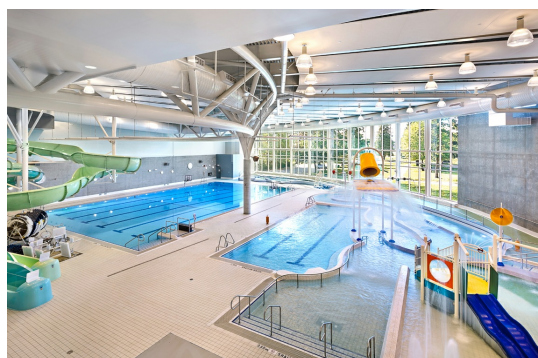


Parksville Aquatic and Recreation Centre Project Announced

At the February 1 meeting, Council released the “Parksville Pool and Multiplex Facility Feasibility Study” along with background, reports, timelines, and stakeholder engagement results. All documents are available on our public engagement platform, [Let’s Talk Parksville](#). The first step in a complex multi-year process, the report summarizes the feasibility and benefits of a multi-use aquatic centre in Parksville and shows Despard Avenue as the [test site](#) for conceptual design and further consideration.



As soon as it is safe to do so, we will begin in-person community engagement. In the meantime, we will look to other engagement opportunities and encourage residents to share comments, ideas, ask questions and signup for project updates through *Let’s Talk Parksville*. Comments may also be emailed to letstalk@parksville.ca.



During phase 2, the community will be asked to help finetune the concept presented in the feasibility study. Based on this input and the results of studies and assessments, we expect to see substantial changes to the concepts. A project consultant will facilitate community involvement and provide final detailed design and cost estimates for construction of the project and its operations. When design, cost estimates and potential grants are determined and prior to construction, electors will be asked for approval to borrow through a referendum.

Parksville 2021 Budget Open Meetings

At this time, City of Parksville open budget deliberation meetings to discuss the 2021 municipal budget and 2021-2025 financial plan are scheduled for March 8,

March 29 and April 12 (if required). Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation and until further notice, Council meetings are closed to in-person attendance by the public.

PARKSVILLE BUDGET 2021

Receiving public input into the budget is an important part of the financial planning process. Please note, all comments received about the City's budget will form part of the public record.

Here are the ways residents may engage in the budget process:

- Comments may be submitted by email to council@parksville.ca. To be considered by Council during the meetings, written comments should be received by noon on the Friday, the week prior to the meeting (March 5, March 26 and April 9). Residents may watch Council budget deliberation meetings online, viewed through [webstreaming](#) from the City's website.
- Real-time comments can be submitted by email to council@parksville.ca while the meetings are underway and the comments will be addressed by Council during the meeting.
- Comments may also be posted to the City's online engagement site, [Let's Talk Parksville](#).
- The meeting videos are archived from the City's [website](#) for viewing at another time.

Budget deliberation meetings are scheduled as follows:

Monday, March 8 at 3 pm

Monday, March 29 at 3 pm

Monday, April 12 at 6 pm (should a third meeting be necessary)

The City's [budget](#) and [financial plans](#) may be accessed from the website and closer to the meeting dates listed above, budget details will be posted to the City's website and [Let's Talk Parksville](#).

Parksville Firefighter Recruitment



Do you have what it takes to be a volunteer paid on-call firefighter?

The Parksville Fire Department is recruiting positive, energetic and community minded women and men to join their team of volunteer paid on-call firefighters. Classes begin in the spring and applications will be accepted until March 5. You need to live within our fire protection area (ideally within City boundary), be reasonably fit, available for weekly fire practices, have a good driving record and between the ages of 19 and 60 for regular members. If interested, call 250 248-3242, weekdays, 8 am to 4 pm, to chat with an officer. Details at parksvillefirerescue.ca.

Virtual Drop-in Chat with Mayor Mayne



Mayor Ed Mayne would like you to join him for a virtual chat on Thursday, March 4 or Thursday, March 18, an opportunity to ask questions or chat about something of interest or concern to you. Just like in-person Coffee with the Mayor, sessions will be 15 minute, one-on-one chats with Mayor Mayne scheduled between 2 pm and 4 pm on March 4 and March 18. If you would like to have a chat with Mayor Mayne, [email](#) us to book your time on one of the days.

Parksville Qualicum Foundation announced they will be working with other BC foundations to provide \$980,170 to transform public spaces in response to COVID-19. This funding is part of the Government of Canada's new \$31 million Healthy Communities Initiative to support communities as they adapt public spaces to respond to ongoing needs of the pandemic over the next two years. Information and how to apply is available on the [website](#).



Beach Closures to Dogs

To limit disturbance of migrating Black Brant geese, our beaches are subject to seasonal "no dog" restrictions. This applies to both on-leash and off-leash within the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Manager Area. Rathtrevor Beach is closed February 15 to April 15 and Parksville Bay Beach from March 1 to April 30.

City Services

Watermain Flushing

The City's annual watermain flushing program runs through early April. An important part of our ongoing maintenance program, flushing ensures the integrity of the water supply system. Flushing occurs mainly between 7 am and 3:30 pm, weekdays. Residents can expect some discolouration of water and intermittent drops in pressure; keep a fresh supply of drinking water in your fridge. Check for discolouration of water before doing laundry and if discoloured, run outside tap (after 3:30 pm) until clear. Please direct questions to 250 248-5412.



Residential Family Water Rates

Large families with five or more immediate family members consisting of parents and dependent children less than eighteen years of age may qualify for modified water rates. Application deadline is February 26. Information and application forms may be obtained from City Hall and from the City's [website](#).

Spring Grant-in-Aid Applications

Subject to the provisions of the City's grant-in-aid applications policy, the City may provide financial assistance to community groups and organizations for events that benefit our citizens and visitors. Community non-profit organizations in the arts, cultural, recreational, or social services fields are eligible. Deadline 3 pm, March 1. Information on the program, policy, application, and instructions may be obtained at City Hall or from the [website](#).

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

Voyent Alert! is a multi-purpose communication service used to send alerts to residents, businesses and visitors during critical events such as floods, wildfires or other emergencies in the region. This notification system is an initiative of Emergency Management Oceanside on behalf of the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach. More info available [here](#).

COVID-19 Related Information

COVID-19 Immunization Plan

BC's immunization plan is scheduled to occur in four phases through September with eligibility based on your age in 2021. The timeline for each phase may change due to vaccine availability and everyone in BC recommended to receive the vaccine will have the opportunity to get it in 2021. Please refer to gov.bc.ca/COVID19 for the most up-to-date information. Also, here are some helpful FAQ's from immunizebc.ca regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.



Province-wide restrictions remain in place until further notice

Your actions are helping to keep our businesses and schools open, and our hospitals and communities safe. **Thank you** for continuing to do your part in keeping our community safe and helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19. For information on provincial orders please refer to the BC Government [website](#).

Resources for Engagement During COVID-19

Prior to the pandemic and Public Health Orders limiting in-person meetings and gatherings, residents were welcome to attend Council meetings, Coffee with the Mayor and we held creative opportunities in our parks. While restrictions are in place, here are some of the ways the City of Parksville will collect feedback on specific projects using some of the following tools:

- **Online sessions:** At this time, Council meetings may be viewed using Zoom or YouTube from our [website](#). Until it is safe to meet again in person, we will host public sessions with notice provided on our website, social media channels and [Let's Talk Parksville](#).
- **Phone:** 250 248-6144 to speak with City staff from planning, operations, engineering, finance or administration. Contact info is on our [website](#).
- **Surveys:** We conduct surveys regularly which can be completed online or by requesting a paper copy.
- **Let's Talk Parksville** is our portal for public engagement. We encourage you to register/signup and join in the conversation. There are opportunities to ask questions, present an idea or comment with each project that we post on [Let's Talk Parksville](#). Questions or comments may also be emailed to letstalk@parksville.ca.
- **Council:** Residents may also email comments or questions to members of Council council@parksville.ca.

Important Dates

March 1	Council Meeting
March 8	Special Council Meeting (Budget)
March 15	Council Meeting
March 29	Special Council Meeting (Budget)
April 1	Parks and Open Spaces
April 2	Good Friday (offices closed)
April 5	Easter Monday (offices closed)
April 7	Council Meeting
April 12	Special Council Meeting - if required (Budget)

In-person services during the COVID-19 pandemic are limited to payments of tickets/licence fees and the purchase of bus passes, with all other City business by appointment and no walk-in services. To book an appointment, call 250 248-6144 or refer to website contact [info](#). Finance is open **Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 3 pm** . Please note, entry is from Jensen Avenue East. Masks are mandatory when at City Hall and visitors will be asked to provide information for contact tracing.

For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications

dtardiff@parksville.ca; 250 954-3073

parksville.ca | letstalkparksville.ca

