

DID YOU KNOW?



City Hall hours are changing! Starting September 1, 2015 the hours will be:

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday to Friday for
12 months of the year.

Many homes are still equipped with older toilets that require 13 or more litres per flush. New high efficiency toilets require only 4.8 litres per flush and dual flush toilets use a combination of 3 and 6 litres.



By replacing your old toilet, you could use up to one-third less water! That could save more than 200 litres per day or 70,000 litres per year.

The City offers a rebate for people who replace their old toilet with a new high efficiency one. Contact City Hall at 250-746-6126 for more information.



By choosing local and independent businesses for your services, shopping, dining and other needs, you not only get real value and personal service, you're helping:

- build a sense of community
- strengthen the local economy
- create a healthier environment
- keep local jobs
- give back to the community

Recyclable glass and yard waste is picked up **from all houses** once a month. Pickup days are on the first garbage/recycling collection day of the month. More information can be obtained at City Hall or www.duncan.ca



ATTENTION CAMPERS - the wildfire danger rating remains in Extreme! Until further notice, all open fires are prohibited in the Coastal Fire Centre's jurisdiction to help prevent human-caused wildfires and to protect public safety. This prohibition will remain in effect until October 16, 2015, or until otherwise notified.

PLANT A TREE THIS FALL

City Council has proclaimed September 23, 2015 to be "National Tree Day" in the City of Duncan. To celebrate, we will give away twenty-five, \$20 Tree Coupons to residents of Duncan to put towards the purchase of a tree of their choosing. The Tree Coupon can be picked up at City Hall, upon proof of residency, and must be redeemed at Dinter Nursery prior to September 30, 2015.

With 80% of us living in cities and towns, sometimes we forget how much trees lend to our lives in terms of air and soil quality, aesthetics and psychological well-being. Benefits include:

- Clean air – trees produce oxygen, intercept airborne particulates, and reduce smog
- Climate cooling – trees remove greenhouse gases and lower ambient temperatures
- Water filtration and retention – urban forests promote water quality and reduce stormwater management costs
- Wildlife habitat – trees provide important habitats for numerous birds, insect and animal species
- Sound absorber – trees absorb and block sound, reducing noise pollution by as much as 40 percent.



INVASIVE PLANTS

Japanese, Giant, Bohemian & Himalayan Knotweeds

Knotweed is prevalent in the Cowichan Valley and is considered one of the world's worst invasive species. It is a shrub with hollow, bamboo-like stems and large heart-shaped green leaves. It can grow up to 4 cm a day and cause serious damage to concrete foundations, driveways, buildings, septic systems, roads, paving, retaining walls and the environment.

Knotweed can easily take hold in riparian ecosystems and roadsides. It forms thick, dense colonies that completely crowd out all other plants. Cutting, mowing, and pulling can stimulate shoot growth and may cause roots to spread further, resulting in new infestations up to 20 metres away. As well, knotweed has the ability to regenerate from a very small root or stem fragment and can remain dormant for many years.

For information on identifying this plant (as well as other invasive species), its damaging impacts, and how to treat an infestation, please visit: www.coastalisc.com and click on the "Invasive Species" tab.

To report an invasive species, visit BC's online invasive plant reporting website at www.reportaweedbc.ca. Download the mobile 'Report-a-Weed BC' app free of charge, on your iPhone or Android. It lets you report weed sightings anywhere in BC in just a few simple steps. Your report will go to a BC invasive plant specialist, who will coordinate follow-up activities with the appropriate local authority.

If you have a suggestion for a future newsletter topic, we'd love to hear from you.

Phone 250-746-6126 or email duncan@duncan.ca

DOWNTOWN CORE PARKING

Parking in the downtown core and the re-parking rule explained:



- The City has had the same system of parking enforcement in downtown Duncan for approximately 10 years.
- The re-parking rule was established in 2005 as a way to prevent employees and merchants from “shuffling” their cars around to different parts of the downtown during the day so that the spaces are in fact available for shoppers.
- The main focus is not to ticket customers as the City wants people to come downtown as often as they need to.
- For those shoppers who park longer than the 3 hours, or go in and out of the downtown core within the same 10 hour period, the City has a tracking and warning system to avoid ticketing customers. The Commissionaires use a license plate scanner to track license plates during each rotation of downtown.
 1. The first time a vehicle goes over time, or re-parks downtown, it creates a notation in the system of that license number – No ticket is issued.
 2. The second time a vehicle goes over time, or re-parks downtown, it creates a notation in the system of that license number – No ticket is issued.
 3. The third time a vehicle goes over time, or re-parks downtown, it creates a notation in the system of that license number – A warning is issued (not a ticket).
 4. The fourth and additional time a vehicle goes over time, or re-parks downtown - A ticket is issued.
 5. The City periodically purges the older notations so that customers do not get caught up in the tracking.

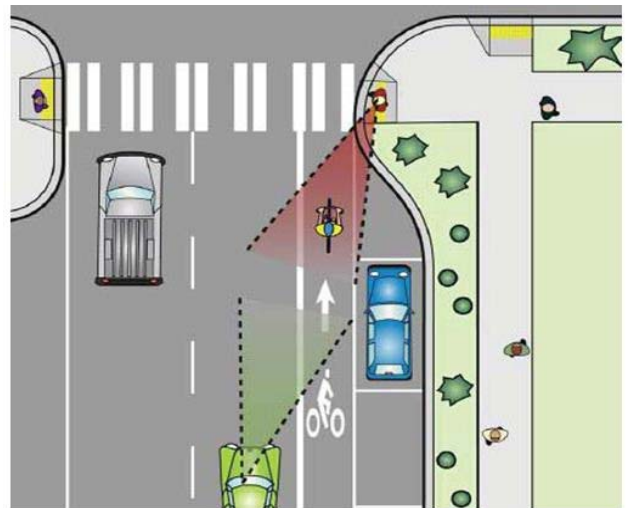
The City’s parking enforcement is without exception the most-friendly of any jurisdiction and works 99% of the time. In the extremely rare instance you are a customer and are issued a warning notice or ticket, please give the City a call as tickets issued to customers will be cancelled 100% of the time.

TRAFFIC CALMING

Traffic calming is a system of design and management strategies that aim to balance traffic on streets with other uses. It originates from the idea that streets should help create and preserve a sense of place; that their purpose is for people to walk, stroll, look, gaze, meet, play, shop and even work alongside cars – but not dominated by them. Traffic calming takes a different approach from treating the street only as a conduit for vehicles passing through at the greatest possible speed. Techniques such as curb bump outs are used to lessen the impact of motor vehicle traffic by slowing it down, or literally “calming” it, which helps to build human-scale places and an environment friendly to people on foot.

A curb bump out is also known as a bulb-out or a curb extension and is generally placed at pedestrian crossing locations as a safety improvement. Curb extensions at a crosswalk enhance pedestrian safety by:

- making pedestrians more visible to traffic
- shortening crossing distances
- slowing down traffic
- slowing turning vehicles
- visually narrowing the roadway



GREEN BIKE LANES

The City of Duncan is becoming more bike-friendly with changes being made to the roads to better accommodate cyclists. Cyclists and motorists have the same rights and responsibilities and everyone needs to abide by the rules of the road to ensure the transportation system works safely and efficiently.



You may have noticed the green bike lanes that were installed on Canada Avenue during the recent upgrades. The solid green lane has been applied only to areas where cyclists and vehicles commonly interact such as at intersections and on curved sections of roadways. It creates awareness for motorists by reminding them to check for cyclists prior to making a turn, that cyclists are to be expected on the road, and to leave them their space. The lanes also provide cyclists with a stronger sense of space and visibility.

Motorists are to continue in their lane as normal and follow regular traffic rules. Motorists are not permitted to cross into solid bike lanes, unless turning into (or out of) intersecting roadways, laneways, driveways and parking – after following regular traffic regulations and if it is safe to do so. Vehicle parking is not permitted in any bike lane.