

Information Release

Millennium Natural Swimming Ponds a Popular Spot this Summer

August 23, 2019 — The City of Castlegar’s Millennium Park Natural Swimming Ponds have been a popular spot for locals and tourists this summer as the result of clear skies and warm weather.

One of the City’s strategic priorities is to create special places and recreation for everyone. As part of creating special places, the City is committed to building on its recreation assets, both built and natural, to provide recreational and cultural services.

In the past, the natural ponds, which draw ground-filled water from alongside the Columbia River, have been a popular spot for geese so the City installed deterrents to discourage use of the ponds by waterfowl. These efforts have been successful with a significant reduction in geese numbers this year. Recently, we have seen an increased amount of algae in some of the ponds. Algae is a natural water plant which is not harmful to people.

“Staff and Council are so happy to see so many people using the ponds this year,” says Chief Administrative Officer, Chris Barlow. “We have heard concerns about the algae in the water and we want to assure swimmers the water is safe and we are looking at options to control algae.”

The City regularly tests the water quality of the Millennium Ponds and submits the results to Interior Health Authority (IHA) officials for review. IHA follows the recreational water quality criteria recommended by the Canadian Recreational Water Guidelines.

There is still plenty of time to enjoy the Ponds which will remain open until mid-September.

The City of Castlegar is a service centre in the West Kootenay. The diversified and growing economy is focused on the forestry, energy and mining sectors in the Valley, and commercial services in the City. Quality of life features backcountry adventure and an increasingly dynamic urban culture, including the Millennium Ponds and Sculpture Walk.

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