



City of Parksville

it's your City!

January 16, 2018

parksville.ca

## Looking for a Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity? Consider becoming a VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department is now recruiting for the spring class. On-call volunteer firefighters are the backbone of fire and rescue operations in the Parksville area and we hope you will consider being part of this 75 year tradition for Parksville.

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department is entrusted to protect the community and firefighters are crucial to the City's capacity to respond to emergencies. The department responds to about 500 calls per year ranging from structure to grass fires, from rescues and auto extrication to backup for emergency health services. The PVFD also responds to burning complaints and reports of hazardous situations along with a variety of public service requests.

You need to live in the Parksville fire protection area (ideally within City boundaries), be reasonably fit, available for weekly fire practices, have a good driving record and between the ages of 19 and 60 for regular members. As a volunteer firefighter you will be trained, you will be challenged and your life will change.

**Pride • Courage • Passion • Teamwork**

## City Services

### Clearing of Sidewalks



Perhaps the worst of our winter weather is over; however, in the event we receive another snowfall, it is important for residents to understand clearing of sidewalks is the responsibility of property owners.

The City performs other snow clearing duties such as the fire department access and lot, Parksville Community and Conference Centre access and lot, Parksville Civic and Technology Centre access and lot and other City

parking lots as required. This is currently being undertaken by parks staff, while utilities staff are employed clearing catch-basins to address potential flooding issues as a result of high water volumes. It is the responsibility of property owners to clear catch-basins adjacent to their properties.

Snow clearing from sidewalks is also the responsibility of the adjacent property owners who are required to ensure snow removed from the sidewalks is not deposited on the adjoining roadway. During periods of heavy snowfall, in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic, adjacent to City-owned property, City crews will support public sidewalk clearing through use of snow blowers and other snow removal equipment only as availability of equipment and personnel allow.

Questions about the snow and ice control program should be directed to operations department, 250 248-5412, during regular office hours. [Quicklink/Winter Conditions]

### Water Main Flushing

The City's annual water main flushing program starts on February 13 and will run through the first week in April. Flushing is an important part of our ongoing maintenance program to ensure the integrity of the water supply system. Flushing will occur mainly between 7 am and 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday. During these times, residents can expect some discoloration of water and intermittent drops in water pressure and should keep a fresh supply of drinking water in your fridge. Check for discoloration of water before doing laundry and should water be discoloured, run an outside tap (after 3:30 pm) until the water runs clear. Please direct questions to 250 248-5412.



### Application deadline is March 2 at 4 pm.

To find out if firefighting is in your future, stop by the Parksville Fire Department at 160 Jensen Avenue West, call 250 248-3242 or see the department's website [pvfd.ca] for more details.

## Things to Know

- **Business licences** dues for 2018 are due by January 31 and may be mailed or paid at City Hall. Bylaw 1483 requires all businesses obtain a valid licence if carrying on business in the City. [Business/Licences].
- **Dog licences** for 2018 are also due by January 31 and may be purchased from City Hall and the BC SPCA. If paid by January 31 - \$20 for spayed/neutered and \$30 for not spayed/neutered. If licence fees are paid after January 31, the cost is \$25 for spayed/neutered and \$35 for not spayed/neutered.
- The provisional **2018 Budget and 2018-2022 Financial Plan** was approved by Council in December. The City's finance team will now finalize the 2018-2022 Final Financial Plan with Council budget deliberation meetings to be held in late March or early April.
- **Residential family water rates** - large families with five or more immediate family members consisting of parents and dependent children less than 18 years of age may qualify for modified water rates. Application deadline is February 23 at 4 pm. Information and application forms may be obtained from City Hall and from the website [Residents/Utility Billing].
- The Parksville Lions Club and Rotary Club of Parksville AM will host **St Paddy's Casino Splash** on Saturday, March 17 to raise funds for the new splash park to be located in the Community Park. The event to be held at Parksville Chrysler will feature a fun casino, music, appetizers and live auction. Tickets cost \$60 (\$75 at the door). More info soon.

### 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 applicants. Deadline is 4 pm, March 1. Information on this program, the policy, application and instructions may be obtained at City Hall or from the website [Mayor and Council/Grant-in-Aid Applications].

### Understanding Your Property Assessment

Parksville property owners recently received their 2018 assessment notices. Property assessments are announced on an annual basis and the 2018 assessments are based on market values at July 1, 2017. The average assessment increase for residential properties in the City of Parksville was 17.67%.

We encourage property owners to visit [valuebc.bcassessment.ca] to search your property, compare assessments and review recent sales of nearby properties to determine if your assessment is reasonable. The deadline to appeal your 2018 assessment through BC Assessment is January 31. Questions or concerns about your assessment should be directed to BC Assessment at 1 866 825-8322.

Increases in your property assessment do not mean your 2018 property tax bill will increase by the same amount. If your assessment increase is the same as the average increase for the City of Parksville then the City's portion of your property taxes will rise by only the amount of the tax increase to be set by Council for 2018. Council budget deliberation meetings will be held in March.

### Beach Closures to Dogs



Our beaches are popular spots for migrating Brant geese, vulnerable to disturbances and for this reason, Parksville beaches will close to dogs both on-leash and off-leash. Please note for the Parksville beaches within the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area - Rathrevor Beach will close to dogs from February 15 to April 15 and the Parksville Bay beach will be closed to dogs from March 1 to April 30. The

PQBWMA also have regulations in place that dogs must be on leash year round within the PQBWMA.

## City Dates

January 18	Coffee with Council
January 25	Coffee with Council
February 1	Coffee with Council
February 5	Council Meeting
February 8	Coffee with Council
February 8	Advisory Design Panel
February 12	Family Day (offices closed)
February 15	Coffee with Council
February 19	Council Meeting
February 22	Coffee with Council
March 1	Coffee with Council
March 5	Council Meeting

The public is encouraged to attend Council meetings held on the first and third Mondays of the month and may observe advisory committee meetings. Refer to the website for agendas, meeting highlights and minutes.

## How To Reach Council

### MAYOR

Marc Lefebvre ..... 250 954-4661

### COUNCILLORS

Mary Beil..... 250 927-4097  
 Kim Burden ..... 250 951-6420  
 Kirk Oates ..... 250 802-2059  
 Teresa Patterson ..... 250 954-9488  
 Sue Powell..... 250 954-3070  
 Leanne Salter..... 250 248-8097

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**It's Your City is published in the PQB News on the third Tuesday of the month with a copy on the City's website. We are committed to improving communications with our residents and you can help by providing your comments and suggestions to 250 954-3073 or communications@parksville.ca.**