

**REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION
MEETING OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025**

SUBJECT **Salt Spring Island Centennial Park Washroom Extended Hours Pilot Program**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To update the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Local Community Commission (LCC) on the Centennial Park washroom extended hours pilot program.

BACKGROUND

Centennial Park, located in the heart of Ganges Village, is home to community events such as the Saturday Market and seasonal celebrations. The park is generally open from dawn to dusk, with extended hours for approved events.

In 2018, the washroom facility was rebuilt with men's, women's, and universal washrooms. Despite being locked nightly, the facility has faced persistent vandalism, leading to seasonal early closures of the larger washrooms, with only the universal washroom remaining open in the evenings. While vandalism continues, limiting use to the universal washroom has reduced impacts to visitors and staff.

On January 16, 2025, the LCC directed staff to trial extended hours for the universal washroom until midnight and install additional lighting to enhance safety and deter unwanted activity.

Since March 2025, the Centennial Washroom has operated with extended hours. Staff have monitored the facility and tracked incidents related to vandalism, garbage, and park gatherings. While vandalism and garbage remain ongoing concerns, reported incidents have only shown a slight increase compared to previous years, making it unclear whether the extended hours are a contributing factor. To support monitoring, a security company was contracted to patrol the site in the evening and close the washroom at midnight. Although no major incidents have been reported, security staff note the washroom is often left in poor condition and occasionally find small groups of people using the universal single-toilet washroom at the same time, late at night.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

One-time funding to support expanded hours and additional security lighting for the Centennial Park Washroom was included in the 2025 SSI Community Park operating budget. Ongoing funding in the amount of \$2,400 has been included in the provisional 2026 SSI Parks and Recreation operating budget for the expanded service level to continue.

2025 Budget	
Open the single occupant accessible washroom until 12am	• Security - \$200/month x 12 months = \$2,400 • Additional security lighting = \$2,600

CONCLUSION

The trial of extended hours for the Centennial Park Washroom began in March 2025 with the Universal Washroom remaining open until midnight each night. While vandalism and garbage remain ongoing issues, incident levels have not shown a significant increase compared to previous years. Security patrols and nightly closures have helped limit major problems, though conditions inside the washroom often remain poor. Staff will continue to monitor operations and report back on any further impacts or required adjustments.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

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