



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It has been a while since my last update, with summer, fall, an election, and Christmas all passing us by since then. These times have been full of memorable moments, it has been amazing seeing people in person and I have been enjoying time reconnecting with friends, family, and the community. I am honoured to serve our community as Mayor and I am committed to working together once again!

One of our top priorities for this term is the development of a new Official Community Plan (OCP). This plan will provide a roadmap for the future growth and development of our City, ensuring that we are able to meet the needs of our residents both now and into the future. Council believes that community input is crucial to getting this plan right and, working with the OCP Advisory Committee, is excited to come together, share ideas, and build relationships that will help us move forward.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge former council member, Bob Brooke, who served his role with integrity, dedication, courage, and passion. We know Bob will stay involved in other ways and will continue to share his wisdom in the community and we wish him all the best. At the same time, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new councillor, Mike McKinlay, former City of Duncan Fire Chief and also Public Works Foreman. His skills and expertise are a valuable asset to our community and a welcome addition to the Council table.

With the return of in-person events, our parks, streets, and businesses are once again filled with people coming out to play, dance, cheer, and to support our local businesses. After postponing events for two years, I am excited to once again watch people exchanging their vows, walking across the stage at graduation, and celebrating together. I am also heartened to be able to grieve in person for people who brought so much to our communities and were taken too soon. It is our coming together and the relationships we build that form strength in the foundation required for our future.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or ideas that you would like to share with me, please do not hesitate to reach out.

~ Mayor Michelle Staples
mayor@duncan.ca | 250-466-9412

Beneath the Clocktower

Your Insight into Issues and Events at Duncan City Hall

March 2023

SMALL TOWN, BRIGHT FUTURE

CITY OF DUNCAN OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

The City is providing additional opportunities in Spring 2023 to provide feedback on the proposed new Official Community Plan (OCP), and we want to hear from you! The input you provide will be shared with Council to determine if changes are needed to the proposed new OCP before it is finalized.

You can view the proposed new OCP:

- in-person: City Hall (200 Craig Street, Duncan, BC)
- online: <https://bigconversations.duncan.ca/ocp>

To learn more about this project and stay updated:

- contact the Planning Department by phone at 250.746.6126 or email OCP@duncan.ca
- visit the website: <https://bigconversations.duncan.ca/ocp>

Attend a drop-in Community Information and Input Meeting at the Duncan Fire Hall (468 Duncan St.) to view the content, ask questions, provide feedback, and participate in facilitated table discussions:

- Tuesday, April 25th at 9:00 a.m. - noon
- Wednesday, April 26th at 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 27th at 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS vs. TAXES

In January, property assessment notices were mailed to property owners throughout the province from BC Assessment. Your assessment notice estimates the market value of your property as of July 1 of the previous year.

An increase in your assessment does not necessarily mean an increase in your property taxes. Property tax changes are generally impacted by your assessment's change relative to the average assessment change in the City for your property class.

If your property value increases above the average assessment change, your property taxes may increase.

For questions about property taxes, please contact City Hall by phone 250-746-6126 or by email finance@duncan.ca.

	Your Property's Value Change	Property Tax Impact
1.	 LOWER than Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely* DECREASE
2.	 SIMILAR to the Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely* DO NOT CHANGE
3.	 HIGHER than Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely INCREASE

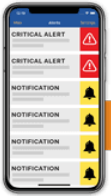
Comments, questions, or concerns?

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

COWICHAN EMERGENCY ALERTABLE APP

The City is a member of the Cowichan region Emergency Alert System, which is an application for mass notification to inform subscribers of major emergencies or disasters in the Cowichan region. In addition to information from your local government, you may also receive notifications from Environment Canada and DriveBC to keep you up-to-date on extreme weather events and major traffic disruptions. The Alertable App is free to sign up:

<https://alertable.ca/signup/?site=Cowichan>



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 in the 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.



SMOKE DETECTORS

Remember to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change the batteries.

SIGN UP FOR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

The City has started using a new online engagement platform to consult and collaborate. Please sign up at: <https://bigconversations.duncan.ca/>

CITY PROJECTS

The North Beech Avenue Renewal Project has been awarded to Leuco Construction Inc. for the replacement of underground utilities and surface works. The project is now underway and is expected to be completed by late Spring 2023.

Access to residents and Duncan Christian High School will be maintained throughout the project. Traffic control personnel will be controlling vehicle, pedestrian, and cyclist traffic through the construction zone. The construction zone will be on Beech Ave. north of Trunk Rd. as well as the Trunk/Beech intersection. Please observe all traffic safety signs and personnel in the construction zone. Thank you for your patience.

CITY SQUARE GUM TREE REPLACEMENTS

The American Sweet Gum trees in City Square were planted in 2005 when the City Square upgrades were completed. Over time it became evident that these trees are not suitable for the locations where they were planted. This species of tree will grow much too large for the space they occupy, they have a shallow root system that causes upheaval of the bricks in the square, they do not react well to pollution, and they are susceptible to fracturing and dropping branches during snow events.

Over the past two years, the City has been progressively replacing a few trees each year. This work will continue in Spring 2023 with more sweet gum trees being removed from the centre of City Square and being replaced with more suitable varieties. There will be some disruption to traffic in City Square while this work is completed.

In time, the new trees will grow to provide full-sized tree canopy once again in the square.

2023 BUDGET SESSIONS

The following Council meetings will discuss the 2023 tax rates:

April 17	6:00 p.m.	First 3 readings of Tax Rate Bylaw
May 1	6:00 p.m.	Adoption of the Bylaw

The Council meetings will be live streamed and available for viewing anytime through the duncan.civicweb.net/portal/ or go to YouTube.com and search "City of Duncan".

Please email questions to finance@duncan.ca

WHO DOES WHAT?

Municipal Government	Regional District	Provincial Government	Federal Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply & Wastewater Management Solid Waste Collection Road Maintenance & Transit Fire Department City Hall Municipal Property Taxes Parks & Playgrounds Municipal RCMP Community Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid Waste Management Regional Parks & Recreation Invasive Plants Regional Hospital Regional Property Taxes Rural Area Planning & Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools Health Social Services Support for Employees & Employers Justice Post Secondary Highways (TCH) Provincial Income Tax Provincial Property Tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Tax Employment Insurance Child Benefit Student Loans Military International Travel Foreign Travel Banking Criminal Law