

## City seeks input ahead of bridge removal

The City of Penticton sought the public's input on future options prior to the July 2021 removal of the Nanaimo Avenue Bridge, located at Nanaimo Avenue East and Van Horne Street. The bridge, which is nearing the end of its lifespan, poses a flood risk during high water events along Penticton Creek and must be taken down.

"In 2017, the City commissioned a study to examine the health of Penticton Creek in terms of the condition of the existing channel, including its capacity to convey high freshet water flows and facilitate the passage of fish," said Penticton's City Engineer, Ian Chapman. "The plan identified the Nanaimo Avenue Bridge as having limited clearance, leading to challenges in terms of capacity and debris accumulation, both of which could cause flooding and threaten properties."

A 2020 traffic impact study reviewed the surrounding area for access points, collected data on traffic volumes, pedestrian use, and evaluated the impact on emergency response times and potential risks to the community if the bridge were removed. The engineer concluded there would not be a significant



adverse impact if the bridge was taken down because alternative routes exist in and out of the area for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

Once the bridge is removed, there are currently no plans to replace it. The City of Penticton was interested in receiving comments about the bridge's removal and suggestions for the future, including options to restore and naturalize the area.

Residents were encouraged to visit [shapeyourcitypentiction.ca](http://shapeyourcitypentiction.ca) to comment in a feedback form and review additional information.

Individuals with properties located

near the bridge, and who may frequently use the bridge, received a letter containing further details along with directions on how to supply feedback. All feedback collected in January will be used to determine if any further action is required.

"The City recognises that this decision will present inconveniences to some residents and hopes the engagement process will provide a forum for concerns to be heard, while also providing greater awareness around the flood risk associated with the current bridge," said Chapman.

## Pacific Coastal Airlines New Service to Penticton



Pacific Coastal Airlines' new non-stop service between Vancouver International Airport South Terminal (YVR) and Penticton Regional Airport (YYF) came into effective Monday, January 11, 2021.

The 50-minute flight will be a major support for essential service workers seeking a quick, convenient, and affordable travel option between the lower mainland

and the interior communities.

The service will operate 6 days a week between Vancouver and Penticton. Flights will be offered Sunday to Friday on the 19 passenger pressurized turboprop Beech 1900D aircraft. The 1900D offers comfortable seating, 6-foot cabin height, generous cargo capacity, and is designed to operate in all weather conditions.

"Regular flights at our airport are critical to ensuring it stays top-of-mind as an active and viable travelling option to and from our City," said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. "The arrival of Pacific Coastal Airlines passenger services will not only help fill the void recently created by the departure of Air Canada, I'm also confident this popular carrier will quickly build a loyal following of travellers who will embrace flights to Vancouver and the convenience they offer."

# Skaha Lake Park East Plan workshops now concluded

The City hosted a number of online workshops to review the concepts first presented in the fall for Skaha Lake Park East Plan in early January.

The online workshops involved a combination of Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members, representatives of recreation and community groups as well as members of the general public.

Anyone who was not able to participate in the workshops had the opportunity to watch the presentation on [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca) beginning January 4.

Information gathered through this phase was shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to develop a draft plan. The draft plan will be reviewed with the community before it is shared with Council for a decision anticipated this spring.



## Recreation Penticton offering men's health program

The City of Penticton's Recreation Department is collaborating with the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) and UBC Med to offer SIRvivor BC. This program is tailored to men living with prostate cancer and is delivered by exercise trainers certified through the BCRPA. SIRvivor BC is also being evaluated under a research study by UBC Med, which seeks to gather feedback

from the program participants on their experience in the program. "Partnering with the BCRPA to offer a variety of subsidized programs is something we are always excited about," says Recreation Coordinator of Programs, Amanda Dean. "The Community Centre has been very successful with running BCRPA programs, and we are very excited to be one of four municipalities in

the province that is offering SIRvivor BC." More information regarding eligibility and other FAQs can be found by visiting UBC's website <https://cepl.rehab.med.ubc.ca/research-2/sirvivor-bc/?login>.

SIRvivor BC is delivered twice a week for 10 weeks starting Feb. 2 at the Penticton Community Centre. Those interested in learning more about the program and wishing to register, can visit [www.penticton.ca/recreation](http://www.penticton.ca/recreation).

This program is made possible through funding provided by the Government of British Columbia and support from the BC Recreation and Parks Association.



# SIRvivor BC

Prostate Cancer  
Community Exercise Program

## 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](http://penticton.ca/council).

### Mountain Biking Skills Park

Patrick Dowler, Skills Subcommittee, Penticton and Area Cycling Association provided Council with an overview of a mountain biking skills park.

During the 'Business Arising' portion of the agenda Council referred the request from the Penticton and Area Cycling Association for assistance in securing a location for a mountain biking skills park at the north end of Campbell mountain to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

### Lake-to-Lake All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Route – Project Update

Council received into the record a project update on the Lake-to-Lake All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Route and endorsed the plan to involve the affected residents and businesses in the detailed design of the Lake-to-

Lake AAA Bicycle Route beginning with Martin St. and Fairview Road. Staff will bring back to Council the results of the detailed design and landowner consultation before moving ahead with construction.

### Council adopts revised 2021-2025 Financial Plan with emphasis on relief

Council has approved an overall tax increase of 1.75 per cent, an amount that is 0.50 per cent less from the originally recommended amount of 2.25 per cent. In addition, Council approved an electrical rate reduction of three per cent for all rate payers. Homeowners will now see an average annual increase in municipal taxes and utility fees totaling \$111 (down \$53) for a typical residential property valued at \$463,797 and an average annual increase in municipal taxes and utility fees totaling \$1,183 (down \$280) for a typical business property valued at \$1,162,286.