

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Preparing for Extreme Heat

With the evenings getting lighter and as we consider packing our winter coats away for a few months, we should start preparing for the seasonal hazards that summer brings. In our region this means extreme heat, water scarcity, wildfire, and wildfire smoke. Over the next few months, we'll discuss these hazards and how we can be prepared.

Extreme Heat

During the 2021 heat dome event, 619 people died of heat-related illness in British Columbia. Provincial data shows more heat-related deaths occur during early season heat events (May and June) compared to late season events (July and August). This highlights the importance of being prepared early. Extreme heat affects everyone, but those most vulnerable to extreme heat are people who:

- Live alone or are socially isolated.
- Are over 65 years of age.
- Are materially or socially deprived.
- Live with a disability or reduced mobility.
- Have a cognitive impairment.
- Are chronically ill.
- Work outdoors or in hot environments.
- Live with mental illness.
- Are infants, young children or are pregnant.
- Use substances.
- Take certain prescribed medications (your health care professional will let you know if you're medications put you at additional risk).



In our region, a *Heat Warning* will be issued when the daytime high/ nighttime low/ daytime high temperatures are forecast to be 29°C/ 16°C/ 29°C.

An *Extreme Heat Emergency* will be declared when *Heat Warning* criteria have been met and temperatures are forecast to continue increasing for three or more consecutive days.

Many of us can't have a temperature-controlled home and will have to make plans ahead of summer to provide a cool space for refuge during the day and night. Here are some easy steps you can take to keep the interior temperature down in your home:

- Shade windows from the inside by 10am each day. Anything to stop the sun entering the window will work.
- Open windows at night if the exterior temperature is cooler than the interior temperature.
- Close windows during the day.
- Track interior temperature by using an easy-to-read digital thermometer.
- Set up a sleeping area in the coolest part of the house.
- Avoid using heat-generating devices such as electronics, appliances, non-LED lights
- Stay in touch with vulnerable family members and neighbours. Check in on each other and provide resources.
- Make use of community cooling spaces during the day. These will be listed on the [BC Emergency Map](#) and on our social media sites.
- Be aware of the signs of heat related illness and have a plan to respond if you notice them.

**Extreme Heat Event
Health Checklist**



Have a look at the [BC Hydro Free Air Conditioner program](#). The offer is open to households who meet the income qualification or who have received a recommendation letter from their regional health authority's Home Care Program.

Emergency Management Grants for our Communities

We are pleased to announce Emergency Management Oceanside has been awarded two grants from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, managed by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. A \$60,000 grant was awarded to further the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program, while a \$59,000 grant was awarded to advance the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training and supplies for the region.

The ESS grant will be managed by the Town of Qualicum Beach and will provide 100% funding for the following projects:

- Safety supplies including headlamps and reflective jackets for all ESS volunteers.
- Full-scale ESS exercise.
- Additional technology needed to continue the switchover to the new digital Evacuation Registration Assistance system.
- Airfare, accommodation and registration for three volunteers to join the provincial ESS conference in Kelowna.
- Supplies to increase our group lodging capacity.
- Supplies to augment the pet response trailer.
- ESS training.

The EOC grant will be managed by the City of Parksville and will provide 100% funding for the following:

- Three-part EOC exercise program focusing on multi-community response to a wildfire in the region.
- Incident Command System 200 training for municipal staff who may play a supervisory role in an EOC.
- Digital whiteboard for the regional EOC.
- Emergency radio communications equipment.
- EOC colour coded vests to provide additional supplies for a regional emergency response.

We look forward to getting started on the new projects and sharing updates with you as we continue our regional training and preparation.

Voyent Alert! Test on May 7

If you are registered to receive Voyent Alert! notifications you should have received a test notification on Tuesday, May 7 at 7 pm. If you didn't receive the notification you may want to investigate your phone settings. Here is a [help sheet](#) about setting up Voyent Alert! to override your do-not-disturb.

There's also a [helpful video](#) about turning off the "Offload unused app" mode on iPhone, and "Deep Sleep" mode on Android.

Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca or 250 954-4672 or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com if you have questions, comments or feedback about the notification, or about the system or registration process.

It is always a good time to sign up for Voyent Alert! Registration is free. Go to [Voyent Alert! \(voyent-alert.com\)](http://VoyentAlert!(voyent-alert.com)) to sign up today.

Volunteer with EMO

We need you! 2024 is shaping up to be an exciting year for our EMO volunteers. We have many plans for training, exercises and collaboration with our partner organizations. If you are interested in joining either the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or the Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), contact emergencyprogram@parksville.ca



Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn't necessary as we provide all of the training you will need.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open from 8.30 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

Email gbtown@qualicumbeach.com
Phone 250 752-6921
Mail PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7

qualicumbeach.com gbfirerescue.com

City of Parksville

City offices are open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm and the operations department from 8 am to 4 pm, closed noon to 1 pm. Contact information:

General inquiries, planning and finance departments	250 248-6144; info@parksville.ca
Administration and Office of the Mayor	250 954-3060; administration@parksville.ca
Engineering	250 951-2484; engineering@parksville.ca
Operations	250 248-5412; ops@parksville.ca
Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242; fire@parksville.ca

parksville.ca letstalkparksville.ca

For more information:

Kate Pocock, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Parksville
kpocock@parksville.ca

Shinjini Mehta, Climate Action and Emergency Program Coordinator, Town of Qualicum Beach
smehta@qualicumbeach.com

