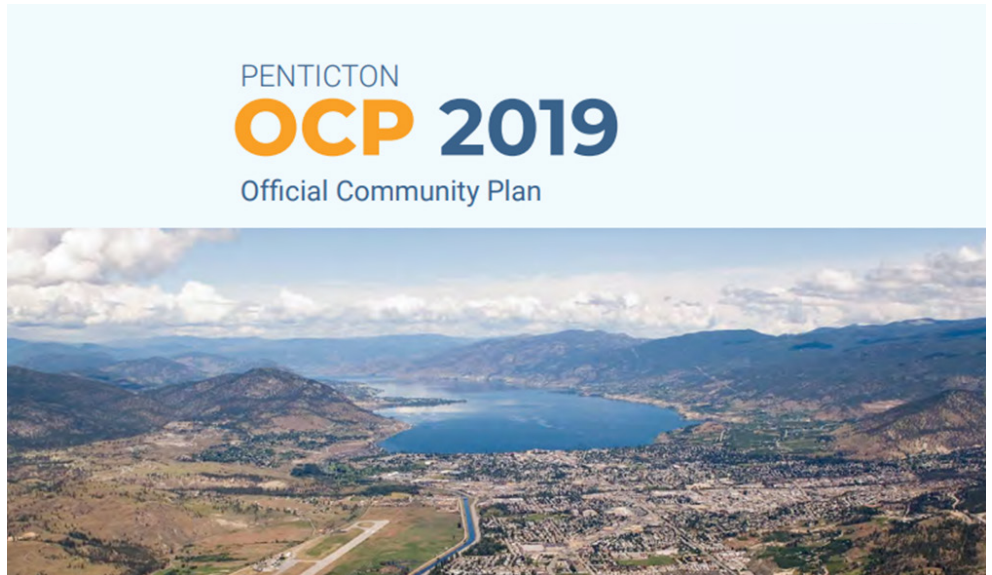
Penticton City Council adopts new Official Community Plan

A blueprint designed to guide the growth and development of Penticton for the next 25 years is now complete with City Council's adoption of the new Official Community Plan (OCP).

Developed over a two-year period using a process that involved hundreds of hours of community engagement, workshops, presentations and research, the new OCP sets in place a current and aligned vision of where, how and when Penticton should grow, develop and prosper in the years ahead. Notable aspects of the plan that will immediately take effect include:

- Development permits for infill housing (small lot, duplex and carriage houses)
- Environment Development Permits for most rural and hillside areas in the city
- New land use designations

"The creation of a new OCP was a huge undertaking that involved a considerable range of input and time from across the community," said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki.



"Council is very pleased with the process that got us to the point of having an approved document that not only reflects current best practices in achieving sustainable and smart growth for a community like ours, but also captures the desires and interests of everyone who calls Penticton home."

"A massive thank you to Ben Johnson and JoAnne Kleb, for leading the community engagement and planning process to develop the new OCP, with the Task Force," said Director of Development Services,

Anthony Haddad. "This was the most significant community engagement process we have ever been through, and with the valuable contribution from so many in our community, we can be proud of the OCP, which will help guide our community's land use and planning decisions into the future."

Residents wishing to review the OCP can do so by downloading a copy off the City's website under Departments > Planning & Land Use > Official Community Plan (OCP).

2019 Utility Rate Review Results

What we did

- Rates are reviewed every **3 years**
- Data was gathered in **2018**
- 5 citizens** joined a Task Force
- 7 communities** compared in the review
- 356** people shared their feedback

What we learned

\$202 average monthly utility bill (combined) for Penticton residents in 2019

2nd Highest electrical bill and lowest combined utilities and property tax of the 7 communities reviewed

"Stagger sewer increases equally."
"Consider affordability."
"Encourage energy efficiency."

What we are recommending (per year from 2020 to 2022)

- 0%** increase to electrical rates
- 0.6%** increase to treated water rates
- 9.4%** increase to sanitary sewer rates
- 4%** increase to agriculture water rates from 2020 to 2024

What it means to you

\$10

Total increase in monthly utility bill for the average residential customer from 2019 to 2022

Council will make a decision on the recommendations as part of the annual review of the Fees and Charges Bylaw this fall. Learn more at www.Penticton.ca.

Hiring & Workforce Housing Forum to take place



Connect in Penticton at the Hiring & Workforce Housing Forum on Wednesday, September 18.

Employers and business owners are invited to reserve their spot for this ground-breaking event addressing some of the most complex challenges facing our workplaces today.

Hear from leading experts, take part in interactive workshops, be inspired by the latest concepts, uncover opportunities and accomplish outcomes. Learn how to gain an edge in today's increasingly competitive hiring marketplace. Explore new workforce housing options.

This full-day event, organized by the City of Penticton's Economic Development department, will bring together regional employers with people who can make change happen. The jam-packed agenda spans two topic streams, offering relevant programming for participants from diverse sectors all under one roof, at Penticton Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre.

Tickets start at \$50 including lunch and a wine & cheese reception. Make your reservation at hiringandhousingforum.com.

Recreation Penticton releases Fall/Winter Rec Guide



Accounts need to be activated before registering online!

The new Fall/Winter 2019-2020 Recreation Guide is now available online and in hardcopy! If you have not received your copy, you can pick one up at City Hall, the Penticton Community Centre, the Penticton Public Library and other locations around the city. You can view the guide and register for programs at penticton.ca/recreation.

Two new programs to look for are:

Youth Drop In Basketball - Youth 13 to 18 years can join us at the Community Centre Wednesdays from 5:00 - 6:30pm to shoot some hoops in a non-competitive environment. Our youth drop in programs are focused on providing a fun, safe and encouraging atmosphere for youth to come to have fun and learn new skills.

Multi-Level Hatha Yoga - Check out our all new multi-level yoga class for individuals 16 years and older. This program is designed to help you stretch, strengthen and improve your physical health and mental well-being. By following careful cues for alignment and breath control, you'll be guided through a gradual series of postures that will leave you feeling longer and more relaxed.

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.

Community Sharps Committee Update

Ian Gerbrandt, One Sky Community Resources, and Daryl Meyers, Pathways Addictions, provided Council with an update on the Penticton sharps disposal strategy and introduced a community education video to educate the public on how to safely dispose of sharps and a map of the sharps box locations.

Heritage Designations

Council directed staff to maintain the 'status quo' approach to heritage properties and maintain the time line for the Heritage Strategy update (currently a medium term project in the 2019 OCP). Council also re-instated the Heritage Advisory Committee as a standalone advisory committee and directed staff to bring back the Terms of Reference for the Heritage Advisory Committee for Council approval.



Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant Application

Council approved the application for grant funding from UBCM to support the annual Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) Training Symposium curriculum development.

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