City News

Change in Water Rates for Parksville Residents



On utility notices to be mailed at the end of the month, residents will see a change in water rates for the next billing cycle. The new rates include a fixed charge of \$86; \$70 for a water infrastructure charge (based on the annual depreciation of capital assets currently in place) and \$16 for an infrastructure fixed charge for the purpose of building reserves for the construction of the water treatment plant mandated by Vancouver Island Health Authority.

An amount for water consumption is also included in the utility bill. The new rates reduce the tiered charges for residential and increase the commercial sector rate. Overall the revenues from the residential sector are projected to increase 12.25% while revenues from the commercial sector are projected to increase 25.1%. Increases are necessary to ensure the

water utility has sufficient revenues and reserves to maintain the water infrastructure and deliver potable water.

In 2012, the commercial sector used 32.4% of the billable water and the residential sector used 67.6%. This new fee structure attempts to equalize costs for residential and commercial customers based on total water consumption. Residential customers will be charged a new tiered rate based on consumption to promote water conservation and commercial users pay a base rate of \$86 plus \$1.68 for every cubic meter of water consumed. For more information, please see the City's website [Residents/Utility Billing].

City Services

Become a Volunteer Firefighter

The Parksville Fire Department relies on volunteer firefighters and is now recruiting for 2013. You need to live in the Parksville fire protection area, be reasonably fit, with a good driving record, available for weekly fire practices and between the ages



of 19 and 60 for regular members and 16 and 19 for the junior member program.

More details as well as applications are available from the fire hall at 160 Jensen Avenue West and from the website at www.pvfd.ca

Reminders to Residents

PVFD Survey

The Parksville Fire Department invites residents to complete an online survey as part of the process to update their strategic plan. The department's mission is to provide the most effective and efficient fire protection and fire rescue services to the residents of the Parksville Fire Protection Area. The survey will take about ten minutes and your comments are welcomed. The survey will be online until March 17 on the City's website and at www.pvfd.ca.

Water Main Flushing

The City's annual water main flushing program runs until March 29, from 7 am to 3.30 pm, weekdays. Residents should expect some discolouration of water and intermittent drops in water pressure. During flushing, residents are encouraged to keep a fresh supply of drinking water and to check for discolouration of water before doing laundry. If water is discoloured, run an outside tap (after 3.30 pm) until the water runs clear

2013 Wood Chipping Program

Details about this year's wood chipping program which runs from April 2 to

April 25, between 8 am and 2.30 pm weekdays, is on the website [Newsroom/Public Notices]. The dates that crews will be in neighbourhoods will be advertised in the PQB News. Please direct questions to Engineering and Operations at 250 248-5412.

Around the City

Beaches Closed to Dogs in March and April

Parksville beach is a popular spot for Brant geese that have flown non-stop from Mexico. Most have only a few days to regain strength before making another non-stop flight to Alaska and then to nesting grounds beyond. Because Brant feed at the tide-line, they are especially vulnerable to disturbance and for this reason, our beaches are closed to dogs in March and April. This allows the Brant the critical time they need to rest and feed

The Brant Wildlife Festival features many activities and events during March and April. www.brantfestival.bc.ca.

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Earth Hour 2013 - March 23

Earth Hour will be recognized on March 23 between 8.30 and 9.30 pm when millions around the world switch off lights; one simple action to show concern for the environment. During Earth Hour 2012, 7,001 cities and towns across 152 countries and territories created awareness for climate change. Information and sign up is available at www.earthhour.org.

WaterSmart Workshops

A series of free workshops will be offered locally in March, April and May on such subjects as rainwater harvesting, living soil, lawn alternatives, efficient irrigation, streamside landscaping and landscaping with native plants. Information at www.teamwatersmart.ca [Events and Workshops]

Englishman River Water Service Update

An update to be included with utility notices at the end of March will detail plans, requirements and progress to date. ERWS is the joint venture formed to secure bulk water supply from the Englishman River for the City of Parksville and Regional District of Nanaimo. The Englishman River provides surface water of generally high quality between May and October and to provide

enhanced water treatment year round, plans are underway to develop and construct a new intake and water treatment plant. www.arrowsmithwaterservice.ca



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PLAN PARKSVILLE: Official Community Plan

The City recently held three public open houses which provided opportunities for the community to review the draft OCP. Comments on the draft plan may be submitted through the City's website [homepage link] or in writing to the Department of Community Planning and Building until March 21. Additional opportunities for input will be provided as the OCP update moves from draft to adoption.

City Dates

March 14	Advisory Design Panel
March 14	Coffee with Council
March 18	Council and Committee of the Whole
March 21	Advisory Planning Commission
March 21	Coffee with Council
March 28	Coffee with Council
March 29	Statutory holiday (offices closed)
April 1	Statutory holiday (offices closed)
April 3	Council and Committee of the Whole
April 4	Coffee with Council
April 11	Advisory Design Panel
April 11	Coffee with Council
April 15	Council and Committee of the Whole
April 18	Advisory Planning Commission
April 18	Coffee with Council
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The public is encouraged to attend Council and Committee of the Whole meetings held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 pm. The public is welcome to observe the meetings of any advisory committee. Please refer to the City's website for agendas and to confirm times and dates.

How to Reach Council

MAYOR

COLINCII ORS Al Greir......250 248-1285 Peter Morrison......250 240-4050 Bill Neufeld250 954-2063 Sue Powell......250 951-1082 Carrie Powell-Davidson......250 954-3758

citycouncil@parksville.ca City Hall, 100 Jensen Avenue East P O Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3

Facebook: facebook.com/cityparksville Twitter: twitter.com/city_parksville Pinterest: pinterest.com/cityparksville

It's Your City is published in the PQB News on the second Tuesday of the month with a copy on the City's website. We are committed to improving communications with our residents and you can help by providing your comments and suggestions to 250 954-3073 or communications@parksville.ca