



it's your City!



April 29, 2020

www.parksville.ca

Protecting Our Water Supply



englishman river WATER SERVICE

Protection and enhancement of the water supply, a priority for the City of Parksville and the Englishman River Water Service, is reflected in the mission statement, "An environmentally sensitive use of water to improve fish habitat and domestic water supply." To successfully accomplish this mission requires careful stewardship of both the surface water and groundwater sources.

COVID-19 does not present a threat to the safety of the treated water. The ERWS water treatment plant uses membrane filtration, ultra-violet light (UV) and chlorine disinfection. Benefits include reduced health risks and improved water quality. Membrane filtration removes bacteria and viruses naturally found in surface river water and the ability to deal with spikes in turbidity (muddy water). The plant employs a multi-step treatment process which includes filtration and disinfection to remove and kill viruses, including coronaviruses as well as bacteria and other pathogens.

The new water treatment plant, commissioned in January 2020, is well equipped to protect the integrity of the drinking water supply. Island Health issued operating permits to ERWS and we are in compliance with operating guidelines. ERWS has many safeguards in place to protect the integrity of our water system:

- Emergency response plan for water treatment and water distribution systems.
- During testing, City and Regional District of Nanaimo staff received extensive training and a Level 4 water treatment operator was hired to run the daily operations of the plant. In addition to the Level 4 operator, the plant employs one Level 3 water treatment operator as well as three Level 2 water treatment operators, all capable of providing coverage in an emergency.
- The City's mutual aid agreements include operational support for the water treatment plant from neighbouring governments in the event of an emergency. This could include sharing of skilled/certified staffing for plant operations.
- Arrangements have been made with other mid-Island local governments to allow sharing of qualified staff should there be staff shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic. CUPE 401 has agreed there would be no collective agreement barriers to facilitating this need.

For the assurance of our residents, the virus that causes COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods using filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

It is heartwarming to see Parksville residents coming together to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Staying home and staying safe is working. Thank you for doing your part to help flatten the curve.

Communicating with City Hall

City offices remains closed to the public and residents may contact departments directly – please refer to the website [City Hall/Contacts]. Meetings are held virtually and may be viewed through live or archived webstreaming from the website. Coffee with the Mayor is cancelled; however, residents can still reach Mayor Mayne by emailing mayor@parksville.ca or leaving a message at 250 954-3060. The City and Emergency Management Oceanside provides weekly updates, posted to websites and social media. Please direct questions to 250 248-6144 or info@parksville.ca

Thank You Community Volunteers

This past week was Volunteer Week in Canada and we wish to thank volunteers for their tremendous contributions to our community. Recognition is even more significant this year as we see the contribution of those volunteering to support essential services during this public health crisis and also recognize those who help by staying home to protect themselves and their community. Volunteers contribute to the well-being of Parksville and without your dedication, it would be impossible to sustain the services we all enjoy. We recognize the vital contribution volunteers make to our community and the impact volunteers have on the quality of life in our community. Thank you!

WE APPLAUD VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL THEY DO



THINGS WE'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW...

BC Property Tax Deferment

The Property Tax Deferment program is a low interest loan program which helps qualified BC homeowners pay annual property taxes on their principal residence. You may qualify if 55 or older during the current year, person with disabilities, or family supporting children in certain circumstances. In May, a new online portal will make deferring property taxes easier, allowing residents to apply or renew online directly with the province. Questions should be directed to 1 888 355-2700 or search *BC Property Tax Deferral*.

Please note that the City can no longer accept deferral applications or renewals. Unpaid taxes, utilities, penalties and interest from prior years must be paid to the City to be eligible to defer current year taxes and you must apply for the homeowner grant if you're eligible, once property tax notices are mailed in May.

Utility Notices

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the due date for City utility notices covering water, sewer, garbage and recycling has been extended to **June 30**. If you did not receive your notice in the mail, please call 250 248-6144. With City offices closed to the public until further notice, we encourage the public to pay this utility bill via Canada Post or through online or telephone banking.

Water Restrictions

Stage 2 in effect through September (unless otherwise notified) allows for every other day lawn watering between 7 and 10 am or 7 and 10 pm for a maximum of two hours. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from restrictions. [[Quicklink/Water Conservation](#)]

Parksville FD Drive-by Memories

Parksville Fire would love to help you celebrate a milestone memory such as an anniversary, wedding or birthday with a drive-by your home. Drive-bys on a first-come, first serve basis are for residents in the Parksville Fire Protection Area until May 31. Info and how to book at parksvillefirerescue.ca.

One Year Late to the Party in 2021

In response to the COVID-19 situation, the City has cancelled 75th birthday celebrations planned for this summer and will celebrate our 75th on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

Signup for EMO E-News

Emergency Management Oceanside is a partnership between the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach to provide emergency support and disaster service to residents of the Parksville-Qualicum Beach area. If you wish to receive COVID-19 updates and emergency preparedness info for the Oceanside region, signup at emergencyoceanside.ca

City Dates

May 4	Council Meeting
May 7	Parks and Open Spaces
May 18	Victoria Day (offices closed)
May 20	Council Meeting

Please note: Until City offices reopen and we are able to meet in person, Council meetings will be held at 3 pm (not 6 pm).

How To Reach Council

MAYOR
Ed Mayne.....250 954-4661

COUNCILLORS
Mark Chandler250 951-6651
Adam Fras250 228-3727
Al Greir250 248-1285
Doug O'Brien250 954-2327
Teresa Patterson.....250 954-9488
Marilyn Wilson250 954-3060

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It's Your City is published in the PQB News with a copy on the City's website. We welcome your comments. 250 954-3073 or communications@parksville.ca.