

Manager's Update – May 2, 2024

Ore Cruise Ship Dock: The new cruise ship dock repairs are complete, and the dock was put under tow to Skagway on Monday evening (April 29, 2024). It is currently scheduled to arrive in Skagway the evening of May 2 or the morning of May 3. PPM is prepared to install the dock and we have been working with CLAA, the Southeast Pilots, and cruise lines to accommodate cruise ships at the Broadway Dock while construction on the Ore Dock continues through May 13.

Credit Union Representative Visit: Deputy Manager Deach met with representatives of Credit Union 1 on Thursday, April 25. They discussed the products and services that the credit union can offer, the economy of Skagway, as well as what a potential location in Skagway would look like. The potential location would likely be a small branch in the lobby of another facility, such as one might find at a grocery store. At the least, there could be an Interactive Teller Machine (ITM) at a location with a video screen that lets customers interact with tellers in a video chat. The representatives indicated they would stay in touch, and they asked that the Municipality let them know of any potential locations.

Cottonwood Inspections: Please see below regarding the cottonwood tree inspection conducted at the ice rink and Garden City RV Park by Philip England, Certified Utility Arborist with Bright Side Tree Service LLC:

Upon inspection I noticed many unhealthy, damaged, and diseased trees within the stand along the RV park. Many trees are causing damage to the fences and garden bed wall as their root systems are beginning to swell above the ground and push the wall/fences upward. There are multiple large dead limbs within the stand, a few are broken and suspended within the canopy and many trees with apparent damage and decay to the bases of their stems. There are trees with bark inclusions of very large, heavy, hard leaning stems.

Bark inclusions can result in cracked trunks and broken trees. There are three examples of inclusions below. The photo with no inclusion is shown for comparison. Branches with no inclusions are better attached to the trunk than branches with inclusions.



No inclusion →



Multiple trees sprouted so close together that they're now rubbing through each other's cambium layers when the wind blows. And I know it blows a lot here. Both stands show many signs of becoming a problem for the city in the future. Cottonwood trees are heavy due to their high turgidity and they catch a lot of wind due to their large sprawling canopies that are oftentimes a mixture of excurrent and recurrent growth. Cottonwood trees' high turgidity often leads to water cracks and cavities that expand and contract with freeze/thaw cycles and can lead to failure as a result. While cottonwood trees may be very prevalent in the Skagway area, and they may offer some beauty to the urban landscape, they can be very dangerous when unmanaged and many towns in the United States have passed ordinances eradicating them from the urban landscape. Cottonwood trees are also one of the most dangerous trees to remove due to the weakness of the wood from such rapid growth. The larger the trees get, the more dangerous they are to remove and the more dangerous they are to the general public.

Which leads to my next point. When considering whether a tree is a candidate for being removed, I always weigh the probability of failure along with the consequences of failure to make a recommendation. It's my recommendation that these trees be removed. The utility lines, road, school, rv park, ice rink, vehicles, and people who may be in the area are all fairly drastic consequences, and the probability of failure is also fairly drastic due to the many reasons I've listed above. I've personally witnessed a lot of destruction caused by trees over the last 12 years, and I would hate to see something bad happen as a result of these trees coming down in a storm, especially given their proximity to the school. If you have any more questions, or would like to pass this email along to anyone who would like to read it, please feel free.

Library Director's Report: The library is excited to have been fostering a strong relationship with the Skagway School. Last week, we hosted an early morning "Breakfast with Books" program for the 1st and 2nd graders while the rest of the school did state testing. The program was a great success and I am grateful to the Recreation Center and Skagway School for supporting with staff and time.

May sees the start of our summer programming. Beginning May 1st, our Summer Reading Challenge for adults will be available: a summer Book Bingo, with bingo cards available for pick-up in the library. For kids, our summer programming will begin once school lets out, with our first Summer Reading Program activity scheduled for Thursday, May 23rd at 10:30 am. This year's theme is "Read, Renew, Repeat," with an emphasis on sustainability, conservation, and green initiatives. Activities will run every Thursday morning through the summer for kids aged 6-12, and a reading log will be available for pick-up at the library, with prizes available for anyone under 18 who wishes to participate. We're looking forward to an exciting summer as we welcome visitors, returning seasonal residents, and locals alike!

Tourism Director's Report: Please see the attached Tourism Director's report for April.



Explore Skagway Tourism Director Report – April 2024

A. Tourism Best Management Practices 2024

a. You can join too!

i. <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/becomeapartner>

B. Southeast Alaska Workshops for Tongass National Forest Plan Revision

a. I attended the Forest Service Community engagement meeting on April 15 at Skagway Library. There are numerous engagement opportunities. If you'd like to get involved, you can learn more here.

i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd1164050>

C. TIA Yukon Conference in Whitehorse April 25th-26th

a. I attended the two-day conference to network with Yukon Tourism Industry leaders and businesses. I was able to meet with TIA Executive Director, Dylan Soo. The content was very valuable and details can be found here!

i. <https://tiayukon.com/compass2024/>

D. Statement from Minister Streicker on tourism in the Yukon

a. The Digital kiosk throughout the Yukon and the one in Skagway have logged over 25,000 interactions since May 2023.

i. <https://yukon.ca/en/news/statement-minister-streicker-tourism-yukon>

E. Yukon Parks Campsites Reservations for Commercial Operators

a. https://mcusercontent.com/f096546ed6b565c8ba3c7abc3/files/8e5b2d6d-64cc-d516-d976-261cd3eb0967/Yukon_Parks_Campsite_Reservations_for_Commercial_Operators.pdf

F. Skagway Spring Festival

a. April 18th through April 21st was an exciting week with Folk Festival, Art Show, Garden City Market and more. Thanks to everyone who sponsored an event for SVD to market Skagway during the shoulder season and familiarize new seasonal staff with all that Skagway has to offer.

G. Clean Sweep

a. 120 Skagway School kids and staff cleaned up streets on Friday, April 19th and 119 community members signed up at AB Hall on April 20th. Great work Skagway!

H. Skagway.com

a. Add or Update your Business Listing on Skagway.com

i. <https://www.skagway.com/partnership/>

b. Skagway Events 2024

- i. Add your special event to our calendar and we will promote it for you!
 - 1. <https://www.skagway.com/events/>
- I. Alaska Travel Industry Association**
 - a. Tourism Works for Alaska in many great ways. Review economic statistics here.
 - i. <https://www.alaskatia.org/resources/tourism-works-for-alaska>
- J. Skagway-Yukon Tourism Reconnects 2024**
 - a. Explore Skagway is partnering with Yukon Tourism & Culture for a networking event in Carcross on May 2nd.
 - b. Bus Transportation has been donated by HAP leaving from City Hall at 1:00pm Alaska Time
 - c. Or you can drive your own vehicle.
 - d. Find more information here:
 - i. <https://www.skagway.com/event/skagway-yukon-tourism-reconnects/3190/>
 - e. You MUST RSVP to attend.
 - i. https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/skagway-yukon-tourism-reconnects-2024-tickets-839379305097?keep_tld=1
- K. Duff's Skagway Marathon is slated for June 8th.**
 - a. Contact Jaime at j.bricker@skagway.org if you would like to volunteer on race day or sponsor an aid station.
 - b. <https://www.skagwaymarathon.org/>
- L. Skagway Independence Day Parade Theme is "Hear us Roar in 2024: Celebrating Skagway's Independent Spirit."**
 - a. If you would like to sponsor an event or volunteer to help with the parade, please send the information via e-mail to j.bricker@skagway.org.
 - b. <https://www.skagway.com/event/skagway-independence-day-celebration/1790/>
 - c. Mr. and Mrs. Yukon; Ron & Marrilee Chambers will be special guests in the parade.
 - i. <https://www.yukonrendezvous.com/2024-festival/2024-mr-mrs-yukon>
 - d. Your 2024 Grand Marshals are:
 - i. Helen B Clark Award Recipient, Scott Logan
 - ii. Don Hather Award Recipient, Joann Trozzo
- M. Cultural Host Training**
 - a. Next Class is scheduled for May 11th from 10am to 2pm. Snacks and a light lunch will be included.
 - i. <https://www.skagwaytraditional.org/stc-store/cultural-host-classes>
- N. Skagway Development Corporation's Welcome to Shgagwéi**
 - a. SVD was delighted to work with SDC to bring workforce development to Skagway including an introduction to Tourism Best Management Practices, Cultural Host Training and Accessible Traveler Training.

- i. <https://www.skagwaydevelopment.org/skagwayspringtraining>

O. KINY Community Connections

- a. I am interviewed weekly on the radio to promote Skagway.com/events!
Another great reason to add your event to our calendar.

P. Ads for 2024 are in the following publications.

- a. Skagway Visitor Guide
- b. ATIA
 - i. Travel Alaska Vacation Planner
- c. Yukon News
- d. What's Up Yukon
- e. Skagway News
- f. Bell's Travel Guides
- g. Chilkat Valley News
- h. Edible Alaska
- i. Cultural Host Booklets
- j. The Milepost

Q. Medias, Ads & Internet finds for Skagway & Alaska Industries

- a. First cruise ship of the season arrives to welcomes, planned protest
 - i. <https://www.juneauempire.com/news/first-cruise-ship-of-the-season-arrives-to-welcomes-planned-protest/>
- b. Activists hoping to put Saturday ban on large cruise ships on local ballot
 - i. <https://www.juneauempire.com/news/activists-hoping-to-put-saturday-ban-on-large-cruise-ships-on-local-ballot/>
- c. Resilient Peoples and Place: Revising the Tongass Forest Plan: A conversation with U.S. Forest Service Deputy Supervisor Barbara Miranda
 - i. <https://www.juneauempire.com/news/resilient-peoples-and-place-revising-the-tongass-forest-plan/>
- d. Yukon tourism operators see demand but also cost pressures
 - i. <https://www.yukon-news.com/news/yukon-tourism-operators-see-demand-but-also-cost-pressures-7347752>

R. National Park Service

- a. Wendy attended NPS consultation on April 9th regarding the Chilkoot Trail on behalf of SVD.