

City of Parksville Delivers Balanced Budget with Lowest Tax Increase in Eight Years

Parksville, BC - The City of Parksville has delivered a balanced budget for the 2009 financial year and established a new tax rate, the lowest in the past eight years. The 2009-2013 Financial Plan provides for minimal property tax increases for the average residential taxpayer in 2009. This increase reflects Council's priority to deliver a budget that represents good value for residents and businesses while keeping the tax rate increase as low as possible during challenging economic times.

At the meeting on May 11, 2009, Council approved a rate increase of 2% percent over the next financial year. Mayor Ed Mayne explained, "On average, this will mean an increase of about \$22 for most residents. We did our best to keep the tax increase to a minimum and believe we have responded to the concerns of residents by keeping taxes low."

The general capital plan for the City of Parksville in this budget is \$6,379,000 and will allow the City to continue with major works programs such as:

- Moilliet 19A - Bernard (utility upgrade and road reconstruction)
- McMillan/Hirst to 19A (traffic signals, utility and road upgrades)
- Waterfront walkway - McMillan to the Community Park
- Corfield 19A to Stanford (upgrade and road reconstruction)
- Jensen Avenue extension (Ring Road) Corfield to McVickers (utility and road construction)

Said Mayor Ed Mayne, "With this budget, City Council has approved the lowest tax increase since 2001, while investing in priority services and infrastructure. I wish to thank our City senior management team for their hard work throughout the 2009 budget process."

"Despite the current economic challenges facing the City of Parksville and all municipalities, our position remains strong and we are able to provide quality public services and also ensure good value for our residents' tax dollars," said Fred Manson, Chief Administrative Officer.

More information about the 2009 budget and tax rates is available on the City's website at www.parksville.ca.

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For more information:

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