

Tax and Utility Payments Made Easier and More Convenient

The City of Parksville offers a **Preauthorized Withdrawal Service** or **PAWS**, a plan which allows taxpayers to contribute a fixed monthly payment towards their taxes and/or utilities bills based on an estimate of future amounts. Taxpayers can use PAWS if taxes are not being paid through a bank or mortgage company and there is no outstanding balance.

The program is designed to help homeowners with easier budgeting for both property taxes and utility bills.

Why use PAWS? What are the key benefits?

- Estimated property tax and utility bills can be spread over eleven months for more manageable payments, essentially a savings account for upcoming property tax and utility bills.
- One authorization is all that is required; after which monthly payments will be withdrawn automatically. Payments are processed on the 15th of each month with the exception that no payments are processed in June.
- PAWS accounts receive interest calculated from the date of payment until the tax notice/utility bill is produced, based on the daily prepaid balance at an interest rate 2.50 percentage points less than the prime lending rate at the City's bank. There are no additional administrative fees to participate.
- Interest earned and applied to taxes is not considered personal income and is not subject to income tax.
- Automatic monthly withdrawals directly from bank accounts provide convenience.

How to apply for PAWS (it's simple!)

- Homeowners will need to complete and sign the [PAWS application form](#) and forward it to the City along with a sample VOID cheque. We will then advise the instalment amounts for your tax and/or utility accounts.
- The annual tax notices and semi-annual utility notices will state the current amount less the total prepayments to date including interest earned. It is the homeowners' responsibility to pay any outstanding balance on your tax account and, if eligible, apply for the Provincial Home Owner Grant.
- Due dates, interest charges and tax penalties, as stated on the tax notice, will still apply.

For more information, contact the finance department at 250 248-6144 or cashier@parksville.ca. Program details available on the City's [website](#).

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For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications
communications@parksville.ca; 250 954-3073

*The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations,
home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.*