

## 2014 Highlights

Here's a snapshot of some of our many projects and undertakings in 2014. We hope you will find it an interesting read about a busy year for the City.



Corfield and Island Highway East

### Infrastructure and related projects

- ◆ Phase 1, Temple Street upgrade project (Phillips to Chinook) 50% complete and scheduled for completion in June. Phase 2 (Chinook to Bay) preliminary design complete, detailed design started, to be tendered in 2015.
- ◆ Rathrevor trail pedestrian bridge preliminary investigations (geotechnical, archaeological, hydrological) ongoing through spring with approvals and design this year.
- ◆ Draft consultant report received regarding erosion issues in Community Park (near former Hovercraft pad) and at Sutherland stairs. Will address this year and until repairs are made, public should exercise caution at these sites.
- ◆ City of Parksville and Regional District of Nanaimo engaged CH2M Hill to complete a community consultation project for the Englishman River Water Service project (water intake, water treatment, aquifer storage and recovery) which included elements such as a working group, public open houses and new online engagement platform. Grant applications were submitted as part of funding requests.
- ◆ Parksville Fire Department took delivery of Engine 41, a new state-of-the-art pumper.
- ◆ Funded by the Parksville Lions Club and the City, the playground equipment in Lions Ventureland was upgraded.
- ◆ Storm and sanitary master plan updates now in draft.
- ◆ Revitalized Nicholls Park opened in June, the vision of Ballenas Civics Action Group with help from neighbourhood volunteers.
- ◆ Design complete for improvements to Banks Avenue (Finholm to Acadia) and Forsyth (Acadia to Finholm). To be tendered in 2015.
- ◆ Completed GIS audit; new Parksville MapGuide Enterprise (internal version) implemented.
- ◆ Hwy 19A widening related to Wembley Mall development.
- ◆ Completion of Corfield left turn advance installation, Skylark storm sewer replacement and water model update.

### Also of note

- ◆ The Community Building and Planning Department issued 149 building permits worth about \$22.5 million; prepared 8 development permits (commercial, façade upgrades, residential); two development variance permits and 7 rezoning applications for Council's review, including several large projects such as McMillan Street, 272 Island Highway West and 371 Alberni Highway. As well, the department issued 26 sign, 30 tree removal and two development variance permits and produced a series of new information brochures now available to the public.
- ◆ 2014 local government elections with 15 candidates for council and 4 mayoral candidates. 2014-2018 Council inauguration on December 1.
- ◆ Vancouver Island University and City, through a memorandum of understanding support and protect Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve designation.
- ◆ City recognized volunteers and community organizations for their outstanding contribution to Parksville.
- ◆ Council undertook a petition process to renew the 2015-2019 annual charge levied on commercial properties within Parksville Downtown Business Improvement Area.
- ◆ Through partnership with Ballenas Secondary School and Vancouver Island Regional Library, pop-up library installed in the Community Park. (Books always welcome).
- ◆ Parksville received the Open for Business Award from the BC Small Business Roundtable.
- ◆ PVFD successfully hosted the BC Fire Training Officers Association training weekend and conference and the City along with Qualicum Beach, hosted the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities convention.
- ◆ Commitment to safety resulted in reduced WorkSafeBC rates based on downward trend in claims costs and experience ratings.
- ◆ Finance completed installation of new payroll system and is near completion of new budget software.



Englishman River estuary

### Preauthorized Withdrawal Service (PAWS)

The City recently changed the format of the program which allows taxpayers to contribute a fixed monthly payment towards their taxes and/or utilities based on an estimate of future invoice amounts. Now referred to as PAWS or Preauthorized Withdrawal Service (previously TIPS or Tax/Utility Installment Payment Service), this program is used to prepay future tax and/or utility charges.

Program is available to taxpayers when taxes are not being paid through a bank or mortgage company and when there

is no outstanding balance. In some circumstances, it may be difficult for residents to make a single large tax or utility payment and budgeting is often easier when done with monthly pre-payment amounts.

For existing participants making pre-payments to their utility accounts, the program will now take payments in April so utility account pre-payments will be spread over 11 months with no payment in June. This makes the utility program the same as the property tax payment months. Participants making utility pre-payments will be advised on their next utility notice of the new payment amount to take effect April 15.

## City Services

### Notice to Businesses

Existing business licence holders may now renew for the 2015. Due by January 30, fees may be mailed or paid at City Hall. Bylaw 1483 requires that all businesses obtain a valid licence if carrying on business in the City. More information on website [*Business/Licences*].

### Notice to Dog Owners in Parksville

Dog licence fees are due by January 30. Current dog licences will receive a reminder notice; if you do not receive a notice and/or currently own a dog, licences may be purchased from City Hall.

- By January 30, spayed/neutered \$20, not spayed/neutered \$30
- After January 30, spayed/neutered \$25, not spayed/neutered \$35



The main benefit of licencing is the quick return of dogs should they become lost. As well, the fees collected partially offset the cost to maintain our off-leash dog park, provide doggie bags and dispensers throughout the City and provide bylaw enforcement to handle public safety concerns of stray, off-leash and dangerous dogs.

*And, it's the law!* Bylaw 1284 states, "no person shall keep, harbour or have in his possession any dog over the age of six months unless a valid and subsisting licence has been issued in respect of that dog." The bylaw also states no more than two dogs may be kept on parcels of land less than two acres.

## City Dates

January 19	Council Meeting
January 22	Coffee with Council
January 29	Coffee with Council
February 2	Council Meeting
February 5	Coffee with Council
February 9	Family Day (offices closed)
February 12	Coffee with Council
February 16	Council Meeting

The public is encouraged to attend Council meetings held on the first and third Mondays of the month and may observe advisory committee meetings. Refer to the website for agendas and meeting highlights and minutes.

## How To Reach Council

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### COUNCILLORS

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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.

