



November 20, 2025



Get ready for a magical afternoon filled with holiday cheer at the City's annual *Cookies, Carols and More!* event. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 6 from 2 to 4 pm** and gather your kids, families, friends, and neighbours to join in the free festivities and fun at the Jensen Centre (132 Jensen Avenue East, Parksville).

Parksville Council is excited to host this free event for a third year and look forward to seeing you there, a wonderful chance to celebrate the season with your community and create memories. We look forward to welcoming everyone to *Cookies, Carols and More!* on December 6. Here are some of the activities we have planned:

- **Live music:** Tap your toes to the sounds of Easy Street Duo and singalong to classic carols.
- **Crafts and games for kids and parents :** Unleash your creativity with an array of holiday-themed crafts. Kids and parents collaborate to create beautiful decorations, charming ornaments and other delightful projects to take home and treasure. We've added some fun games to keep little ones smiling all afternoon.
- **Visit from Santa:** Santa Claus himself will make a special appearance! Bring your cameras for a magical photo opportunity with Santa and share your wish lists with the jolly old man. We have everything you will need to write a letter to Santa.
- **Christmas cookies and hot chocolate bar :** Savour a delectable assortment of cookies and warm up with coffee and hot chocolate, customized with scrumptious toppings. Coastal Community Credit Union in Parksville has generously offered to serve popcorn to guests and French Press Coffee Roasters has once again donated the coffee.
- **Festive facepainting:** Add some sparkle to your day with holiday-themed facepainting from our four talented artists.

To support SOS Caring for Community at Christmas, we will feature an SOS Angel Tree. Guests can choose an angel from the tree and purchase the gift listed on the back which can be dropped off at SOS or to the City's administration office. It's a way to make wishes come true for many in need.

Letters to Santa

We're excited to again provide a special North Pole mailbox at 100

Jensen Avenue East next to the big Christmas tree. Kids can bring their letters or write one here, envelopes are addressed, and we regularly take the letters to the post office to ensure timely delivery to the North Pole.



IN OTHER NEWS!



We encourage residents to become familiar with the City’s financial plan process and review presentations and information to date, all posted to [Let’s Talk Parksville](#). The next Special Council meeting plan is scheduled for November 24 at 1 pm to discuss the financial plan and for consideration of decision items, analysis of options for property taxes and utility rates.

The public is welcome to attend this meeting. Community participation is an essential part of developing budget priorities with public input into the process ensuring the City’s financial plan reflects the community’s current wishes and needs and assists Council with balancing the ongoing service needs of a growing community while delivering on strategic priorities and projects.

Meetings are webstreamed live and archived on the website. Comments can be submitted in-person at the meeting, online at [Let’s Talk Parksville](#), or by email to council@parksville.ca. All comments will form part of the public record.

PARKSVILLE FIRE RESCUE

Recruitment 2026

It’s official! Our 2026 recruitment campaign has begun. We are looking for positive, energetic and community-minded citizens to join our team of paid on-call firefighters. Learn about the benefits and what it means to be part of the team, check out recruitment info at [Parksville Fire Rescue](#) or call 250 248-3242. More details on [Let’s Talk Parksville](#).

Open Practice - Monday, January 19

Interesting in learning more about being a volunteer paid on-call firefighter? Parksville Fire Rescue open practice on January 19 is a unique opportunity to see how our members train and what skills are required to serve the Parksville community and surrounding area. Practice runs from 7 to 9 pm, arrive by 6.30 pm, dress for the weather, and stay as long as you wish. This is an excellent opportunity to observe a practice, see firsthand what’s involved in training to be a firefighter, ask questions and chat with members. The Parksville firehall is located at 160 Jensen Avenue West.

VOLUNTEER

FIRE FIGHTER

PROJECT MANAGER

Answer the Call

ParksvilleFireRescue.ca

2025 Food and Toy Drive Results

Once again, Parksville Fire Rescue’s *Fill the Boots for Food* drive was a huge success

because of the community's generosity. A total of \$98,714.56 in cash for the Salvation Army food bank was collected over the weekend along with more than sixty new toys for the Society of Organized Services.

Craig Bay residents continued their generosity this year, donating 2,941 pounds of food and grocery items to fill food bank shelves and a record \$76,510 in cash donations to help keep the shelves filled in the coming months.

Residents in the Parksville Fire Protection Area generously support the annual drive and are the reason this campaign is so successful. Parksville Fire Rescue appreciates the charity of our residents who make the difference for many families in our community. The department is grateful for the support of Canadian Tire, Choices Market, BC Liquor Store, Quality Foods, Thrifty Foods, and Tim Hortons

More info and how you can help!



Awarded Funding for Decontamination Equipment

Parksville Fire Rescue was awarded \$40,000 from the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Volunteer (Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training) Fund enabling the purchase and installation of advanced decontamination equipment. Grant funding was approved in 2024 and the project with a total cost of \$41,144, was completed in October 2025. [More info](#)



Holiday Fire Safety
TIPS!



Christmas Tree Chipping Charity Event

Parksville Fire Rescue

Parksville firefighters will host a Christmas tree chipping charity event on Sunday, January 4, from 10 am to 2 pm in the Wembley Mall parking lot. Branching Out Urban Forestry has once again donated the tree chipper and staff so every cent donated will support the firefighters' fundraising.

WHO: Parksville Fire Rescue
WHAT: Christmas tree chipping and disposal
WHERE: Wembley Mall parking lot (826 Island Highway West)
WHEN: Sunday, January 4 - 10 am to 2 pm
WHY: Fundraiser for Parksville Firefighters Association Charitable Fund

parksvillefirerescue.ca

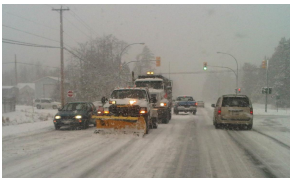
REMINDERS AND THINGS TO KNOW...

December 31, 2025, is the deadline to claim a **retroactive homeowner grant** for 2024 (subject to qualifications) as well as deadline to defer 2025 property taxes. Info or to apply, contact Province of BC at **1 888 355-2700** or online at [BC home owner grant](#) or [BC property tax deferment program](#).

City does not mail **property tax and utility notice reminders**. By statutory requirement, outstanding utility balances after December 31 transfer to property tax account as arrears taxes. Current taxes become arrears taxes and arrears taxes become delinquent taxes on January 1 and will incur daily interest. Please sign up for MyCity account to monitor property tax and utility account balances. Information at [My City](#).

2026 special events applications - are 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 our [website](#). Questions to events@parksville.ca.


Licence renewals - [business licence](#) and [dog licence](#) renewals will be mailed later this month and are due January 31, 2026. Details will be posted to our [website](#) on December 1.



Winter conditions - info about monitoring of road and weather conditions by the City on [Let's Talk Parksville](#) and our [website](#) with tips on how residents can prepare and how to help.

Reminder about leaves on City streets - property owners are responsible for leaf control and must not rake or blow leaves from lawns onto the street. The sweeper truck is intended to remove leaves which fall onto the streets and result in blocked catch basins and safety hazards for cyclists and pedestrians. Blowing or raking leaves into the gutter is illegal and subject to a fine of \$75 ([Traffic Bylaw 1436](#)).

Recycle BC pop-up depot in Parksville accepts free of charge, flexible plastic packaging, white and coloured foam packaging, glass packaging and paper packaging and cardboard. Remaining dates for 2025 are Saturdays - November 22, December 6 and December 20. Materials may be dropped off from 10 am to 3 pm at 1080 Industrial Way. Recycle BC [website](#).



Next
Council Meeting
Monday, December 1
[parksville.ca](#) 1 pm



Join us
We're Hiring!
Learn more at [parksville.ca](#)

CITY DATES

November 24	Special Council Meeting - Financial Plan
December 1	Council Meeting
December 6	Cookies and Carols Event
December 15	Council Meeting
December 25-26	Christmas Holidays (offices closed)
January 1	New Year’s Holiday (offices closed)
January 4	Parksville Fire Tree Chipping (Wembley Mall)

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

parksville.ca | letstalkparksville.ca



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