

City Services

Goose Management Strategy

In 2015, Council adopted recommendations contained in the Goose Management Strategy for the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region as prepared by the Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries Society. Council approved a cull program in 2016 as a more permanent long-term solution to the overabundance of non-migratory Canada Geese in Parksville. A key recommendation of the strategy is to humanely reduce non-migratory resident Canada Goose populations in the City to a level which prevents conflict between geese and human activities and reduces the ecological damage to local estuaries.

Since 2004, mitigation initiatives have been ongoing with limited success. Examples include hazing using dogs and volunteers and the use of a falconer with an eagle to harass geese. Since 2002, members of the Guardians led efforts to reduce regional Canada Goose populations by adding over 6,000 eggs and have surveyed geese in the region to learn more about seasonal abundance and use of estuaries and other habitats. The City funds an ongoing adding program focused on the Englishman River and despite successful adding from 2002 through 2014 which prevented many eggs from hatching, the number of nesting geese in the Englishman River estuary continues to increase.

Across all seasons, counts were highest at the estuaries of the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area. During the summer molt, geese concentrate in the estuaries and in marine and freshwater habitats; estuaries are preferred destinations in the fall and winter.

Urban and agricultural areas also suffers. Goose densities were found to be highest in the Parksville Church Road and Parksville Bay/City areas and in particular, on sites with access to freshwater. High concentrations of geese lead to the contamination of drinking water, the fouling of beaches, parks, school grounds, sports fields and other sites, all of which pose risks to human and animal health.

On behalf of the City, a kill permit application will be prepared by the Guardians for review by the Province of BC and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Should the application be approved, a contractor will be hired this summer to carry out all aspects permitted by the regulatory agencies to reduce locally overabundant Canada Geese in the Parksville area. Canada Geese will be killed in a humane manner according to Environment Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Services best practices for Canada Goose management and standard operating procedures developed by the Province of BC and approved by the BC Wildlife Chief Veterinarian.

Information on this initiative may be found on the website [Quicklink/Goose Management]. Questions should be directed to Deb Tardiff, 250 954-3073.



Tenders/Requests for Proposals

Opportunities are posted on our website.

- An invitation to tender to lease the concrete pad at the north end of the Community Park for water sport related activities or activities which complement the nature of the park. (Deadline March 11)
- Request for proposals for a qualified consultant to complete a business analysis report assessing the operational efficiencies of the Parksville Community and Conference Centre. (Deadline March 11)
- Request for proposals for one light duty fleet van. (Deadline February 17)

Great Ways to Save Water

For a limited time, the City is offering rebates of up to \$50 for the purchase and installation of rain barrels. One rebate per residence of 50% of the cost of the rain barrel, up to a maximum of \$50. Rebates will be issued on a first come/first serve basis. Rain barrels must be purchased on or after January 1, 2016.

The low flush toilet rebate offer was renewed for 2016. The rebate is \$75 for the installation of a low flow model of 6 litres or less which replaces a toilet using 13 litres or more. Please see the website for information and application forms [Residents/Residential Services].



Water Main Flushing - February 15 to March 25

The City will implement the annual water main flushing program February 15 to March 25. Flushing is an important part of ongoing maintenance to ensure the integrity of the water supply system. Flushing will take place mainly between 7 am and 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday. During these times, residents can expect some discolouration of water and intermittent drops in pressure and should keep a fresh supply of drinking water on hand. Check for discolouration before doing laundry and should water be discoloured, run an outside tap (after 3:30 pm) until the water runs clear. Please direct questions to 250 248-5412.

Spring Grant-in-Aid Applications

The City may provide financial assistance to community non-profit organizations in the arts, cultural, recreational or social services fields. Deadline is 4 pm, March 1. Information may be obtained at City Hall or from the website [Mayor and Council/Grant-in-Aid Applications].

Residential Family Water Rates

Large families with five or more immediate family members made up of parents and dependent children less than eighteen years of age may qualify for modified water rates. Application deadline is February 26 at 4 pm. Information and application available from City Hall and from the website [Residents/Utility Billing].

Things to Know

Climate Change Warnings on Gas Pumps – Feb. 17

The City and the Mid Island Habitat Enhancement Society will host a free lecture by Robert Shirkey, executive director of Our Horizon Society on Wednesday, February 17 in the Forum. Doors open at 6.30 pm, presentation at 7 pm and Q & A at 8 pm.

Our Horizon is a national not-for-profit organization working with governments to require climate change labels on gas pumps. Robert's talks draw on the latest in climate change research and he gathers insights from psychology, sociology, economics, business and law to build the case for local action on climate change. His trial experience as a lawyer and sense of humour makes him a compelling speaker. Info at ourhorizon.org or from Deb Tardiff, 250 954-3073.

"No Dogs" Beach Closures

Our beaches are popular spots for migrating Brant geese, vulnerable to disturbances and for this reason, Rathrevor beach is closed to dogs, both on-leash and off-leash, until April 15 and Parksville Bay beach from March 1 to April 30.

Parksville Golden Oldies Sports Association

PGOSA is the proud organizer of activities for more than 1,250 seniors in the Parksville-Qualicum Beach area who wish to maintain an active, healthy and social lifestyle. Membership is open to those 55 years of age and older with an associate membership or younger spouses. The annual fee of \$10 also includes group insurance. The list of more than sixty activities sponsored by PGOSA is available at pgosa.org.

City Dates

February 11	Coffee with Council
February 11	Advisory Design Panel
February 15	Council Meeting
February 17	Our Horizon Lecture
February 18	Coffee with Council
February 25	Coffee with Council
March 3	Coffee with Council
March 7	Council Meeting
March 10	Coffee with Council
March 10	Advisory Design Panel
March 17	Coffee with Council

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

MAYOR

Marc Lefebvre 250 954-4661

COUNCILLORS

Mary Beil..... 250 927-4097
 Al Greir 250 248-1285
 Kirk Oates 250 802-2059
 Teresa Patterson 250 954-9488
 Sue Powell..... 250 954-3070
 Leanne Salter..... 250 248-8097

citycouncil@parksville.ca

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

[facebook.com/cityparksville](https://www.facebook.com/cityparksville)
twitter.com/city_parksville
[pinterest.com/cityparksville](https://www.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.

KEEP CALM and be a Volunteer Firefighter!

Parksville Fire Department Now Recruiting!

Learn more about being an on call firefighter. Drop by the fire hall at 160 Jensen Avenue West and chat with one of our officers. Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm or call 250 248-3242.

More details and applications available at the fire hall and from the website. Application deadline March 4.

Pvfd.ca | [Facebook.com/ParkvilleFD](https://www.facebook.com/ParkvilleFD) | [Twitter.com/ParkvilleFD](https://twitter.com/ParkvilleFD)



Is there FIRE in you?

