

## BC'S RESTART: A PLAN TO BRING US BACK TOGETHER



### BC's Restart Reopening Plan

On May 25, the province laid out a four-step reopening plan that could see us slowly return to normal as the number of vaccinations rise and the number of cases drop. While these are approximate dates, the plan will be guided by data, not dates, and will not proceed to the next step until it is safe to do so based on guidance from public health and the latest available data. Please refer to the government's [restart program](#) for details as well as information about steps 3 and 4. Thank you for continuing to do your part to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

For **Step 1 and Step 2**, restaurants, bars, and pubs, as well as indoor fitness facilities, return to the safety protocols that were in place prior to the circuit breaker restrictions. For other sectors, existing safety protocols remain in place for Step 1 and Step 2, including existing safety protocols at schools and daycares.

#### Step 1 - May 25

For now, outdoor social gatherings will continue to be limited to ten. Indoor social gatherings with up to five visitors or one other household are now allowed. In terms of organized gatherings, indoor up to ten people seated or 50 people seated outdoors (with a COVID safety plan in place) will be allowed. Current non-essential travel restrictions between the three health regions continue. Sports teams can play games outside and restaurant dining can now occur indoors in groups of six.

- Maximum of five visitors or one household allowed for indoor personal gatherings.
- Maximum of 10 people for outdoor personal gatherings.
- Maximum of 50 people for seated outdoor organized gatherings with safety protocols; examples include wedding ceremonies and funerals.
- Recreational travel only **within** travel region (travel restrictions between regions extended); hotels and other accommodation providers are encouraged to welcome guests from inside their region.
- Indoor and outdoor dining for up to six people with safety protocols (see below).
- Resume outdoor sports (games) with **no** spectators, and low-intensity fitness with safety protocols.
- Start gradual return to workplace.
- Return of indoor in-person faith-based gatherings (reduced capacity) based on consultation with public health.

## Step 2 - Mid-June (June 15 earliest date)

Tentatively scheduled for June 15, once 65% of BC is vaccinated and if hospitalizations drop, outdoor social gatherings of up to 50 people and playdates will be allowed. Indoor gatherings remain at five visitors or one other household. For organized gatherings, indoor up to 50 people seated will be allowed indoors (with a COVID safety plan). If case numbers continue to drop while vaccination rates go up, health officials indicated travel restrictions will be lifted.

- Maximum 50 people for outdoor social gatherings
- Maximum 50 people for seated indoor organized gatherings (banquet halls, movie theatres, live theatre) with safety protocols
- No BC travel restrictions; check local travel advisories; hotels and other accommodation providers may accept guests from throughout the province
- Indoor sports (games) and high-intensity fitness with safety protocols
- Spectators for outdoor sports (50 maximum)



## COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Everyone aged 12 years or older can make a vaccination appointment. Register online or phone; your confirmation number will be used to book an appointment. Please refer to [Island Health's website](#) for information or call 1 833 838-2323 to book an appointment.

The golden rules apply to every person and every situation right now – even after you are vaccinated. Thank you for keeping our communities safe. Please consider that after dose one, it takes two to three weeks to become better protected and after that, there's still a small risk of transmitting the virus to others.



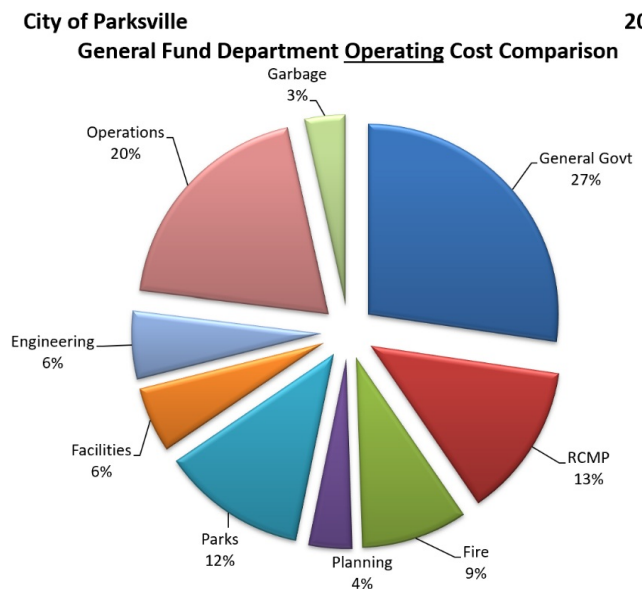
## City Services

### City Delivers Balanced Budget, Penalty Date Extended

At the May 3 meeting, Council adopted the 2021-2025 financial plan bylaw and extended the property tax penalty for late payments to October 1 from July 3. This provides support to Parksville taxpayers financially impacted by COVID-19.

Council set the overall property tax increase

for 2021 at 3.5% for all classes except Class 5 Light Industry which was set at 10.8% to bring this rate in line with the business property class rate. Of the 3.5% increase for 2021, Council directed that .5% be set aside into a capital reserve for future capital replacements. The property tax rate increase will increase the municipal portion of the property taxes by about \$56 from 2020 for the average priced residential property. For the average residential property, the RDN wastewater charge will increase by about \$3 and the Regional Hospital District tax will increase by \$26 (34%). The RDN's taxes will decrease by \$11. The school tax decreased by about \$8. Full release may be read [here](#).



## New Home Owner Grant Application Process in 2021

The province has changed the home owner grant application process and starting with 2021 property taxes, municipalities no longer accept home owner grant applications. All eligible homeowners can now apply for their home owner grant either online or by telephone directly with the Province of BC. Property owners will need their property tax notice or assessment notice to apply.

- Online at [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) - for all grants
- By telephone using automated self-service system at **1 888 355-2700 (option 3)** for regular and senior grants (available 24 hours per day)
- By telephone with help from agent **1 888 355-2700** (Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm)

The following information will be required to complete the home owner grant application:

- Jurisdiction number for the City of Parksville: **559**
- Roll number as shown on City of Parksville property tax notice or BC Assessment notice of assessment
- Social insurance number of property owner

Program eligibility is unchanged; however, to avoid penalties and interest, apply before September 30, 2021. A payment is not required to claim the grant. Property owners can request help from a family member or friend to assist with the application. You will be able to check the status of your application by using your application confirmation number.

## Reminder - No Open Burning or Fireworks

Parksville Fire Rescue wishes to remind residents of the Parksville Fire Protection Area that all open burning and outdoor fires, excluding cooking fires, are prohibited at this time. The department also wishes to remind residents beach fires in the Parksville Qualicum Wildlife Management are always prohibited by provincial legislation. At this time, campfires are allowed.

### ***Fireworks are prohibited***

As well, fireworks are banned in the City of Parksville as is the sale of any type of fireworks. A person must not fire or discharge fireworks unless authorized by a permit (permits are only issued to applicants with a fireworks supervisor and/or pyrotechnics certification card as issued by Natural Resources Canada). The City's burning bylaw may be viewed [here](#).



**Reporting should be as follows:**

Fire emergency (threat to lives and/or property)	911
Open fire in the Parksville Fire Protection Area	250 248-3242
Beach fires (RAPP line)	1 877 952-7277
Fireworks	RCMP

**City Receives Funding for New Childcare Spaces at PCC**

Families in Parksville and region will soon have access to 91 new licensed childcare spaces in the Parksville Community Centre for a minimum of fifteen years. Last week, the Province of BC announced the City was awarded a grant for \$2,034,829 to complete significant renovations to

the Parksville Community Centre to facilitate the new childcare spaces and community programming. Additional info on our [website](#).

**Boulevard and Sidewalk Maintenance**

Well maintained boulevards add character to neighbourhoods and enhance community pride. Residents, property owners and business operators are responsible for the maintenance and care of the City boulevard next to their property. This includes cutting the grass, trimming hedges and shrubs and keeping clear of weeds and litter.

The boulevard is the area between your property line and the street curb or shoulder which may or may not include a sidewalk. In the bylaw, "boulevard" means the area of a highway between the edge of pavement, sidewalk, and/or curb of the roadway and the adjacent property line but excludes a sidewalk.

As detailed in the City's Traffic Bylaw No. 1436, in keeping with a reasonable standard of maintenance, property owners must maintain the boulevard adjoining their property:

- Keep grassed areas trimmed and free of all weeds
- Trim and maintain all plantings
- Remove all filth, leaves, rubbish, discarded materials, hazardous objects and materials from boulevards and sidewalks

Please note, failure to maintain boulevards may result in enforcement action from City bylaw officers. Questions should be directed to bylaw compliance at [bylaw@parksville.ca](mailto:bylaw@parksville.ca).

## Things to Know...

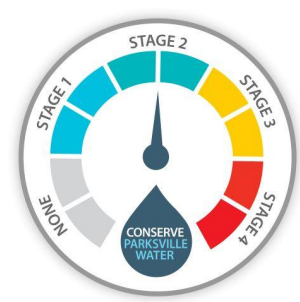
**Members for Advisory Technical Working Group**

We are seeking qualified individuals to apply for consideration of appointment to the Advisory Technical Working Group to assist the public and Council with the review of complex reports on the condition of the proposed location of a new aquatic and community recreation centre. The group will review technical aspects of the design, construction and operation of the project and provide neutral expert advice on the recommendations contained in the consultant reports. Deadline to apply is 3 pm, May 28. [Terms of reference and more info](#)

**Water Restriction Stage 2**

Stage 2 watering restrictions are now in effect through September 30 (unless otherwise notified). Stage 2 allows for every other day lawn watering between 7 and 10 am or 7 and 10 pm for a maximum of two hours. Please note vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from

all watering restrictions. Information was mailed to residents with utility notices in March. Please direct questions to [ops@parksville.ca](mailto:ops@parksville.ca) or refer to the [website](#).



## Permissive Tax Exemptions

Under the provisions of the *Community Charter*, Council may exempt land and/or improvements from municipal property taxes for the next calendar year, subject to certain requirements which in general, restrict exemption to non-profit organizations using the lands for specific non-profit purposes. Application deadline is noon, June 30. Details, form and policy may be obtained from City Hall or from the [website](#).

## Control of Non-native Species

Invasive plant species are concerning to the City. Many invasive plant species thrive in our mild climate and can displace our native species. Since 2015, Council has funded a budget for the control of invasive plants in our community, primarily focusing on Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. If you know of locations of these plants within the City, please contact the Coastal ISC regional hotline at 1 844 298-2532.

## Chesapeake Shores Filming in Parksville Community Park

Chesapeake Shores will be filming in the Parksville Community Park with activities Thursday, May 27 through Saturday, May 29. Filming will take place throughout the park, along the waterfront walkway, at the gazebo and on Salish Sea Drive near the curling rink. While setting up and filming, small sections of parking will be coned off and on May 28, visitors to the park should expect intermittent road detours. As usual, Chesapeake Shores will have traffic control personnel on site and there will be signage posted at the entrance to the park.



## Reminder to Complete Census 2021

The census is one of the most important sources of information for our country. Census data is vital to communities across the country for planning schools, daycare, housing, hospital emergency services, roads, public transportation, and employment skills training. By filling out your census

questionnaire, you are helping to shape your community and support important decision making which affects all Canadians. It's easy and can be done [online](#).

## City Services During COVID-19

City in-person services during the COVID-19 pandemic are limited to tickets/licence fee payments, purchase of bus passes, dog licences and building permits, with all other City business by appointment and no walk-in services. We encourage residents to access services electronically and information about our payment options is available on our [website](#).

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 COVID-19 resources are provided for our residents at [Let's Talk Parksville](#).

## Important Dates

June 1

AWS and ERWS Management Board Meetings

June 3	Parks and Open Spaces
June 7	Council Meeting
June 21	Council Meeting
July 1	Canada Day (offices closed)
July 5	Council Meeting

For more information on these meetings, please refer to the [City calendar](#).

**For more information:**

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications

[dtardiff@parksville.ca](mailto:dtardiff@parksville.ca); 250 954-3073

[parksville.ca](http://parksville.ca) | [letstalkparksville.ca](http://letstalkparksville.ca)

