

DID YOU KNOW?



The City's Finance Department has received the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers' Association for the third year in a row!



Many homes are still equipped with older toilets that require 13 or more litres of water per flush. By replacing your old toilet you could use up to one-third less water. The City offers a rebate for people who replace their old toilet with a new high efficiency one. Contact City Hall (250-746-6126) for more information.



You can now **recycle** wax milk cartons, paper cups, ice cream cartons and plastic coated paper fast food packaging – just make sure these items are clean.



Earth Day occurs on Wednesday, April 22, 2015. Keep an eye on the local papers for celebration details to come.



One of the City of Duncan's Commissionaires, Stu Allen, has been nominated to receive a Black Tie Award in the 'Customer Service' category. We are very proud to have such friendly and courteous staff.



The City has a Transit Pass Rebate program. If you live in the City's boundaries, bring the receipt from your bus pass purchase to City Hall for a full refund.



On December 31, 2014 at midnight, the City's 'Big Ben' clock celebrated its 100th Birthday.



The City has a website called 'Duncan Road Ranger' dedicated to notifying residents of road closures and delays affecting traffic. Subscribe today at www.duncanroadranger.ca to improve your morning commute.

RODENTS

Some areas of the Cowichan Valley are experiencing a higher than normal rodent problem. Please consider the following tips to avoid attracting rodents to your neighbourhood:



- Deny rodents shelter by removing potential hiding and nesting sites such as firewood piles (stack on stands so there is 6-8" clearance below and between the pile and any wall), brush and debris piles, dense shrubbery, ground covers and ivy.
- Repair/seal openings in buildings using durable materials such as concrete, metal flashing, steel wool or heavy welded wire.
- Remove/repair all sources of free standing water such as leaking outside faucets and irrigation lines, pet water bowls, bird baths, etc.
- Eliminate access to garbage, compost and pet waste, spilled bird seed, unharvested fruits and vegetables, BBQ grills (if possible, store your BBQ in a secure outbuilding between uses and keep it clean of all grease and food debris), do not leave pet food outside - feed only when the animal is present and remove leftovers promptly.
- Store bird seed, grass seed and fertilizer securely in a metal, rodent-proof container kept out of reach of the rodents.
- If you feed birds, use a hanging baffle; a pole equipped with a baffle and set up 4-5 feet high will stop rodents from gaining access to the feeder. Use trays and screens below feeders to eliminate ground spillage and never ground feed birds.
- If you have a rodent problem, research safe methods of getting rid of them - many poisons used to kill rodents are also harmful (sometimes fatal) to pets and children; when in doubt contact a professional Pest Control company.
- Never touch dead or alive rodents with your bare hands.
- Rinse and clean recyclable food containers because they attract rodents.

2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each December, the City presents awards to exceptional people who have gone above and beyond to contribute their time and talents to our community.



The Perpetual Arts Trophy was awarded to Nick Versteeg for his ongoing work as a film producer. The Perpetual Trophy for Excellence and Sportsmanship was awarded posthumously to Louise Hamilton for teaching thousands of Cowichan Valley children and adults to swim. Jack Faber received the Scroll of Honour for volunteering over 15 years to the local Red Cross Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP) Depot.

Congratulations to all of the 2014 winners and thank you to the many volunteers in our community who work tirelessly to make Duncan a better place to live.

OUR CITY BUDGET

The draft budget for 2015 projects a tax increase of 2.68% - this equals \$99,625. The increase is largely due to:

- A decrease in the Provincial Small Community Grant
- An increase in recycling revenue under the contract with Multi Material BC
- Projected wage increases
- An increase to the budget for fire inspections of public buildings.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

What Does this Mean for the Average Property Owner?

The average single family home that saw a 0.94% assessment decrease will see a 2.68% increase in municipal taxes (\$30.88 if the home is now worth \$249,223).

The average strata home that saw a 1.91% assessment decrease will see a 1.67% increase in municipal taxes (\$10.83 if the home is now worth \$138,853).

The average commercial property that saw a 2.84% assessment increase will see a 1.27% increase in municipal taxes (\$65.97 if the property is now worth \$441,257).

Major projects proposed to begin in 2015 include:

- \$875,000 for seismic upgrades to the Fire Hall
- \$530,000 for commencement of the residential water metering program
- \$968,745 for the City's contribution to the remaining dikes
- \$1.8 million upgrades to the Canada Avenue and Ingram Street intersection including: paving, storm main improvements, curb repairs, upgrades to the sewer main, upgrades to the water main, improved sidewalks, installation of bike lanes and improved street lights
- \$535,000 for Cedar Avenue from Government to Arbutus which includes: paving, storm main improvements, curb repairs, spot repairs to the sewer main, and upgrades to the water main.

TREE PROTECTION BYLAW

Many municipalities have bylaws to protect the urban forest. City of Duncan Council has given first and second readings to a Tree Protection Bylaw. The City of Duncan's Urban Forest Strategy, Official Community Plan, and Strategic Plan all support the adoption of a Tree Protection Bylaw. Tree protection and proper planting and care will ensure the survival of the urban forest for the enjoyment of generations to come.



The Bylaw contains the following regulations:

- A \$25 permit will be required to remove Protected Trees (owners of single family dwellings are exempt from the permit fee for one tree each year)
- Protected Trees include:
 - (a) The following species: Arbutus, Garry Oak, Pacific Dogwood, Pacific Yew, Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, Big Leaf Maple, and Western Red Cedar;
 - (b) Any tree with a diameter at 1.4 m (4.6 ft) above grade of 30 cm (12 in) or larger;
 - (c) Any tree located within an Environmental or Hazard Development Permit Area (i.e. Steep Slope or Floodplain Areas - tree removal in these DPAs also requires a Development Permit);
 - (d) Any Significant Tree (see below); and
 - (e) Any tree with evidence of a nest or use by raptors, osprey or a heron colony
- One replacement tree for each tree removed will be required for single family properties, and two replacement trees for each tree removed for properties other than single family
- Replacement Trees must have a minimum height of 2 m (6.6 ft) or minimum caliper width of 6 cm (2.3 in). Caliper width is the diameter at 15 cm (6 in) from the ground
- Pruning in accordance with sound horticultural practice will not require a permit
- Significant Trees identified in the Bylaw will require Council authorization for removal.

SIGNIFICANT TREE NOMINATIONS



Some Significant Trees were identified in the Urban Forest Strategy. Significant trees may be significant species, large mature trees, or heritage trees. Community members may nominate Significant Trees or provide other feedback about the proposed Tree Protection Bylaw until Wednesday, March 4, 2015. Nomination Forms are available on the City of Duncan website, www.duncan.ca, at City Hall, or you may contact the City Planner at michelle@duncan.ca.