
NEWS RELEASE

Residents Can Shape the Future of Abbotsford

ABBOTSFORD June 30, 2014 - The Abbotsforward project is officially set to launch at tomorrow's Canada Day celebrations, announced Mayor Bruce Banman today.

Abbotsforward is the City of Abbotsford's Official Community Plan (OCP) update project, and will provide opportunities over the next 18 months for residents to have direct input on how Abbotsford will grow and develop as a community in coming years.

"The new OCP will guide how future development occurs in different areas of our City as our population continues to expand – which makes the Abbotsforward project extremely relevant and important for everyone in this community," said Banman. "The OCP includes guidelines on where parks and trails will be located, where different densities of housing will be located, how transit and active transportation opportunities will expand, and how commercial, industrial and agricultural development will be supported – all of which has an impact on how we live, work and play in our community."

Abbotsford's new Official Community Plan will be integrated with other community strategies, including transportation plans, sustainability plans, and waste management plans, which supports a coordinated approach to development in the City. This Plan will be the most important policy Council will approve to guide our city's future.

"To me, the importance of the Abbotsforward project can be illustrated by simply asking two questions," said Banman. "Can you imagine what living in Abbotsford will be like in the future?" and, 'What if I told you, you can be a part of shaping that future?' – which is exactly what the Abbotsforward project is all about."

The Abbotsforward team's community engagement activities will kick off on July 1st during the Canada Day celebrations at Rotary Stadium during the afternoon. Residents are encouraged to stop by with their family members and learn how they can become involved with the Abbotsforward project at this beginning stage. There will be opportunities at the Abbotsforward booth for kids to draw how they see the future of the City, as well as information on how residents can participate in the Picturing Your City photo activity, showing us what they like, dislike and wish for.

Full information on the Abbotsforward project can be found at: www.abbotsforward.ca.

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BACKGROUND ATTACHED

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