

it's your City!



Waterfront Walkway — A New Place to Stroll

The final phase of the City's new waterfront walkway is nearing completion. In the meantime, a good portion of the walkway is now open to the public and it's a spectacular place for a stroll, any time of the day. An official opening ceremony for the walkway will be held in April.



City parks department staff, (from left to right), Aimee Hersley, Kevin Campbell, Warren Payne and Kim Basara (right to left) have been busy planting native beach grasses along the length of the walkway.

Welcome to *It's Your City!*

Welcome to the first edition of *It's Your City*, news and views from the City of Parksville. This is one of the ways we are working to improve our communications with residents and hope this page will become a "go to place" for you to become informed about City services, meeting dates, public notices and general need to know about your City. You will find *It's Your City* in the PQB News on the first Tuesday of each month and on the City's website.

In May, we will also introduce a quarterly e-newsletter. With an online subscription, we will deliver City news directly to your inbox. If you don't have email, we will have copies of the newsletter available for you at City Hall.

We are committed to improving "two way communications" with residents and you can help by providing feedback. If you have comments or suggestions to share, call 250 954-3073 or email communications@parksville.ca. We also welcome your suggestions for articles or requests for information.

Around the City

The Glassies

The City congratulates all who were nominated for the 2009 Parksville & District Community Awards. As sponsor of Citizen of the Year, we are pleased to recognize the fantastic contribution to the community by Kevin Clayton. Our sincere congratulations to all the winners.

Brant geese have arrived

A reminder that during March and April, dogs are not allowed on the beaches. While the Brant geese are visiting, the City's canine goose control program is on hold. When working, the dogs wear scarves for identifications purposes and the dog owners are identified with an ID badge.

March Proclamations

- Community Social Services Awareness
- Easter Seals Month
- Kidney Health Month
- Lymphedema Awareness Day (March 6)

Street Light Vandalism

It has been brought to our attention that there has been theft of wire from street light systems in our area. Thieves pose as contractors wearing high-visibility vests. They set up as a work crew during the day, remove the inspection cover, snip the wires so the lights are inoperable and return after dark to pull out the wires by attaching them to a vehicle. The wire is then sold for scrap causing substantial cost to the City. Residents should be aware that the City is not currently doing any street light work, so if you notice any suspicious activity or see a string of street lights not working, please report this to Public Works (250 248-5412) or to RCMP non emergency (250 248-6111).

Outside burning

Just a reminder that there is no burning of garden refuse within City limits. Please take your spring clean up garden refuse to the Church Road Transfer Station. Any questions, call the Parksville Fire Department at 250 248-3242.

AquaStar Art Contest

Council passed a resolution on March 1 to sponsor an art contest intended to bring awareness to World Water Day on March 22 and the AquaStar Water Awareness program. The contest will be formally launched at the next Council meeting on March 15. The contest is open to artists of all ages who are residents of Parksville, students attending school in Parksville and Parksville business owners.



City Services

Accessibility upgrade rebate program

For a limited time, the City will offer a rebate to enable accessibility related upgrades to existing or under construction residential buildings for persons with disability. The rebate covers 50% of the pre-tax cost of eligible accessibility upgrades to a maximum rebate of \$1,000. To be eligible, upgrades must have a minimum pre-tax cost of \$500 and one rebate only per eligible residence. Eligibility information and application forms may be obtained from City Hall or on the website under public notices.

Spring Wood Chipping

Details about the City's wood chipping program which runs from April 6 to April 23 will be published in the newspaper on March 9 and March 19 and is on the website under public notices.

Low Flush Toilet Rebate

There's still time to take advantage of the low flush toilet rebate offer of a maximum of one rebate per residence for replacing toilets using 13 litres or more with a new CSA-approved low flush toilet. The rebate is \$60 for a low flush model (6 litres) or \$100 for a dual flush model (3 litres and 6 litres). Offer is open to

owners of existing residential buildings, located within the municipal boundaries of the City, connected to both the City's water and sewer systems. Rebates are issued on a first come/first serve basis. Application forms are available at City Hall or on the website under public notices.

Utility notices

Utility notices covering water, sewer, garbage and recycling will be mailed on March 31. If you do not receive your notice in the mail, call 250 954-4653 and we will reprint for you.

Residential Water Rates for Large Families

The City is offering a modified water usage rate for families of five or more. Qualifying families must occupy the property as their principal place of residence and must be immediate family consisting of parents (common law partners) and dependent children under 18 years of age. Dependent children under 25 years, in full-time attendance at school, may also be considered if living at home. Applications will be accepted until March 12 and are available at City Hall or on the website. For information call 250 954-4653.

City Dates

March 11	Advisory Design Panel
March 15	Public Hearing, Council and Committee of the Whole
March 18	Advisory Planning Commission
March 18	Coffee with the Mayor (Marc Lefebvre)
March 25	Cancelled - Coffee with the Mayor
April 1	Coffee with the Mayor (Chris Burger)
April 7	Council and Committee of the Whole
April 8	Advisory Design Panel Meeting
April 19	Council and Committee of the Whole

*please check the website for meeting times and changes.

Coffee with the Mayor

Residents are welcome to drop by City Hall between 2 and 4 pm on Thursday afternoons. It's a chance to chat about your concerns or to offer suggestions. Coffee is always on.

How to access meeting agendas and minutes

Council and Committee of the Whole meeting agendas are posted to the City's website on the Thursday before the meeting. This provides you with an opportunity to review the agenda prior to the Monday evening Council meeting. Minutes are posted to the website within a few days after adoption. Meeting agendas and minutes can be accessed from a quicklink on the home page on the City's website.

How to Reach Council

MAYOR

Ed Mayne250 954-4661

COUNCILLORS

Chris R Burger250 240-8255
 Al Greir250 248-1285
 Marc Lefebvre250 248-2292
 Teresa C Patterson250 954-9488
 Susan E Powell250 951-1082
 Carrie Powell-Davidson250 954-3758

citycouncil@parksville.ca

City Hall, 100 Jensen Avenue East
 P O Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3

We welcome your comments on this issue of *It's Your City*:
 250 954-3073 | communications@parksville.ca

April 13 - next issue of *It's Your City*