

### Beneath the Clocktower

Your Insight into Issues and Events at Duncan City Hall May 2018

# PROPERTY TAXES DUE TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018

To avoid penalty, your property tax payment and completed Home Owner Grant application must be received by 4:00 pm on July 3, 2018.

### **Payment Options**

- On Line or Telephone Banking Use your roll number as the account number.
- **By Mail** Postmarks will <u>NOT</u> be accepted as proof of payment.
- **Post Dated Cheques** To avoid the last minute rush, mail or drop off your post dated cheque before the due date.
- **In Person** City Hall hours are 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Cash, cheque or debit (up to your daily limit) are accepted. It is helpful if your forms are completed in advance.
- **After Hours Drop Off** Use the secure drop box at City Hall at any time. Please do not leave cash in the drop box.

#### **Contact Us**

Telephone: 250-746-6126
Email: taxes@duncan.ca

In Person: City Hall - 200 Craig Street in

Duncan (8:30am-4:00pm)

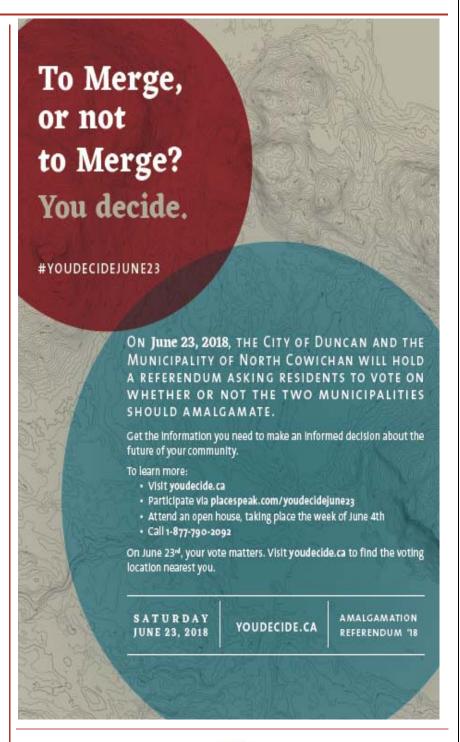
#### **HOMEOWNER GRANT**

- Even if your taxes are paid through your mortgage, you still need to complete your Homeowner Grant Application.
- Apply online at <a href="www.duncan.ca">www.duncan.ca</a> or fill out the form on the bottom of your tax notice and return it to City Hall.
- Remember, if you do not apply for the Homeowner Grant by the July 3, 2018 deadline, you will be subject to a penalty of 5% of the grant even if your mortgage company pays your property taxes. A further 5% penalty will be applied on September 4, 2018.

## 2019 PROPERTY TAX INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS

This City program gives property owners the option to pay next year's taxes in monthly installments, through an automatic deduction from your bank account.

Payments are deducted on the first business day of each month, starting August 1, 2018 and ending May 1, 2019. Currently, you earn interest of 0.45% on these payments. To enroll in the program complete and return the enclosed form to City Hall.





# IMPROVED BUS SERVICE TO MARCHMONT/WHARNCLIFFE/HOWARD

Transit route changes will take effect on Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The City is pleased to announce that after many years of discussions with the CVRD and BC Transit, these changes will be implemented, improving frequency and more direct routing between the Marchmont / McKinstry neighbourhood area (via Route 4, Maple Bay), as well as the Howard Avenue area (via Route 3, Quamichan).

Schedule details are available online at

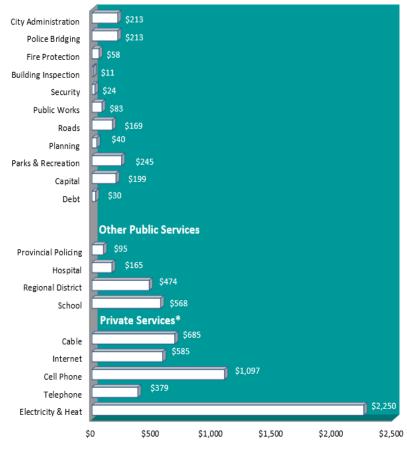
https://bctransit.com/cowichan-valley/schedules-and-maps/upcoming-change-july-2018 or on board local buses and at transit outlet locations. Transit fares are also changing on July 1st.

Comments, questions or concerns about your property taxes? Phone 250-746-6126 or email taxes@duncan.ca

### **HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL COSTS**

The average household cost of City services (based on the average assessment of \$316,788 for a single family dwelling) compared to other common household costs is shown in the chart below.

#### 2018 City Services - Total \$1,284



#### \*Average household expenditure according to Statistics Canada 2016

#### **2018 BUDGET**

The City of Duncan's Financial Plan and Tax Rates Bylaws for 2018 reflect Council's efforts to keep taxes affordable for households and businesses.

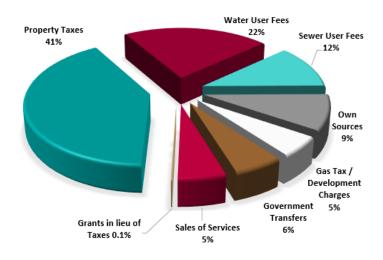
Throughout the budget process, public feedback is always encouraged. Budget meetings are advertised in the newspaper as well as on our Facebook page and website. Everyone is welcome!

For 2018, the municipal portion of the property tax rate increased overall by 3.48%. Your actual tax increase or decrease will depend on the type of property you own, and whether the assessed value of your property went up or down this year.

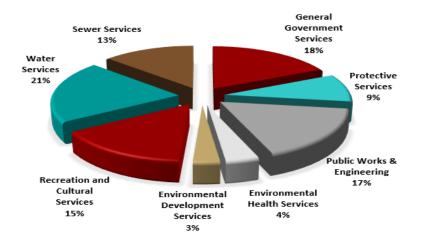
Property assessment is the responsibility of the BC Assessment Authority. You should have received your assessment notice in January of this year. If you have questions about your property's assessed value, you must contact BC Assessment. They can be reached at 1-866-825-8322 or <a href="https://www.bcassessment.ca">www.bcassessment.ca</a>.

The City also collects taxes for other authorities, including the Province, the Cowichan Valley Regional District, Cowichan District Hospital and the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

### **2018 REVENUE SOURCES**



#### **2018 OPERATING EXPENSES**



#### **Own Sources Revenue includes:**

- Business and dog licences
- Building and other related permits
- Real estate rentals
- Parking permits
- Interest on investments
- Penalties
- Land use alteration fees

# PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAMS

A low-interest provincial loan program can assist qualified homeowners with paying their annual property taxes. You may be eligible to defer your taxes if you are 55 years or over, a person with disabilities and you live in your home, or are a qualifying homeowner who financially supports a dependent child under the age of 18.

Contact the Tax Deferment Program: 1-800-663-7867 Or by email: TaxDeferment@gov.bc.ca