

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR STAPLES

The past couple of months have taken me to a number of places, from small towns to large cities. In every one of them, I witnessed stark reminders of the homelessness and opioid crises. I also walked through beautiful parks, appreciated vibrant murals, independent storefronts, and restaurants filled with people.

As I write this, I am settled at one of my favourite coffee shops in Vancouver reviewing the 2023 Duncan Citizen Satisfaction Survey results. Like every place I have been to throughout Vancouver Island and other parts of Canada, people in Duncan are feeling the impacts of homelessness and opioid abuse.

We continue to work tirelessly with neighbouring municipalities and nations to encourage and support the Province of BC in addressing these crises. In fact, at various times I have tried to calculate the number of hours that we, City Council and staff, have spent on this work, but it has become so deeply embedded in almost every conversation we have that there is no way to come to an accurate number.

We have found incredible success in Cowichan with the Village on Trunk Road. We have evidence that it works; now we need to build on this success by getting Provincial support for this model and expanding rehabilitation and mental health support programs. The longer we have to wait, the more we will watch people we love suffer, the more funerals we will attend, and the more all of us will continue to be deeply impacted by the fallout of these crises.

We all deserve a home, a safe community, and adequate support to address our health and wellbeing. And while we continue to invest our time and resources into the above, we will also keep planting flowers, painting murals, walking in parks, gathering together for coffee and food, supporting local businesses, and caring for each other.



## DUNCAN ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

On July 17, 2023, Council endorsed its inaugural Duncan Accessibility Plan, representing our commitment to continuous improvement on the policies, practices, and built environment that impact our citizens and employees to remove and prevent barriers to full participation with our organization.

If you have an idea, or have experienced a challenge navigating our City or accessing services we provide, please let us know at [duncan@duncan.ca](mailto:duncan@duncan.ca), 250-746-6126, or join the conversation online at [bigconversations.duncan.ca/accessibility-in-the-city](https://bigconversations.duncan.ca/accessibility-in-the-city).

Also, watch for our updated Accessibility rack cards that will be distributed to local community and service organizations in the fall. If you're not online, this is another great way to share your feedback with the City on accessibility and inclusion.

## UTILITY BOX BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

The City of Duncan is on a mission to beautify Duncan's utility boxes with public art! Local artists are invited to submit their original work by October 1, 2023, for consideration. Visit [bigconversations.duncan.ca/2023-utility-box-beautification-project](https://bigconversations.duncan.ca/2023-utility-box-beautification-project) to find out how to submit your work, and watch for selected artworks on three of the utility boxes in Downtown Duncan this coming fall!



Comments, questions, or concerns?

Visit [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca) | Phone 250-746-6126 | Email [duncan@duncan.ca](mailto:duncan@duncan.ca)



## CENTENNIAL PLAY STRUCTURE

In May 2023, the popular play structure that once stood at Centennial Park was destroyed in an unfortunate act of vandalism. The site has been cleared and remediated and is now open to the public.

The City has identified 5 options for a replacement play structure. These options are available for review and public input at [bigconversations.duncan.ca/centennial-park-playground](https://bigconversations.duncan.ca/centennial-park-playground). Please let us know your thoughts!

Installation is anticipated for late 2023 or early 2024. Visit [duncan.ca](https://duncan.ca) or our Facebook page for updates.

## 2023 ANNUAL AWARDS

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their contribution to the community? The City is receiving nominations of individuals from the Cowichan Valley for the Scroll of Honour, Perpetual Arts Trophy and Perpetual Trophy for Excellence & Sportsmanship.

Visit City Hall or [duncan.ca](https://duncan.ca) for more information and a nomination form. Nominations must be received by October 1, 2023.



## HELP US LOWER OUR RECYCLING CONTAMINATION RATE

A recent audit of the City's curbside recycling collected showed the contamination rate is above the 3% required by Recycle BC. Please help us reduce our contamination rate by carefully sorting your refuse. If you have questions about what can go in curbside recycling, please contact the CVRD Recycling Hotline at 250-746-2540 or use the online Cowichan Recyclopedia at [www.cvrld.ca/2584/Recyclopedia](https://www.cvrld.ca/2584/Recyclopedia).

## CURRENT CONSTRUCTION & ROAD WORKS UPDATE

- The City is excited to be entering the detailed design and construction phase of the Station Street Placemaking Project, which will transform Station Street Common into a dynamic public space that will serve as a hub for community events, and bring enhancements to the Station Street/Craig Street crossings and immediate surrounding area. Project completion is expected in Spring 2024. Find out more about this exciting project at: [bigconversations.duncan.ca/stationstreet](https://bigconversations.duncan.ca/stationstreet).
- North Beech Avenue Renewal Project is now complete and fully open to the public. We thank the public and especially residents of Beech Ave for your patience and understanding during the construction process.
- The Municipality of North Cowichan's Canada Avenue Flood Gate Installation Project is in full swing with Canada Avenue under a temporary full road closure. The City's watermain replacement portion of this project is complete.
- Work on the University Way Water Main Crossing is underway, with anticipated completion in October. This work will reinforce water supply in the Cowichan Place area for the new Cowichan Secondary School.

## NEW SCRAMBLE CROSSING

The City of Duncan is initiating a trial scramble crossing at the intersection of Canada Avenue and Ingram Street to improve safety for all road users, particularly pedestrians.

This month, watch for new signage, road markings and signal phases at this intersection that will include a pedestrian-only phase during which vehicle traffic will be stopped at red lights in all directions. During this phase, pedestrians will be able to cross the intersection in any direction, including diagonally.

We continue to invite feedback on this initiative. Please share your experience with the trial configuration at [bigconversations.duncan.ca/pedestrian-scramble](https://bigconversations.duncan.ca/pedestrian-scramble). Here you can also learn more about scramble crossings and where they have been successful. Council will receive a report on the initiative later in the year to consider the results of the trial period and your feedback.

