



Beneath the Clocktower

Your Insight into Issues and Events at Duncan City Hall

March 2021

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR STAPLES

It is so hard to believe it has almost been a year since this pandemic began. We have all been tested in ways we could not have imagined; our lives have been forever changed. While we are all in this together, we are all also experiencing the effects of the pandemic very differently.

These past few months brought a second wave at a great cost to our community. In January, when Cowichan Tribes began to share their COVID data with the community, we saw an ugly side of our region try to take hold of the conversation with unacceptable racist comments and behaviours towards the people whose territory we all call home. Others responded using their voices to stand up, speak out, educate, and find ways to offer support. Cowichan Tribes demonstrated leadership responding in a way that all levels of government should look to emulate. They put people first, took care of the elders in the community and worked to keep everyone safe. We are so sorry for the lives that have been lost in just eight weeks; we will continue to walk beside you and stand with you.

To everyone in our City and region who has had COVID, who have lost loved ones, we offer our condolences.

As we move into the Spring, the City is beginning a year-long process of updating our Official Community Plan (OCP). It is time for all of us to reflect on the past year, and ask what do we value? Where do we struggle? Let us begin to reimagine the world we want to create as we move forward. What do we want to see more of in our neighbourhoods, in our business communities, in our relationships with our neighbors and in our City? What do we want the City to look like as we move into the future and how do we get there?

As we go through this process of planning for our future, there are many factors we consider in the OCP planning processes; economy, environment, safety, housing, growth, cultural and transportation needs to name a few. While these categories still apply, after this past year, the understanding, and the value they represent to us has changed. Things like what it means to “support a local or circular economy” for instance, have taken on a deeper meaning as people have witnessed the difference their spending habits have to the success of a local economy. We have begun to re-establish how important small and medium sized businesses are to a thriving community. The Station Street Commons downtown last summer and people having picnics in City parks created a sense of community and vibrancy even in a time of separation. How do we build on this for the future?

Our relationships to our outdoor spaces are more connected now than ever; whether it is access to parks, walking and biking trails, healthy eco-systems, water, outdoor gathering spaces, community gardens, or sidewalks, and we recognize their importance and value within our City. How do we add to and improve what we have?

These are just a couple of examples that Council and staff are excited to begin and consult with each one of you on. The number one thing we have all learned through the past year is that whatever we do, the outcome is always better when we work together and take care of each other.

If you have questions or comments, please ask me anything by email, phone, or text. ~ Michelle Staples, Mayor

Email: mayor@duncan.ca or Phone: 250-466-9412

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

City of Duncan water system users please be advised that the City is conducting annual water main flushing from mid-April to the end of May.

This program is intended to clean water distribution pipes of sediment that build up over time. Annually each spring, water is flushed through the water pipe system and out a fire hydrant.

Any chlorine taste or discolouration of water during this time, can be resolved by running a cold-water tap.

To find out about specific flushing dates, please contact Public Works at 250-746-5321.



2021 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

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

March 15	May 17	Aug. 16	Nov. 1
April 6 (Tues)*	June 7	Sept. 7 (Tues)	Nov. 15
April 19	June 21	Oct. 4	Dec. 6**
May 3	July 19	Oct. 18	Dec. 20

* 2021 CoW Budget Session ** Annual Awards

Committee of the Whole (CoW) meetings will be scheduled as needed and held electronically.

2022 Budget CoW meetings will be 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 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. To view agendas and minutes please visit www.duncan.ca

Comments, questions, or concerns?

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

COMPOST PICK-UP

Please put your compost out by 7:00 a.m. the morning of your pickup to ensure it does not freeze in the bin overnight. This allows crew members to lift the bins, dump it all out, and ensure that they are empty.

YARD WASTE & GLASS PICK-UP REMINDER

Yard waste and glass are collected by a contractor on the first collection day of each month (**March to December; No collection in January or February**). The following can be placed at the curb starting in March:

YARD WASTE

- Up to ten (10) compostable bags or reusable bins of yard waste no larger than 77L and weighing no more than 50lbs/22kg each.

STICKS

- Up to two (2) bundles of sticks no longer than 3 feet and no larger than 2 inches in diameter. Bundles of sticks must be tied with cotton string and not exceed 50lbs/22kg in weight.

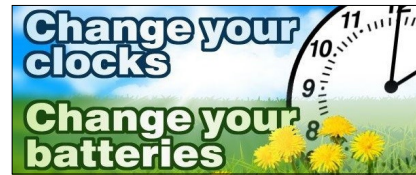
GLASS

- Unlimited glass. Glass must be unbroken, clean, and contained in a bin.

Residents can also dispose of yard waste, soft plastics, and glass for free at the Bings Creek Transfer Station, year round. For more information, please contact Bings Creek Transfer Station at 250-746-2540.

SMOKE DETECTORS & DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

A good time to check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, as well as change the batteries, is when you change your clocks twice a year. Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14, 2021.



SELF-GUIDED TOTEM TOUR

Have you toured the totem poles in Duncan? Proudly living up to the name "*The City of Totems*", there are 38 beautifully carved totems outside, around the City. With rich history behind each totem, it is a "Must See". Embark on a journey of culture and history by following the yellow footprints and start the self-guided walking tour or take a virtual tour with the interactive map.

Please visit: <https://duncan.ca/visitors/totems-tour>

Note: Two totem poles are located within City Hall and unavailable for public viewing at this time.

2021 BUDGET

Have your say on the proposed City of Duncan 2021 Budget.

- **April 6, 12:00 p.m.:** Committee of the Whole meeting to review draft tax rates.
- **April 8 - 15:** Public input sought on the draft tax rates.

Please provide input through PlaceSpeak at:

<https://www.placespeak.com/topic/6406>

If you have any questions regarding the draft 2021 budget, please contact our Director of Finance.

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

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP)

The City has awarded Urban Systems the contract for the OCP Review and Transportation & Mobility Strategy. Opportunities to contribute to the community engagement, including participation on an OCP Steering Committee and public workshops will be advertised in the coming weeks. Please check the City website regularly for updates or contact the Planning Department for more information.

Email: developmentsservices@duncan.ca

Phone: 250-746-6126

GRAFFITI PROGRAM & FAÇADE PROGRAM

Council gave early budget approval for the start-up of a city-wide Graffiti Removal Pilot Program for property owners, and a city-wide Business Façade Improvement Program. Each program is currently being developed, and will be available late spring. Please check the City website for updates on both programs at www.duncan.ca



GO PAPERLESS!

Sign up for e-billing to get your next utility bill delivered to your inbox. Send us an email to utilities@duncan.ca indicating your account number and address.

CITY COVID-19 UPDATE

The City continues to follow the Provincial Medical Health Officer's orders which are 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 mandatory 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 should wear a face shield or other personal protective equipment.
- The Duncan Farmers' Market remains open on Saturday's from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., with COVID-19 protocols in place. Masks are strongly encouraged.
- Many businesses are open and ready to assist you safely with your shopping or service. Now is the time to stay in the region and support local businesses.
- City Hall is open to the public for payments only. For inquiries, please email: duncan@duncan.ca or phone: 250-746-6126
- Public Works is closed to the public. For inquiries, please email public@duncan.ca or phone 250-746-5321