

Last Sunday's market, June 9th was CRAZY busy! We had 82 Vendors in attendance which is a new record for the library parking lot. We counted approx. 1200 shoppers through the door and the line up to get in was past the library and down the road behind the Rec Center before the 8:00 horn sounded. Absolutely Amazing!

The line up for vendors was VERY long last weekend and some folks had to wait for nearly 2 hours to get checked into the market. We really appreciate everyone's patience while we get everyone parked and most vendors are very understanding. Saying that – a 2 hour wait for Vendors is way too long so we need to make a few changes to speed things up for everyone and we're asking you to work together to keep things moving and open on time.

6am Load-In:

We're going to be arriving on-site earlier so we can move up the load-in start time. We have been starting the load-in around 6:30 so far this season – this week we will be aiming for 6am!

New Drop Zone Line up:

If you don't need to keep your vehicle in the shopping area and want to skip the regular check-in line up we are introducing a new option for you – Drop Zone Line. This line will be checked in first so folks can drop off their items quickly and move their vehicles out of the way of other vendors reaching their spaces. The Drop Zone line up will be in front of the main Rec Center entrance as in the illustration below:



Back 40 and Prime Time – Additional Vendor Spaces:

Just like last year, we’re opening up the Back 40 this weekend so we can fit even more Vendors into the Swap and Shop. Back-40 is the area on the grass at the end of the parking lot. The fence will be extended to enclose this area, and there is some shade back there too. This area works just like the regular Drop Zone spaces in front of the library. Let us know which area you prefer – both options are available to anyone in the Drop Zone Priority line up on a first come, first served basis.

We also have Prime Time spaces available at the front which were used for the first time last weekend. This is our Car-Boot style overflow area which we will make available to vendors as an option if we run out of space in the regular market area:



Skip All the Lines!!

If you want to skip all the vendor line ups – Vendors are encouraged to carry/cart your items in. All you need to do is walk over to see either Brendan or Sean, confirm payment, and we will assign you a Drop Zone spot right away. We have a few carts and trolleys available to anyone who wants to use them near our entrance/concession, please help yourself!

Laneways – Keep them Clear!

We found that a lot of setup time is lost because vehicles have to sit and wait for traffic to clear in the laneways. This is partly due to vendors placing items and tents too close to the lane where vehicles travel during set up. Please keep your items and tents as far back as possible so the lane ways are clear and vehicles can easily proceed past you and your items during set-up. In order to help illustrate the laneways we will be adding marker tape on the parking lot surface this week. Once we have all vehicle traffic parked we will sound a short horn blast at approx. 7:40 – this is your signal that vehicle traffic has stopped and you can spread out, moving your items and tents into the laneway if you like. Please keep EVERYTHING out of the laneway prior to the horn blast and encourage others you see setting up to do the same. This will greatly improve our ability to keep the check-in lines moving so everyone has enough time to set up. Note – this may mean that your tent cannot be set up or moved into final position until after the blast at 7:40.

Market Move July 7th!

Yes – the moment we’ve all been waiting for... We will be moving the Swap and Shop over to the larger Arena parking lot starting July 7th. Here is a site plan for the Arena parking lot to review – feel free to sign up for spaces on our website at any time!



Market Closed Canada Day – June 30th

Just a reminder we're going to be closed for Canada Day June 30th – The whole Swap Shop team will be in Port Alberni at our annual softball tournament and camping trip. See you all the following weekend!

Colwood Fire Department

Some folks have enquired why the fire department attended the Swap and Shop last weekend. Unfortunately there was a small fire related incident involving one of our fellow vendors' vehicles. We're pleased to report that everyone is OK and Colwood Fire attended as a precaution. We're very thankful to all that helped us out and a big shout out to the fire fighters who came to make sure we're all safe and replaced our fire extinguisher for free 😊

Summer Weather

Remember its getting warmer now so please bring sunscreen, water, a tent, a hat, etc. with you to the Swap and Shop. We have lots of tents available for rent but sometimes we run out so regular vendors are encouraged to bring their own if possible. We have water, sunscreen, first aid kit etc. at the front if anyone needs it.

Westshore Live Public Auction – July 20th

You may have seen the Live Auction flyers we've been handing out for the past few weeks at the front. The Westshore Live Auction has booked a professional Auctioneer to host the event and auction planning is in full swing. We've attracted some really great items so far including boats, cars, motorcycles, jewelry, electronics, appliances, art, tools and so much more. We have the Eagle Ridge Arena booked for the auction and we're keen to include as many items as we can. We're putting together a "featured items" listing now so if you have something special that you would like included, bring it down to the Swap and Shop for Auction Registration and staged photos. We will have an Auction Registration tent set up next to the Swap Shop entrance for the next few weeks to register sellers, stage items, and display featured items lists/pictures. We'll be doing some print and online advertising too! We're really hoping that the Live Auction is one of the premier events in the Westshore this summer with the potential to become a recurring event in the future!

Coffee Coffee Coffee

Did you see the fancy new Aerobic Geisha Coffee cart at the Swap and Shop last week – complete with a top notch espresso machine? Well, the owners Andrew and Scarlett had such a great time that we've decided to team up with them and combine with the Swap Shop's Coffee service! Regular coffee is still available at the same \$2 price with some more great options available for the summer! Iced coffee, cold brew, and an Iced Oat Mocha are just a few of the new coffee offerings to try! Be sure to check them out – right next to the entrance tent!