

2020 VISION

PORT COQUITLAM

Community input to design City's future

What should Port Coquitlam be like in 10 years? What kind of services should it provide? What kind of place should it be to live, work and do business in?

These are the questions local residents, businesses and stakeholders will tackle during the next six months, as the City of Port Coquitlam develops a new Corporate Strategic Plan to guide the community into the future.

The Strategic Plan is a long-term planning document that guides every expenditure and decision the City makes – from tax rates to recreation fees, from the location of new parks and roads to the number of trucks at the fire hall.

Successful cities develop a vision of what they wish to look like, they set community priorities to do this and they adhere to a strategic plan as they move forward to achieve their vision.

In Port Coquitlam, this process has been named *2020 Vision: Let's Get Clear on Port Coquitlam's Future* to reflect the need for the community to work together to identify priorities and achieve clarity about the shared vision for Port Coquitlam in 2020.

Much has changed and much has been achieved since Port Coquitlam adopted its first Strategic Plan in 2002. For example, the plan does not reflect today's economic realities, environmental values, focus on sustainable service provision, or transportation improvements such as the Coast Meridian Overpass.

A new Strategic Plan will ensure the vision that guides the City's decisions is relevant and meets the needs of the community today and in the future.

The type of issues the new Strategic Plan will address will include: meeting rising service demand

while maintaining affordable rates; creating financial sustainability; managing growth; providing leadership and management; addressing environmental sustainability; and building community involvement.

Projected timeline:

- Sept. - Nov. 2010: review and consultation
- Nov. - Dec. 2010: development of draft plan
- Jan. - Feb. 2011: public input on the draft plan (open house, meetings, online)
- Mar. - Apr. 2011: incorporate input into draft plan and finalize for implementation

Public consultation

Public consultation is the cornerstone of the Strategic Plan development process, and during the next six months, the City will be reaching out to the community and City staff.

The goal is two-fold – to make it as easy and convenient as possible for stakeholders to provide input and feedback, and to ensure the new plan will accurately reflect that input and feedback.

Opportunities for input will include:

- A statistically valid telephone survey – October
- An online survey – beginning in October
- Focus groups – beginning in November
- Stakeholder meetings – throughout the process
- Open house – January
- Comments and feedback – via email (2020vision@portcoquitlam.ca), phone (604.927.5213), Facebook (www.facebook.com/portcoquitlam) and online comment form on the Strategic Plan website (www.portcoquitlam.ca/2020vision)
- Staff consultation – including meetings and a survey

Those interested in staying up-to-date about the Strategic Plan process and input opportunities are encouraged to watch the local newspapers, check the 2020 Vision website, sign up for e-Update email newsletters (www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-update) and “like” the City's Facebook page.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Community engagement is a big focus for us here at the City of Port Coquitlam – it's a common theme when we're talking about our projects and initiatives. Well, you're going to hear a lot more about it this fall and winter, as we start to develop our new Corporate Strategic Plan.

Why you should care about the Strategic Plan? Simply put, it's the one document that drives every decision we make and every cent we spend at the City.

It doesn't sit on the shelf gathering dust. It helps us make decisions about your tax rates. Where new roads and parks are built. What, when and how we provide services and programs to you.

Over the coming months, you'll hear about a number of opportunities for you to comment and provide feedback on the new Strategic Plan. We're making it easy for you to participate, either in the more traditional ways (e.g. meetings and telephone surveys) or by making use of technology (e.g. online surveys and comment forms.)

As a resident, you can also use technology to stay informed about the Strategic Plan process and other City initiatives. “Like” our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PortCoquitlam) or follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/CityofPoco). Sign up to receive E-Update email newsletters at www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-update. You can also follow my blog at www.portcoquitlam.ca/mayor for posts on a variety of City-related issues.

In addition to these methods, the City will also be using traditional avenues like newspaper ads and features (see article to the left) and Council meeting announcements to spread the word about the Strategic Plan process.

If you take advantage of only one of the many opportunities for public input the City provides, make it about the Strategic Plan. Of course, we're hoping that once you experience the empowerment of knowing your input is heard and acted on, you'll be back for more!

Mayor Greg Moore



Hyde Creek Recreation Centre renovation to be completed this fall

The renovation at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre is in the final stretch, with completion anticipated in November.

The upgrades include a new roof, water infiltration repairs, new landscaping, exterior painting and signage, improvements to the customer service area, and energy-efficient upgrades to lighting and other systems.

The roofing work is now complete, and the new building envelope is anticipated to be completed in October. Other pending works including a front entry sign, exterior lighting and landscaping. During the maintenance shutdown in late August, acoustic panels were installed in the pool area and the lap pool ceiling was repainted.

The project's budget is \$3 million, including a \$900,000



Artist rendering of new Hyde Creek Recreation Centre exterior.

grant from Western Economic Diversification Canada's Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program.

Programs and services at Hyde Creek continue while

the work is underway. For information about the facility's amenities and schedules, visit the Hyde Creek webpage at www.portcoquitlam.ca/recreation or call 604.927.7946.

City services for you and Fido

Port Coquitlam has an estimated 10,000 dogs, and the City recognizes that dogs are important members of many local families.

Through the Animal Control section, the City provides a variety of services and functions related to dog ownership. Many of these are funded through fees from the annual dog licences required for all dogs over six months of age.

Dog licences

The City has been canvassing local neighbourhoods this fall to raise awareness of the requirement for dog licences, and to increase revenue for Animal Control services. Prior to the canvass, only about 28% of local dogs were licenced.

Dog licence fees help fund a variety of services:

Animal shelter and adoption services

Each year, dozens of stray dogs, cats and even birds are picked up from local streets and provided safe shelter. Licenced dogs are the most quickly to be reunited with their owners – often the same day.

Adoptable unclaimed pets receive medical care, vaccinations, an identifying tattoo or microchip, and are spayed or neutered before being placed for adoption by the City's animal control contractor Countryside Kennels (see below for more details about adoptions).

Safety and well being of the community

Animal Control staff enforce the Animal Control Bylaw to ensure dogs are good neighbours, are not a threat to people or other dogs, and don't damage or leave their waste on public property.

There is high public demand for enforcement of the "poop and scoop" bylaw, as it is widely agreed that it is unacceptable for owners to leave dog waste in parks and playgrounds or to throw bags of dog waste into the bush.

Animal Control also investigates complaints about barking dogs, aggressive dogs, dogs at large, dog bites and other dog-related issues. Dogs at large and excessive barking make up the highest percentage of Animal Control calls.

Other services include picking up pets and wildlife killed on roads.

Visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/dogs for a wide variety of information related to dog ownership in Port Coquitlam.

Other City services for dogs:

The City provides free biodegradable dog waste bags in most parks.

As well, in January 2010, the City opened the Shaughnessy Park Dog Off-leash Area, the only public space in Port Coquitlam where dogs can be off-leash.

More than an acre in size, the dog park is located in the 3300-block of Shaughnessy Street, opposite Chester Place, and is open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Amenities include a forested trail circuit, enclosed area for small dogs, benches and picnic tables, parking and signage.

Visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/dogpark for more information.

Bertha (right), Hemi (below) and other pets are looking for homes.



Looking for a new friend?

Countryside Kennels, the City of Port Coquitlam's animal control contractor, is also an adoption agency for homeless dogs, cats and other pets. All pets are healthy, vaccinated, have an identifying tattoo or microchip, and are spayed or neutered.

Visit www.petfinder.com/shelters/BC178.html to see what pets need a home, or contact pets@portcoquitlam.ca or 604.945.0125 to make a viewing appointment.

Healthier food options coming to City facilities

Healthier food and drinks will soon be easier to find at Port Coquitlam's civic facilities, thanks to the City's new healthy food and beverage policy.

Adopted Sept. 13, the new policy will increase the healthy food and drink options in City-owned vending machines, concessions and cafes at City facilities and civic functions.

Over the next six to eight months, visitors at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre and the Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex will start to see a growing range of food and drinks with fewer calories, salt, fat and sugar, or in smaller portion sizes. The policy also addresses staff vending machines in civic buildings.

The intent of the policy is to make more healthy options available to people using City facilities, without the complete elimination of less healthy choices. The policy is also an important part of the City's goal to be a healthy community, with healthy and active residents.

While B.C.'s school districts have adopted healthy food and beverage policies, Port Coquitlam is among only a handful of B.C. municipalities to have done so.

Development of the policy was funded through a \$7,500 grant from the Union of B.C. Municipalities. It is based on provincial guidelines such as the Brand Name Food List and Nutritional Guidelines for Public Buildings, which separate foods into four categories – Choose Most, Choose Sometimes, Choose Least and Not Recommended – based on portion size, calories and fat, sugar and salt content.

The policy guidelines will ensure that 75% of items in City vending machines will be healthy choices



Choose animal crackers instead of chips for a healthier vending machine choice.

(Choose Most or Choose Sometimes categories), and no more than 10% of items will be from the Not Recommended category. At City concessions, 50% of foods will be healthy choices. In addition, healthier options will be more prominently displayed at City concession stands, and healthy eating education will be promoted at recreation facilities.

Vending machines will still carry some less healthy options (e.g. pop, high-caffeine drinks, full-size chocolate bars and potato chips), but there will be a wider variety of healthy choices (e.g. water, juice, animal crackers, pretzels, baked potato chips, nuts, trail mix and dried fruits), as well as smaller portion sizes for the less healthy options. Healthy choice labels are also in the works.

The policy is supported by Fraser Health, which is developing a similar policy for its facilities.

Visit www.pocomotion.ca for information about healthy eating and a link to the Brand Name Food List.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT. 3-9

Join in Canada-wide fire drill Oct. 6

Local households are being invited to participate in the Great Canadian Fire Drill on Oct. 6 as part of Fire Prevention Week Oct. 3-9.

In the evening of Oct. 6, families across the country will practice their escape routes as well as check their smoke alarms and change the batteries. For a fire drill checklist, fire escape plan grid and a link to sign up for the national drill and enter to win prizes, visit the Fire Prevention Week page at www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire.

Smoke alarms are the focus of this year's Fire Prevention Week. Statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire by half, and that roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths are in homes either without smoke alarms or without working smoke alarms.

Yet many homes in Port Coquitlam do not have working smoke alarms, even though the *BC Fire Code* now requires every home or hotel room to have a working smoke alarm. Interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection, because when one sounds, they all do.

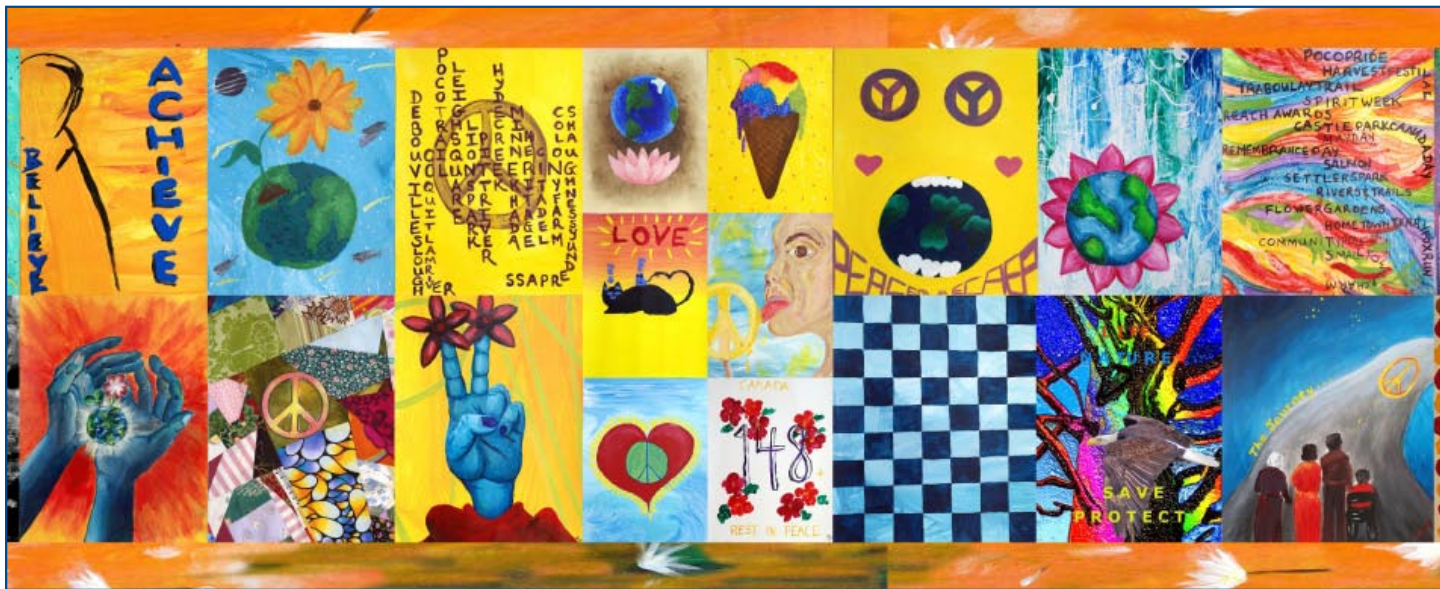
As part of Fire Prevention Week this year, Port Coquitlam Fire & Emergency Services is once again providing educational materials to local schools and providing students with an opportunity to win a laptop and a chance to be Captain of the Day or Fire Chief for a Day, by completing the *Fire Safety Starts with You* activity pamphlet.

Smoke alarm safety tips:

- Smoke alarms are required on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Smoke alarms should be placed outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom.
- Smoke alarms must be replaced if older than 10 years.
- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly by pushing the test button, and should never be removed or disabled.
- Replace the battery immediately if the alarm chirps, and at the spring and fall Daylight Saving Time changes.

Visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire for more fire prevention and safety information.





Public art projects include Shaughnessy Street underpass murals (above) and utility box wrapping/painting (below).

Art projects beautify, reduce graffiti

Two public art projects are bringing beauty to unlikely places in Port Coquitlam – a concrete underpass and utility boxes.

For more than a year, drivers and pedestrians have been enjoying the eight murals mounted on the west wall of the Shaughnessy Street underpass as part of the City of Port Coquitlam’s contribution to the Necklace Project, a Metro Vancouver program that celebrates the uniqueness of each community through public art.

More than 20 community participants worked with artist in residence Bert Monterona last summer and fall to complete the eight murals, which provoke thoughts on peace, environment, gender equality, diversity, active living and heroism.

The project spawned additional murals this summer for the pedestrian (east) side of the underpass, created by youth at Riverside

Secondary and the public. The project was led by Monterona, Port Coquitlam Community Police Office and Coquitlam RCMP, in collaboration with the City of Port Coquitlam.

Utility boxes in downtown Port Coquitlam will also get a facelift this fall through a new utility box wrapping and painting program, a collaborative effort by the Port Coquitlam Business Improvement Association, Friends of Leigh Square Society, Walk of Fame Committee and Port Coquitlam Parks and Recreation.

Photographs and paintings on utility boxes will not only add colour and reference the location, history or identity of the community, but also help to reduce graffiti.

The first set of painted boxes will be completed by October, and a second phase is being planned for 2011.



CLICK AND COMMENT ON BUDGET

Do you know how the City of Port Coquitlam could increase efficiencies, generate new revenue or make effective changes to its service delivery? Now you can click www.portcoquitlam.ca/budget to provide your ideas to the City through a new online Budget Suggestion Box.

Initiated by the City’s Finance Division as part of the 2011 budget process, the online form is the City’s latest use of technology to provide the public with new opportunities to comment on and participate in civic functions.

Initiatives such as the Budget Suggestion Box are intended to make it more convenient for residents to participate in decisions that affect them because they can provide input on their own schedule and from the comfort of their homes.

The Budget Suggestion Box will be a permanent website feature that will collect input year-round for each upcoming budget process.

Work on the 2011 Budget and 2011-2015 Financial Plan has already begun.

Other than the Budget Suggestion Box, opportunities for input will include an online survey and public meetings held in the new year. Details and dates will be posted at www.portcoquitlam.ca/budget.

For more information about the City’s budget or financial planning process, please contact budget@portcoquitlam.ca or 604.927.5443.

City close to Metro waste targets

Pilot study tests out further expansion of kitchen scraps collection

Resident participation in the City of Port Coquitlam’s recycling and kitchen scraps collection programs is helping to divert 63% of local household waste away from the landfill.

That figure represents a 13% hike from the same period in 2009, and is just 7% less than Metro Vancouver’s waste-diversion target of 70% by 2015.

After introducing the Kitchen Scraps Collection Program a year ago to 11,000 single-family homes who receive City waste collection services, participants have sent 1,266 tonnes fewer tonnes to the landfill (28% less than in 2009) and avoided more than \$47,000 in garbage disposal costs so far this year.

Now, the City is testing the feasibility of offering kitchen scraps collection to the more than 7,000 apartments, condos and townhomes that currently pay for private waste pickup.

For two months this fall, residents at two pilot apartment properties will be able to place all their food scraps and food-soiled papers (including meat, bones, dairy, paper plates, pizza boxes, fruits and vegetables) plus plant and yard trimmings into City green carts. The materials are then composted and turned into soil amendments such as topsoil.

Existing participants who have been successful in reducing their waste can now opt for 120 L garbage cart, half the size of the standard cart. For information, contact the City’s Operations Division by at operations@portcoquitlam.ca or at 604.927.5488 or 604.927.5496.

For more information about the Kitchen Scraps Collection Program and other waste-reduction information, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/greencart.



Items suitable for the green cart.

Cards help students get active in Grade 5, stay active in Grade 6

In a partnership to promote youth involvement in physical activity, the cities of Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, and Port Moody are offering Get Active! Cards for all Grade 5 students and Stay Active! Cards for Grade 6 students.

The Get Active! Card gives Grade 5 students unlimited free admission to drop-in swimming, skating and gymnasium-based activities at civic recreation centres in the Tri-Cities. The program is available to all Grade 5 students from Sept. 13, 2010 to Aug. 31, 2011.

It is hoped that offering free admission to drop-in activities will encourage young people to try out different recreational activities, and start them on the path to having an active and healthy lifestyle.

A Grade 6 Stay Active! Card is also being issued in the 2010/2011 school year as a transition to encourage continued participation in physical activity.

The Grade 6 card allows for 12 free visits to recreation centres, enabling Grade 6 students to continue to develop healthy lifestyles. The card is valid Sept. 13, 2010 to Aug. 31, 2011.

To receive and activate a membership card, students must bring the following documentation to: Hyde Creek Recreation Centre (1379 Laurier Ave.), Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex (2150 Wilson Ave.) or The Outlet (#2100-2253 Leigh Sq.):

- A letter of verification from School District #43 identifying them as a Grade 5 or 6 student.
- Birth certificate or Care Card showing the student is of the applicable age to be in either Grade 5 or Grade 6 as of Dec. 31, 2010.
- Proof of residency – students must live in Port Coquitlam.

For more information, contact Nathan Taylor, Program Coordinator – Active Communities, at 604.927.7983 or taylor.n@portcoquitlam.ca.

Dike re-routing complete for intertidal habitat project

Closures of the Traboulay PoCo Trail along the Pitt River have concluded, with the completion of the dike re-routing for the Pitt River Intertidal Habitat Project.

A section of the dike and trail along the Pitt River north of Lougheed Highway has been relocated inland to accommodate the project, which is transforming 23 acres of brushland and former farmland into habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.

Enclosed within the new dike, the new habitat area will resemble the foreshore, with channels, ponds, marsh, islands, woody debris, native shrubs, grasses, trees, roosting posts for birds and basking rocks for snakes.

Work on the project began in June, and the trail has experienced intermittent closures throughout the summer to accommodate the earthworks. The old dike has now been removed, and the “plugs” blocking water from entering the intertidal area are expected to be removed by the end of September.

Other project works scheduled before the winter break include the installation of woody debris (near completion), hydro-seeding of

the embankments (October) and construction of the viewing platform (October).

The final phase, including landscape planting, will take place in the spring. The anticipated completion date is in June.

The City has worked with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Ministry of Environment and other government agencies to ensure the project will provide productive habitat and benefit the overall ecological diversity of the area. The improvements are part of the environmental compensation requirements associated with road construction, and to provide for the enclosure of a number of watercourses on properties in the Dominion Triangle area near the intertidal habitat site.

About 60% of the \$9.3 million project costs is being funded by private property owners. The City will fund the remaining \$3.9 million from Developer Cost Charges (fees paid by developers to the City), a delay in construction of capital works, and available grants.

For more information about the project, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/pittriverhabitat.

Broadway Street project progresses

More than 500 metres of box culvert have been installed so far along Broadway Street as the \$11.4 million reconstruction project continues.

The project will provide two lanes in each direction, marked bike lanes and sidewalks along Broadway Street, an important connector between the Coast Meridian Overpass and Mary Hill Bypass.

Working their way north from Mary Hill Bypass, Pedre Contractors Ltd. has constructed about 50% of the box culvert to date. The watermain has been completed and the new water and sanitary sewer connections are under way.

Completion of the project is scheduled for March 2011. Two-thirds (\$7.6 million) of the project is being funded through the federal/provincial Building Canada Fund - Communities Component - Top Up. The remaining third will be funded through TransLink's Major Road Network Minor Capital Program and the City of Port Coquitlam.

Drivers are advised to expect delays through the construction zone, and to take alternate routes when possible. For more information, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/broadway or contact Dave Currie at 604.927.5205.



Sections of box culvert are lifted off the truck on Broadway Street near the City Operations Centre.



Bears will return repeatedly to places where food is easy to find (such as from a garbage cart or back yard) – and teach their cubs to do the same.

Protect your household as bears fatten up for the winter

Bear sightings in Port Coquitlam are spiking as berry season ends and bears turn to garbage and fruit trees for an easy meal as they fatten up for hibernation.

From April 1 to Sept. 18 there were 333 bear sightings in Port Coquitlam – more than 72 of those since Sept. 1. Bear sightings have been rising since July, and the City has responded with public education as well as enforcement of the bear regulations in the Solid Waste Bylaw.

In mid-September, a number of \$150 fines were issued to north Port Coquitlam households that – a year after the regulations were introduced – continue to set out their carts at the curb the night before collection day. The fines relate to a three-day canvass in late August of bear-prone neighbourhoods within the bylaw enforcement area (primarily the north side).

The bylaw's two key requirements in the enforcement area are:

- **LOCK IT UP** – secure your garbage and kitchen scraps in either a wildlife-resistant enclosure (e.g. garage or shed) or by using a City-approved wildlife-resistant lock.
- **SET IT OUT** – cart set-out times are between 5:30-7:30 am on collection day.

When carts are set out at the curb the night before collection day, residential streets essentially become smorgasbords for hungry bears, which return repeatedly to places where food is easy to find. Fruit trees are also popular bear targets.

Homes and businesses in bear-prone areas are urged to avoid making their neighbourhoods a target for bears by following the regulations, which focus on securing wildlife attractants such as:

- household garbage
- food scraps and food-soiled papers
- ripened unpicked fruit and fallen fruit
- beehives, bird feeders and pet food
- beverage containers
- barbecue grills and outdoor refrigerators/freezers
- open compost piles
- grease barrels, petroleum products and chemical products

Details about the Solid Waste Bylaw enforcement area and regulations, plus bear smart tips, can be found at www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears.

Bear sightings should be reported to the Provincial Conservation Officer Service 24-hour toll-free hotline at 1-877-952-RAPP.



www.portcoquitlam.ca

The City's website is a comprehensive guide to City services, news, programs and activities, as well as time-saving online programs, including:

- PoCoMAP interactive mapping tool
- Community Calendar – City events, meetings and public input sessions
- Council meeting agendas and minutes
- Online Payments – renew dog and business licences
- Electronic Home Owner Grants – claim your annual grant online
- Service Requests, Complaints and Compliments – online form and department contact details

www.experienceit.ca

Browsing or registering for recreation programs is simple and convenient at our online registration site.

www.pocomotion.com

Provides resources and information to help you get healthy and active.

www.pocoyouth.com

Offers a range of information just for youth.

e-Updates

Sign up at www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-update for email newsletters with info about community events, input opportunities, programs and services.

How to stay connected!

Facebook and Twitter

Stay up-to-date by following our posts on Facebook (www.facebook.com/PortCoquitlam) and on Twitter (www.twitter.com/CityofPoCo). Our Facebook page also has info about events, services, programs, initiatives and web links.

