

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR STAPLES

I am writing this from one of my COVID-19 office spaces, the corner of my kitchen table, on the day after the newest Provincial Health Orders were put in place by Dr. Bonnie Henry.

I've taken some time to reflect on the past few months, since mid-March when this pandemic began. I remember the hundreds of updates, emails, emergency meetings, and briefings as the impacts of the pandemic began to filter in. These impacts have been unique to each of us, yet in some ways shared in the sense that we are all affected; all our lives changed and the future for all of us is uncertain. Dr. Bonnie Henry became a household name and, "Be kind, be calm, be safe", became a reminder as we moved through fear and uncertainty.

I remember how everyone rallied together to ensure people were fed, how we sheltered those we could, and reached out to others who were isolated or vulnerable to make sure they had access to the supplies and connections they needed.

Businesses and services had to develop and adapt, reinventing themselves in many ways as days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months. People lined up on the streets and in the doorways each night at 7:00 p.m. to cheer for essential workers who were put on high alert for what was to come. Here on the Island, as the initial response began to subside, we put away our pots and pans, took a breath, went outside, and made the best of an Island summer.

After five months, kids returned to schools, leaves began to fall, the rain came, and we moved back indoors as the second wave rolled in. And then Friday, November 20th, a new announcement arrived, bringing with it another surge of uncertainty, concerns, fears, and frustrations. "Be kind, be calm, be safe" can feel hard to hold onto, making it even more important to do so. I keep reflecting on the words of a recent State of the Island Economic Forum keynote speaker, Kate O'Neill, who was one of the first 100 employees at Netflix and is a recognized leader in her field of business innovation and guiding business leaders. Her words have been rolling through my mind, words I believe are worth coming back to as we move through this winter:

"While there is loss, there are and will be, new opportunities and how we should solve human problems at scale, and how important it is to localize. That we just have to look around our own communities for examples of how some businesses and people are thriving and working together in ways that would have been unimaginable just a few months ago.

We all have to continue to find creative ways to ensure we have connection and that it doesn't help to speak to everything in shades of either dystopia (a community or society that is undesirable or frightening) or utopia (an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect).

We need to think of the future as uncertain and recognize that every day we are each making the choices that are creating the future of how we will live, and of the world our children will inherit so, we must choose wisely."

I know these next months will not be easy. After living and working in this community for over 28 years, I have also come to know, despite what social media might try to make us believe, we are a community who shows up for each other, time and time again, who demonstrates generosity, and who chooses kindness. We have thousands of stories to prove this and, together, we can create thousands more. Take care of everyone.

~ Michelle Staples, Mayor

I love my community

So I wear a mask to help keep them safe



Michelle Staples - Mayor of Duncan

#MaskingIsLeadership

CITY COVID-19 UPDATE

The Provincial Medical Health Officer's messaging continues to be clear: social distancing measures (6 feet/2 metres apart), frequent hand washing, and wearing a mask will help to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are sick, please stay home.

- Wearing a non-medical, cloth mask, is now required in all indoor public spaces, and on public transportation. People who cannot wear a mask or who cannot put on or remove a mask on their own are exempt.
- The Duncan Farmers' Market will host an additional market on Sunday, December 13th for citizens to be able to stock up on essentials for the holiday season.
- The Annual Christmas fireworks display has been cancelled. However, the City and the Downtown Duncan Business Improvement Area have been busy decorating City streets with holiday spirit. Many businesses have also decorated their front windows with cheer, and are ready to assist you safely with your holiday shopping. Now is the time to stay in the region and support local businesses.
- City Hall is open to the public for payments only. For general inquiries, please email: duncan@duncan.ca or phone: 250-746-6126
- Public Works is closed to the public. For general inquiries, please email: public@duncan.ca or phone: 250-746-5321

Comments, questions, or concerns?

Visit www.duncan.ca | Phone 250-746-6126 | Email duncan@duncan.ca

CITY OF DUNCAN 2020 AWARDS

Annually, the City of Duncan presents awards to citizens who demonstrate excellence in the fields of art, sport, and long-term service to the community. On December 7, 2020, at 6:00 pm the City will host the annual awards online. To watch the following awards be presented, please visit:

<https://duncan.civicweb.net/Portal/Video.aspx>

Duncan Volunteer Fire Hall swearing in:

- Wray Watson, Deputy Chief
- Leanne Closson, Assistant Chief
- Warren Ruiters, Captain

- The Perpetual Arts Trophy to Alex Gallacher
- The Perpetual Trophy for Excellence & Sportsmanship to Tom Veenstra

Congratulations to the award recipients, and thank you for your contribution to the betterment of the Cowichan Valley.

BETTER HOMES BC REBATE PROGRAM

The Clean BC Better Homes program offered by the Provincial Government provides rebates for homeowners upgrading their space and water heating systems, completing energy assessments, or improving the energy efficiency of their homes. Double rebates are being offered, for select upgrades, if you register before December 31, 2020 and complete upgrades by March 31, 2021.

Starting in January 2021, the City will contribute additional "top-up" incentives for homeowners within the City of Duncan. Please visit www.betterhomesbc.ca for more information on available rebates.

2021 BUDGET TALKS ARE IN SESSION!

Council has been reviewing the 2021 budget and now wants to hear from you about the City of Duncan's 2021 budget. Please visit PlaceSpeak to participate online:

[Placespeak.com/duncanbudget2021](https://placespeak.com/duncanbudget2021)

OUTSTANDING UTILITY LEVIES

Please pay your utility bill, and ensure your payment has been received by the City no later than December 31, 2020. Any outstanding balance on a utility bill as at December 31, 2020, will be transferred to the property tax account and will incur daily interest starting January 1, 2021. Questions? Please email utilities@duncan.ca

CITY OF DUNCAN ANNUAL FOOD & TOY DRIVE DECEMBER 7-10, 2020

The Public Works crew will be picking up donations of non-perishable food items and/or new unwrapped toys for the local foodbank again this year.

Please place your donations, clearly marked **FOOD/TOY DRIVE**, curbside on your scheduled garbage collection day for the week of December 7-10, 2020, or call Public Works at 250-746-5321 to arrange to have your donation picked up during regular hours.

Please note, we are unable to accept in-person donations at City Hall or the Public Works Yard due to COVID-19 restrictions.

CITY OF DUNCAN HOLIDAY HOURS 2020/2021

City Hall – 200 Craig Street

- December 24 Closing at 2:00 pm
- December 25 Closed
- December 28 – January 1 Closed

Public Works – 1091 Marchmont Road

- December 24 Closing at 2:00 pm
- December 25 Closed
- January 1 Closed

After hours Public Works, please call 250-746-7192

BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

2021 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

To comply with the Provincial Health Officer's recommendations, Duncan City Council meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. online on the following dates in 2021:

Council	
January 18	February 1
February 16 (Tues)	March 1
March 15	April 6 (Tues)*
April 19*	May 3*
May 17	June 7
June 21	July 19
August 16	Sept 7 (Tues)
October 4	October 18
November 1	November 15
December 6**	December 20

*2021 Budget Sessions **Annual Awards

Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings will be scheduled as needed and held with limited in-person attendance. Members of the public may pre-register to attend the meeting (max. 4 individuals) by contacting the Acting Director of Corporate Services.

2022 Budget COW meetings are scheduled for noon on October 15 and October 29, 2021.

To view Council and COW agendas, minutes, and live stream/recorded meeting videos, please visit the CivicWeb Portal: duncan.civicweb.net/Portal/

To register to attend COW meetings or submit questions regarding Council or COW agenda items, please contact the Acting Director of Corporate Services at monika@duncan.ca or 250-746-6126. Questions will be answered during the time allotted for question period.

NOTE: Meeting dates are subject to change and special meetings are scheduled as needed.

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

The City is pleased to announce the Automatic Payment Plan is now available to all customers who receive City of Duncan water bills. This optional payment plan automatically withdraws the balance of your bill from your bank account on the bill due date. You will continue to receive a copy of your bill before the due date so you can review it before the payment is withdrawn.

To sign up, download the Automatic Payment form from the City's website at www.duncan.ca and email it to utilities@duncan.ca



BUSINESS AND DOG LICENCE REMINDER

Business Licence and Dog Licence invoices will be mailed out by the end of November. If your business has changed or closed, or you no longer have your dog or have moved, please let City Hall know.

Phone: 250-746-6126 | Email: finance@duncan.ca