

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Oceanside Emergency Support Services

Oh, what a busy month December was! In early December, the team responded late at night to assist a family evacuated from their home following a fire. On December 24, OESS were placed on alert by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) that their assistance may be required to staff group lodging for evacuees at another community on the Island due to potential flooding. Despite the holiday season, volunteers stepped up ready to respond should the call come. Thankfully for all involved, the waters receded, and group lodging was not required.

On the evening of December 27, OESS again received a call from EMCR asking for assistance for 43 evacuees from a flooded community just outside of the region. Within an hour OESS had mobilized seven volunteers and sourced hotel rooms for all evacuees. Amazingly all evacuees were registered, checked in to rooms, and provided meal vouchers by 10 pm. With compassion and professionalism, OESS assisted 77 people evacuated from their homes in 2022. *Thank you OESS!*



For information - Emergency Management Climate Readiness (EMCR) was previously known as Emergency Management BC. The name changed in early December.

Oceanside Emergency Communications Team

As always, the Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT) were busy training in December. The members met twice to practice. First, message handling protocols were tested to simulate passing written messages via radio between emergency sites around the region in the event of no other communication method working. This seemingly simple practice is crucial to master as all messages must be transmitted and received exactly as written by the sender – who is not in the room with the radio operators!



The second training session focused on the use of Packet/PACTOR, the sending of digital information via radio. Sending messages this way is much faster than the voice messaging system described above, but again, must be practiced to used efficiently.

No existing certification is required to join our team! If interested in joining the OESS or OECT team, contact Chris James at oesd@parksville.ca or 250 937-0448.

City of Parksville Warming Centre

December saw some extremely cold temperatures in the Oceanside region. When extreme cold weather temperatures occur, EMCR provides incremental funding to municipalities to operate warming centres to protect the lives of vulnerable people. EMO secured provincial funding for twelve hours of overnight warming centre services in the City of Parksville for December 20-23. The service provider, Risebridge, at short notice, found staff and resources to establish the warming centre and successfully opened to provide a crucial overnight warm space in Parksville.



Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program Groups

Neighbourhood emergency preparedness program groups (NEPP) are a great way for community members to take an active role in increasing neighbourhood resilience to emergencies and disasters. NEPP provides residents the tools to expand from personal preparedness to a network of neighbours able to help themselves and each other.



Supported by the EMO emergency program coordinator, neighbourhoods create teams to help each other prepare for emergencies, minimize hazards in the home and think about how they can work together after an emergency or disaster occurs.

Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca or 250 954-4672 to talk about getting NEPP started where you live.

Emergency Notifications with Voyent Alert!

In the event of an emergency, one of the ways Emergency Management Oceanside may notify you is by using alerts sent through Voyent Alert! This system allows community members to register online to receive messages relevant to their community through email, app, text message, or voice call.

Registration for Voyent Alert! is free. Go to register.voyent-alert.com to sign up today. Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca or 250 954-4672 with questions about the system or registration process.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open to the public with full services. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm (except statutory holidays). Although the office is open, residents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the other payment options including payment through your financial institution; mail a cheque; or drop off a cheque at Town Hall drop box (location below). If you do wish to visit Town Hall to conduct business, masks are recommended while in the building.

- Email qbtown@qualicumbeach.com
- Phone 250 752-6921
- Post PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7
- Mail Slot Out front of Town Hall, near the fountain
- Websites qualicumbeach.com
qbfirerescue.com

In accordance with public health orders from the Province of BC, the public is welcome to attend to in-person Council meetings. Council and select staff will attend in person, capacity limits will be monitored, and if required, alternative viewing location(s) will be provided.

City of Parksville

City offices are open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm and the operations department from 8 am to 4 pm, closed noon to 1 pm. Contact information:

General inquiries and finance department	250 248-6144; info@parksville.ca
Administration and Office of the Mayor	250 954-3060; admin@parksville.ca
Operations	250 248-5412; ops@parksville.ca

When visiting the City of Parksville, please consider the following:

- If sick or feeling unwell, please stay home.
- Refer to the City [website](#) and [Let's Talk Parksville](#) for more information.

For more information:

Kate Pocock, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Parksville
kpocock@parksville.ca

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications, City of Parksville
dtardiff@parksville.ca

