

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR STAPLES

As 2023 ends, I hold both hope and uncertainty about what the next year will bring.

Looking back on some highlights, we’ve had a number of new businesses join our community and new murals brighten our downtown core, sharing stories of truth, resilience, and beauty. We’ve also been able to share in the success of The Village on Trunk Road, with its collaborative peer driven model that creates safe accommodation for some of the most vulnerable in our community, as this model has begun to be replicated across BC.

Despite these and other successes, moving into 2024 there remain concerns and challenges for us to meet. Among them are the increasingly severe impacts of seasonal drought, continued rising cost of living, growing housing challenges, and the tragic impacts of the opioid crisis. While many of these issues are outside the jurisdiction and control of local government, they directly impact our daily lives and come up in many forms for discussion at our Council table and we continue to be advocates of long-term solutions for our community.

And at the same time, there are exciting milestones ahead, including consideration of our new Official Community Plan, which has undergone extensive public consultation and received valuable direction from our OCP Advisory Committee. With this in place, the City will work from an updated plan that reflects our community’s vision and guides decision on things like housing affordability, development, supports for businesses, and climate change.

While we know there are clearly uncertainties ahead, there will also be countless opportunities. Working together is how we will meet whatever comes our way in 2024, and we will do so with the commitment, optimism, and courage required. I hope this holiday season brings with it peace to each of your homes and all of our hearts.



2023/2024 CITY OF DUNCAN HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Hall – 200 Craig Street

December 25 – January 1

Public Works – 1091 Marchmont Road

December 25—26 and January 1

For after-hours Public Works emergencies, please call 250-746-7192.

2024 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Duncan City Council will meet at 6:00 pm in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on the following dates in 2024:

Council		Budget Sessions*
January 15	February 5	January 26: 2024 Budget, COW (Noon)
February 20 (Tues)	March 4	March 1: 2024 Tax Rates, COW (Noon)
April 2 (Tues)	April 15*	April 15: 2024 Tax Rates, Council
May 6*	May 21 (Tues)	May 6: 2024 Tax Rates, Council
June 3	June 17	October 18: 2025 Grants-in-Aid, COW (Noon)
July 15	August 19	November 1: 2025 Operating Budget, COW (Noon)
September 9	October 7	November 15: 2025 Capital Budget, COW (Noon)
October 21	November 4	
November 18	December 2**	
December 16		
		Key Dates**
		December 2: Annual Awards

Visit duncan.civicweb.net/portal/ to view agendas, minutes, the live-stream of current meetings or recordings of previously held meetings. Please note that meeting dates are subject to change and special meetings are scheduled as needed.

Comments, questions, or concerns?

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

2023 ANNUAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED!

The Cowichan Valley is fortunate to have many dedicated community members who go above and beyond to enrich our community and support others. Duncan City Council was very pleased to recognize the following individuals at the 2023 Annual Awards meeting on December 4:

- Janet Magdanz, Perpetual Arts Trophy
- Joe DiLalla, Perpetual Trophy for Excellence & Sportsmanship
- Susan Smith, Scroll of Honour

Congratulations to all the 2023 City of Duncan Awards recipients!



CITY OF DUNCAN ANNUAL FOOD AND TOY DRIVE

The Public Works crew will be picking up donations of non-perishable food items and/or new unwrapped toys for the local food bank again this year. Watch your mailbox for the 2024 garbage calendar and food/toy drive flyer and place your donations, clearly marked **FOOD/TOY DRIVE**, curbside on your scheduled curbside collection day between December 12-14, 2023. Alternately, call Public Works at 250-746-5321 to arrange to have your donation picked up during regular hours or drop off your donation in-person at City Hall.

WINTER SAFETY

During snow and ice conditions, the City works extra hard to maintain a safe City for all. Municipal roads are cleared on a priority basis, with arterial roadways cleared first followed by residential streets.

Residents and businesses also have a role to play. Please be a good neighbour and clear the sidewalk in front of your property after snowfall. Visit duncan.ca/winter-safety/ to learn more about how you can help us work towards a safe winter season for everyone.

BUSINESS AND DOG LICENCE REMINDER

Business and Dog Licence invoices have been mailed out. If your business information has changed, you are no longer in business, you no longer have your dog, have a new dog, or have moved, please let us know.

Licence fees can be paid online through the City's website at duncan.ca. If you have questions, please contact 250-746-6126 or licence@duncan.ca.



PAYING YOUR UTILITY BILL AND CHECKING FOR LEAKS

This is a friendly reminder that utility bill payments are due. Any outstanding balance on a utility account on December 31, 2023, will be transferred to the property tax account and will incur daily interest starting January 1, 2024.

Make paying your utility bill easy! The City has an optional Automatic Payment Plan that 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 duncan.ca and email it to utilities@duncan.ca.

This is also a great time to check your consumption pattern. Does your water use look unusually high? Visit the Water and Sewer Utilities section of our website for tips on how to check for leaks to save on future utility bills.



NEW DEFAULT SPEED LIMIT

Please be aware that Duncan will have a new default speed limit of 30 km/hr across the City, with a few exceptions at 40 km/hr along sections of Government Street, Canada Avenue, Coronation Avenue, and Trunk Road. The Trans-Canada Highway is under provincial jurisdiction and will remain at 50 km/hr. New signage will be installed on City streets in the coming weeks.

Travel speeds are a critical factor in determining the severity of a crash and whether it occurs at all. By lowering the default speed limit, the City aims to improve safety for all road users.

Watch for updates on the [City's Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cityofduncan) page or subscribe to website notifications at duncan.ca/category/news-events/ to receive the latest news on this and other City initiatives.

