

DID YOU KNOW?



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

Heating With Oil?

Upgrade to a heat pump to save on your energy bills and get a rebate of up to \$1700!



For more information, go to www.oiltoheatpump.ca.

Heating With a Woodstove?

Upgrade to a new woodstove and get a rebate of up to \$350, while helping to improve local air quality! For more information on the 2016 Regional Woodstove Exchange Program, as well as tips on smart wood burning, go to the CVRD's "Burn it Smart" page at www.cvr.bc.ca/index.aspx?nid=1462



Interested in Other Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Your Home?

BC Hydro and Fortis BC offer a variety of rebates through the Home Energy Rebate Program. For more information, go to www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential.html.

If you have a low-income household, visit www.bchydro.com/freekit to find out how to register for a free energy saving kit and the Energy Conservation Assistance Program (a home energy evaluator will visit your home, and will install energy saving products and provide advice on how to improve your home's efficiency).

8th Annual Duncan Seedy Sunday

Cowichan Green Community (CGC) will be hosting the 8th Annual Duncan Seedy Sunday on March 20, 2016 (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.). This family-friendly event will take place at the Cowichan Tribes' Si'em Lelum Gymnasium (5574 River Road, Duncan, BC).

This is an event for local gardeners to source locally and ecologically grown seeds, garden starts, and perennials. This event will also feature activities for children and a series of gardening workshops. Admission is \$2/person. CGC members and children under the age of 13 enter for free.



TAP by TAP

The City of Duncan is offering FREE water and energy savings kits to City residents. The kits include a showerhead, two faucet aerators, thread seal tape and instructions. These easy to install fixtures will help residents to conserve water, decrease energy bills, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions created by heating water. For more information on Tap by Tap, view the City's website at www.duncan.ca. There is a limited number of kits available. Residents must bring in their showerhead, fill out an application form, and provide proof of residency in order to receive a free kit. For more information go to www.tapbytap.ca.

The Tap by Tap Program is offered through the Community Energy and Emissions Plan adopted by Council in October 2015. Program support is provided by City Green Solutions, a non-profit organization specializing in energy efficiency. Stay tuned for more incentives and programs through the implementation of the City's Community Energy and Emissions Plan.



2015 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 and Residential/Commercial Awards for exceptional design and use of new or renovated buildings.

The Perpetual Arts Trophy was awarded to Betty Locke for her many years of calligraphy volunteer teaching at the Elder College. The Perpetual Trophy for Excellence and Sportsmanship was awarded to Gina Jung for her many years of volunteering to assist children of all ages in a variety of sports organizations, the 1991 BC Winter Games, and the 2008 NAIG Games. The Cowichan Green Community was awarded the Commercial and Residential Awards of Excellence for "The Station" (360 Duncan Street) with their excellent mixed-use of Commercial and Residential for this building. Norm Jackson received the Scroll of Honour for his lifetime of volunteering as a sports coach, mentor, teacher, and life coach, as well as his many years of fundraising for local service clubs.

Congratulations to all of the 2015 winners and thank you to the many volunteers in our community who work tirelessly to make Duncan a better place to live.

Animal Regulation & Control Bylaw Amended to Allow Feeding of Ownerless Cats (Under Certain Conditions)

The Animal Regulation & Impounding Amendment Bylaw No. 3139.01 was recently adopted by Council. The Bylaw allows citizens who are registered with a City recognized organization with a Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) Program (such as the Cowichan Cat Rescue Society) to feed up to 5 ownerless cats. The total number of companion animals must not exceed 5 per lot. Every owner of an outdoor cat will now be required to have the cat spayed or neutered. This will assist in preventing uncontrolled breeding and reduce the population of cats in the wild. For a complete list of regulations visit: www.duncan.ca.



OUR CITY BUDGET



The draft budget for 2016 projects a tax increase of 2.98% - this equals \$113,674.

The budget also includes a reduction in garbage and recycling fees of \$5 per household.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

What Does this Mean for the Average Property Owner?

The average single family home that saw a 3.2% assessment increase will see a 3.57% increase in municipal taxes (\$42.14 if the home is now worth \$257,027).

The average strata home that saw a 4.11% assessment increase will see a 4.48% increase in municipal taxes (\$29.35 if the home is now worth \$143,761).

The average commercial property that saw a 0.63% assessment decrease will see a 0.46% decrease in municipal taxes (\$24.01 if the property is now worth \$436,169).

Major projects proposed to begin in 2016 include:

- \$1,068,703 to upgrade the water, sewer and storm water infrastructure on Second Street
- \$837,000 to continue with the residential water metering program within the City boundaries
- \$1.4 million for the City's contribution to the latest phase of diking
- \$540,000 to underground utilities on Canada Avenue at Government Street.

NEW ANIMAL REGULATION and IMPOUNDING BYLAW

The City of Duncan Council adopted a new Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw that heralds a new, more humane and responsible era for the keeping of companion animals. An ad hoc committee was formed consisting of representatives from the BC SPCA, Coastal Animal Services, and the City's Corporate Services staff to review the draft bylaw which was developed based on portions of the SPCA's Model Animal Responsibility Bylaw and other local government animal control bylaws which have incorporated standards of care for animals. Feedback was also provided by Council and members of the public.



Notable changes to the bylaw include:

- A limit on the number of companion animals that can be kept on a single lot;
- A section related to prohibited animals;
- A section on animal welfare which includes provisions related to: animal cruelty, basic animal care requirements, outdoor shelter requirements, sanitation requirements, tying of animals, transporting animals in motor vehicles, and exercising dogs from a motor vehicle or bicycle;
- Guidelines for animals in public places;
- A section related to identification for the keeping of cats;
- Prohibitions on feeding wildlife;
- Banning wolf-dog or wolf-dog hybrids; and
- Additional requirements for owners of aggressive dogs.

**DO NOT FEED
THE SQUIRRELS**



The consolidated Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 3139, can be viewed on the City's web site: www.duncan.ca.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING 101



Items **ACCEPTED** (examples) **PAPER RECYCLING**: Clean newspapers, inserts, flyers, catalogues, magazines, phone books, household paper, paper gift wrap, greeting cards, cardboard, boxboard (e.g. cereal boxes), paper bags, paper pet food bags, shredded paper
CONTAINER RECYCLING: Clean hot and cold paper beverage cups and lids, milk cartons, Tetra Pak boxes and cartons (e.g. for soups and sauces), frozen dessert boxes (e.g. ice cream boxes), microwavable bowls and cups, metal cans and lids, aerosol cans and caps (e.g. for whipped cream, shaving cream, etc.; no hazardous materials), spiral wound paper cans and lids (e.g. frozen juice containers), aluminum foil wrap, aluminum take-out and baking containers, plastic bottles, jugs and jars with caps and lids (e.g. yogurt containers, shampoo bottles, etc.), plastic clamshell food containers, trays and tops, tubs and lids, plastic garden plant pots and seedling trays, and plastic pails (e.g. for laundry detergent or ice cream pails). For more information, visit: www.cvrld.bc.ca/index.aspx?nid=78.

Items **NOT ACCEPTED** (Most of these items can be recycled at depots. Check www.zerowastecowichan.ca/recyclopeda for more information.) Film plastic including plastic bags and kitchen wrap (most types including grocery bags, bread bags, and dry-cleaning plastic; no cellophane, kitchen wrap, bubble wrap, foil-lined bags, zip-lock bags or deli bags), glass, styrofoam, waxed paper or waxed cardboard, refundable containers, ceramics, clothing, hard cover or paperback books, non-paper gift wrap, chip bags or other foil-lined bags, foil wrap with paper towels, napkins or tissues, packaging labelled "biodegradable" or "compostable", coat hangers, pots, pans or baking trays, paint cans, propane tanks or motor oil containers, aerosol cans that contained paint or pesticides, or marked with a hazardous materials symbol, pails larger than 25L.

