

It's *Your* City! eNews

City of Parksville

December 19, 2024



**Wishing you season's greetings and a merry and festive Christmas.
We look forward to the new year and wish everyone a safe, healthy and joyful 2025.**
Councillors Beil, Martin, Gaur, Grenz, Mayor O'Brien, Councillor Wood. Missing from photo – Councillor Fras



Parksville Fire Rescue *Info and Updates*

parksvillefirerescue.ca

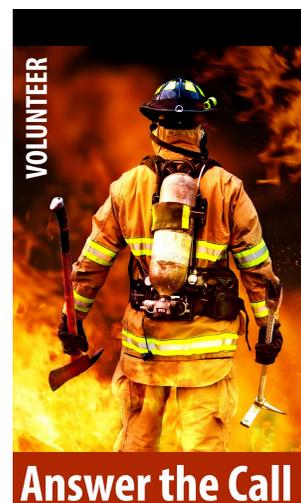
2025 Recruitment Campaign

During our annual recruitment campaign, we look for positive, energetic and community-minded men and women to join our team of volunteer paid on-call firefighters. If you reside in the Parksville Fire Protection area and are interested in learning more about our team of dedicated and skilled firefighters, we'd like to hear from you.

We rely on the commitment of volunteer paid on-call and career firefighters dedicated to public safety and community service to provide fire and emergency response services in the Parksville Fire Protection Area. We responded to almost 800 calls in 2024 related to structure fires, rescues, motor vehicle incidents, medical assistance, and public service requests. Our firefighters are highly skilled professionals who value integrity, honesty, selflessness, commitment, courage, and are hardworking and family oriented.

We offer an outstanding training program and an opportunity to make an unforgettable difference in people's lives.

- Professional firefighter certification and ongoing training.
- Opportunity to serve your community, team environment.
- Personal growth, sense of achievement, chance to be awesome.



- Great benefits - paid on-call, WorkSafe, additional accidental death and disability insurance (on and off duty), and more.

We are your neighbours, co-workers, family, and friends and need your help with our recruiting efforts; please encourage those you know who may be interested to contact Parksville Fire. We'd love to chat about what we do at Parksville Fire Rescue; call us at 250 248-3242 to speak with an officer and arrange a tour. Application deadline is Friday, February 28. Recruitment details and general info on our [website](#).

Our members serve the Parksville Fire Protection Area which covers the City of Parksville and contract areas within the Regional District of Nanaimo - San Pareil, Morningstar, Columbia Beach, French Creek, and the Fourneau Road, Wildgreen, and Martindale Road areas.

Recruitment Open Practice Monday, January 20, 7-9 pm

Regular practice on January 20 will be open to those interested in being a firefighter. Arrive by 6.30 pm, dress for the weather, and stay as long as you wish. This open practice is a perfect chance to observe a practice, see firsthand what's involved in training, ask questions, and chat with members. The firehall is located at 160 Jensen Avenue West.

Christmas Tree Chipping Fundraiser

Parksville Firefighters Association will host a Christmas tree chipping for charity event on **Sunday, January 5** from **10 am to 2 pm** in the Wembley Mall parking lot.

Members of Parksville Fire Rescue will offer Christmas tree chipping and disposal by cash donation to the Parksville Firefighters Association Charitable Fund to support community projects during the year. Branching Out Urban Forestry has donated the tree chipper and staff so every cent donated will support the firefighters' fundraising efforts.



If you are bringing your tree to this year's event, ensure all decorations are removed. We look forward to seeing you on January 5 at our annual Christmas tree chipping event.

WHO:	Parksville Fire Rescue
WHAT:	Christmas tree chipping and disposal
WHERE:	Wembley Mall parking lot (826 Island Highway West)
WHEN:	Sunday, January 5 - 10 am to 2 pm
WHY:	Fundraiser for Parksville Firefighters Association Charitable Fund

CITY SERVICES

Sidewalk Clearing Pilot Project

At the December 16 meeting, Parksville Council approved a \$10,000 budget in 2025 and in 2026 to support the City's sidewalk snow clearing pilot project. Council endorsed the temporary amendment to the snow and ice policy to include a pilot project to increase the level of service and prioritize clearing of designated walkways in the downtown core and secondary clearing of sidewalks adjacent to City parks and facilities. Sidewalks within the downtown area have been categorized into first, second and third priorities as indicated on the map below.

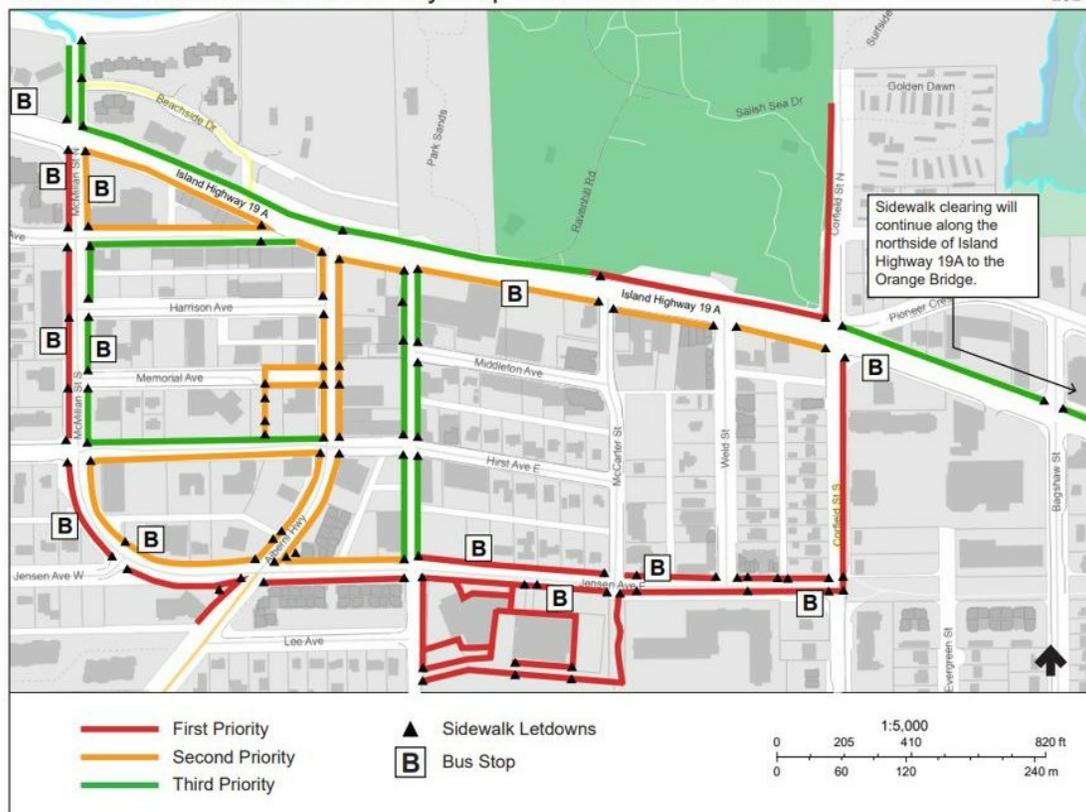
This temporary project is not intended to remove responsibility but to support owners and occupiers who are required to clear sidewalks bordering their property (Traffic Bylaw 1436). The City's Snow and Ice Policy 8.10 states, "every owner and occupier of property is responsible to remove all snow and ice from sidewalks bordering their property within twelve hours of the end of the snow fall event." We encourage owners to clear their frontage within the outlined timelines.

This pilot project is proposed to improve and enhance accessibility for Parksville residents who need to navigate sidewalks in the downtown area. As well, improvements to sidewalk clearing will include many key pedestrian letdowns and

strategic transit stops. During prolonged snowfall events, all sidewalk clearing is dependent on the City being able to secure staff capacity to cover shifts and access to equipment is available.

For Council consideration prior to the start of the 2026 winter season, staff will provide a review of the 2025 pilot project identifying areas of improvement, staff hours and budget.

Refer to [Let's Talk Parksville](#) for information on the City's snow and ice control program including the policy, frequently asked questions, and how residents and business owners can help.



Opening for Members on Advisory Design Panel

The City is inviting interested individuals to apply for consideration of appointment to the Advisory Design Panel. The purpose of the panel is to advise Council on design matters associated with the architectural form and character of specific development permit applications. Members are expected to have design experience and qualifications. Some members must be architects, landscape architects, or individuals with a design related degree or experience in universal design. Preference may be given to residents; however, all interested individuals are encouraged to apply. This community service work does not receive remuneration.

Please apply to the City of Parksville, PO Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3, or by email to planning@parksville.ca. Please include relevant background information. Deadline to apply is Friday, January 31.

Canada Post Mail Service Disruption

We wish to remind residents of ongoing disruptions resulting from the Canada Post strike. Please note City Hall will be closed December 25-27. Business licences and dog licences expire December 31 and are due before January 31. Renewals will be mailed to residents and businesses later this month.

2025 Business Licences

Business owners may obtain their renewal invoice from administration during regular business hours (8 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday). Business owners may email biz@parksville.ca to receive an emailed copy. Licences may be paid by:

- Credit card (Visa or Mastercard) payments from the [City's website](#)
- Mail to P O Box 1390, Parksville V9P 2H3
- Dropbox at City Hall (100 Jensen Avenue East)
- In-person at City Hall (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm)

Business licence fees which remain unpaid after January 31 will be subject to fines. A late fee of \$50 will be applied on February 1, 2025, and every thirty days to outstanding business licences. Questions to biz@parksville.ca or 250 954-4650.

2025 Dog Licences

Dog licence tags must be purchased in-person. If you currently own a dog, please purchase a licence in-person from City Hall (open Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm) or the BCSPCA (open Tuesday to Saturday, noon to 4 pm).



All dogs over the age of six months must wear a municipal dog tag, which must be renewed yearly. Residents can renew their dog licences for a discounted fee before January 31.

By January 31 - Spayed/neutered \$20, not spayed/neutered \$30

After January 31 - Spayed/neutered \$25, not spayed/neutered \$35

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

Property Tax and Utility Reminders

Due to the Canada Post strike, the City of Parksville will not mail regular property tax and utility final reminder statements, which serve as a reminder to residents to remit payment of outstanding balances on their property tax and utility accounts.



By statutory requirement, any outstanding utility account balances after December 31 will transfer onto the property tax account as arrears taxes. Current taxes become arrears taxes and arrears taxes become delinquent taxes as of January 1 and will incur daily interest. In future years, the City of Parksville will not mail reminder statements prior to year end. Reminder statements will be sent in July only. For more information or to receive an electronic copy of the 2024 reminder statement, contact the City by phone 250 248-6144 or email cashier@parksville.ca

2025 Special Events Applications

Applications are now being accepted from organizations and individuals wishing to hold special events at City-owned venues or on City streets; review process starts November 30. Annual events will be given priority provided the request is received by November 30, after which time applications will be addressed as first-time events on a first-come, first-served basis, based on availability. After November 30, applications must be received at least thirty days prior to the event. Policy and forms on the [website](#). Questions to events@parksville.ca.



Parksville's 2025-2029 Financial Plan

The City's 2025-2029 financial plan bylaw received three readings considered at the December 16 Council meeting and is expected final approval will be considered at the first Council meeting in 2025, on January 20. Guided by Council priorities, the City's five-year financial planning process includes input from City departments, Council briefings and public consultation. The five-year financial plan sets the priority services, programs and initiatives for the next five years and how the City will pay for them.

Property tax rates and utility rates for the City of Parksville will be set in spring 2025. The forecasted rate increases for 2025 are 7% for property taxes, 6% for water fees and 6% for sewer fees, which will result in an increase of about \$175 over 2024 for an average residential property. Refer to [Let's Talk Parksville](#) for financial plan details including presentations

The increases to property taxes and utility fees include increased investments in current and long-term critical infrastructure renewal to support a sustainable long-term financial plan for the City. Funding to support the activities of Parksville community groups (Parksville Beach Festival Society, Oceanside Community Arts Council and Parksville Curling Club) was added to the financial plan. Additional investments are included to enhance accessibility to City facilities. The drinking

water master plan, Parksville Pathway, completion of the transportation master plan, upgrades to utilities instrumentation and controls, and works at the water treatment plant are significant projects in 2025.

REMINDERS AND THINGS TO KNOW



City office closures

City offices will be closed December 25 to December 27 for the Christmas holidays and January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday. City offices will be open December 23, 24, 30, and 31, 8 am to 4 pm. Our operations department is on call during all non-working hours, including weekends and holidays. For afterhours City operations emergency, residents should call 250 248-6144 (4 pm to 8 am, Monday to Friday and weekends and holidays).

Homeowner information

December 31 is the deadline to claim a **retroactive home owner grant** for 2023 (subject to qualifications) as well as the deadline to defer 2024 property taxes. For more info or to apply, contact Province of BC at 1 888 355-2700 or [online](#).

Win your dog's licence renewal

We'd love to see photos of your Parksville pooches and hope you will share with us on social media. Photos will be entered into a draw to win one of two free 2025 Parksville dog licences and some doggie treats. Please don't wait to renew, we will refund if you win! Contest is open to Parksville residents until January 31:

- Visit our [Facebook](#) page and upload the photo in the comments section on any contest-related post.
- Upload photo on [Instagram](#) using hashtag #parkvillepooch and tag @parkvillecity.



Winter conditions

Info about monitoring of road and weather conditions by the City on our [website](#) with tips on how residents can prepare and how to help. Info on the City's snow and ice control program available on [Let's Talk Parksville](#).

Join us  **We're Hiring!**
Director of Administrative Services
Learn more at parkville.ca

CITY DATES



December 25-27	City offices closed
January 1	City offices closed
January 5	Parksville Fire Tree Chipping
January 20	Parksville Fire Open Practice
January 20	Council Meeting
February 3	Council Meeting
February 17	Family Day (offices closed)
February 19	Council Meeting
March 3	Council Meeting

For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications
250 954-3073; communications@parksville.ca

parksville.ca | [letstalkparksville.ca](https://www.instagram.com/letstalkparksville.ca)



City of Parksville | PO Box 1390, 100 Jensen Avenue | Parksville, BC V9P 2H3 CA

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