



DUNCAN APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DUNCAN – It is with great pleasure that the City of Duncan announces the appointment of James van Hemert to the position of Director of Development Services. James will be responsible for overseeing the planning, building, licensing, and development functions of the City of Duncan. The employment of James is somewhat unique in that the City will be sharing his expertise, on a part time basis, with its good neighbour, the Town of Lake Cowichan

“The City has been in search of the ‘right’ candidate for this position for quite some time,” said Tom Ireland, CAO, “and the experience, education, professional interests, and other qualifications of James, fit our search criteria very well”.

James, a native of BC, comes to Duncan via Denver Colorado where he was Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, Sturm College of Law, at the University of Denver. The mission of that institute “is to serve the public interest as an interdisciplinary, non-partisan forum for land use and environmental issues in the Rocky Mountain West.” At the Institute, James played a key role in the early development of the ‘Sustainable Community Development Code’. James was also an adjunct professor at the Sturm College of Law, and the College of Architecture and Planning teaching courses on Urban Planning Law, Growth and Sustainability, and Planning the Healthy Community.

James has been a practicing planner, at a managerial level, for ten years in Southaven Mississippi and in Douglas County Colorado.

James holds two Masters Degrees, one for Arts in Social Science, the other in Arts in Regional Planning and Resource Development. He graduated from the Fraser Valley Christian High School in Surrey BC.

Returning to his home province has been a dream of James’s for 30 years, and he and his family chose Duncan and the Cowichan Valley as “THE PLACE” to move after discovering it about 2 years ago. “We are happy to play a role in his fulfilling that dream” said Mayor Phil Kent.

James started work with the City on January 11, 2010. City Council and staff warmly welcome James and congratulate him on his appointments!

For additional information contact - Tom Ireland, CAO, (250) 746-6126, tireland@duncan.ca