

MARINA REVITALIZATION GETS APPROVAL



BUILDING LINKS

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The Town of Comox's application to **Island Coastal Economic Trust** for \$400,000 to fund the Marina Park Revitalization Plan has received approval. The re-development of Marina Park will improve the park and waterfront area, as well as improve connections between the park and Comox Avenue leading to increased downtown accessibility. The project will also include a Central Plaza with

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benches, open spaces and a fountain and will feature panoramic views of the waterfront. The new buildings and other amenities will help to facilitate outdoor markets, festivals and other events. This project, called The Meeting Place Village is to be completed in the fall of 2016. Phase 1 is estimated to cost \$1.6 million. Funding would be split 25 percent by the Town of Comox (\$400,000), an application to Island Coastal Economic Trust (for \$400,000) and 50

percent by an application to Western Economic Diversification.

Timberwest is working with the City of Campbell River to finalize their subdivision agreement for a new project called Jubilee Heights. A rezoning application received adoption from the City of Campbell River to allow for a mixed-use residential and commercial development on the 150-acre property. Now that the rezoning is in place, Timberwest has submitted an application for a subdivision block plan, which will include eight lots ranging in size from 10 to 20 acres. A preliminary design for Phase I is expected to be submitted once the approval has been given for the subdivision application. The proposed project includes single family and multi-family lots in the area of Dogwood and South Alder Streets. Approximately 30 lots will be included in the first phase. Future plans include: A commercial village concept comprised mostly of residential units including a small village centre, school site

and trails. The commercial component of the village could have up to 50,000 square feet of retail and office space and the zoning also allows for a hotel to be built. Timberwest is expected to develop residential lots in Phase I though an extension of South Alder Street. An integrated trail system will be built throughout the project and will link with the City of Campbell River's extensive trail network.

The Alberni-Clayquot Regional District (ACRD) has received a completed business plan and detailed design of capital improvements as part of its plan to improve and integrate its two airport facilities in the Alberni Valley and on the West Coast. Initially the strategy included lighting improvements and navigational aids for both airports. However, for budgeting purposes, the decision has been made to extend and expand the runway at the **Alberni Valley Regional Airport** (AVRA) resulting in two airports with identical dimensions. The AVRA will be expanded and

extended to 5,000 by 100 feet from 4,000 by 75 feet, at an estimated cost of \$5.9 million. This will improve services to the region by providing a second option for larger planes to land during fog and other inclement weather. The AVRA currently cannot accommodate some larger planes. In addition, the **Coulson Group of Companies** is considering expanding its operations in the region to support the refit of Hercules helicopters for fire fighting, and the runway improvements will support this. ACRD staff has directed the board to amend the definition of service in order to apply for provincial and federal funding from Build Canada. It is expected the cost of the project will be split equally between federal, provincial and ACRD funds.

Clarice Coty is the editor and publisher of Building Links, a North Island Construction Report. Go to www.buildinglinks.ca to receive four FREE issues.