



## Citizens' Assembly on Amalgamation Reaches Mid-Point

The Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation resumed its deliberations on Saturday, April 1, following a month-long recess during which a technical analysis of the proposed merger was completed.

During its first three meetings, the 36 randomly-selected Assembly members heard from a range of voices, including experts on municipal amalgamation, local history, as well as representatives of local businesses. The Assembly also hosted two public meetings, which were attended by many residents.

Copies of presentations made to the Assembly, as well as an interim report containing the Assembly's values, identified issues and outstanding questions, can be downloaded from the Assembly's website: [www.dnc-cama.ca](http://www.dnc-cama.ca).

"The Assembly has worked carefully to consider a range of perspectives and really understand the implications of amalgamation," says Assembly Chair Peter MacLeod. "I know our members will be reading the technical report with keen interest."

The Citizens' Assembly is a unique exercise in local democracy that provides residents with an opportunity to develop and evaluate the case for amalgamating the City of Duncan and the Municipality of North Cowichan. The Assembly is an arms-length process that has been commissioned by the elected councils of both municipalities. The support of both councils, a majority of voters during a future referendum, and the consent of the provincial cabinet would be required for amalgamation to proceed.

## Duncan Seeks Public Input on New Zoning Bylaw

The City of Duncan has been working to draft a new Zoning Bylaw. The current Bylaw, adopted in 1988 and amended 73 times, no longer achieves the vision of the 2007 Official Community Plan (OCP). During the OCP consultation, citizens clearly stated that they value well-managed growth and a safe, healthy, and well-serviced community. The new Zoning Bylaw was drafted to help achieve these objectives.

This April, citizens will be provided the opportunity to review and provide comment on the proposed new Zoning Bylaw.

The draft bylaw is based on the vision of the 2007 Official Community Plan, and is the result of extensive research and collaboration with City of Duncan staff. Dave Pady, Manager of Planning, describes the process as "thoughtful and innovative, with the new Zoning Bylaw encouraging a user-friendly, logically-organized document, resulting in fewer zones, each of which will allow for more opportunity and greater flexibility for developers and property owners."

Zoning Bylaws dictate what you can and cannot do on a property, and the bylaw divides the City into a number of zones. Within the proposed Zoning Bylaw, the entire array of zones and their associated land uses have been revised to be more consistent with the vision of the OCP.

Visit [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca), starting April 27<sup>th</sup>, to review a draft of the proposed Zoning Bylaw and determine what changes may occur within your zone.

### Claim your place. Speak your mind. Have your say on the Zoning Bylaw

- Come out to the Community Open House on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 4 - 7 pm at the Duncan Pentecostal Church (931 Trunk Road);
- Have your say on [www.placespeak.com](http://www.placespeak.com) starting April 27<sup>th</sup>;
- Visit the Farmers' Market booth on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 2 pm; or
- Stop by the Community Open House on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 - 7:30 pm at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (531 Herbert Street).

### Snowmageddon is finally over!

Thanks for clearing the sidewalks in front of your homes and business during the unusually snow conditions this winter! Thanks to the Public Works crew for working tirelessly!

Comments, questions or concerns?

Visit [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca) | Phone 250-746-6126 | Email [duncan@duncan.ca](mailto:duncan@duncan.ca)

## Six Year Financial Plan

The 2016 Census results, released in February 2017, confirm that the population of the City of Duncan is 4,944. This is good news for Duncan taxpayers when it comes to paying for policing. As the population is less than 5,000, the City continues to be below the threshold set by the provincial government for becoming directly responsible for providing policing services, which would trigger a significant increase in the amount the City of Duncan must pay for policing.

“So far the population has stayed below the provincial threshold and the City has been able to use the funding that would have been earmarked for additional policing expenses to undertake much needed capital projects,” said Mayor Phil Kent. “City Council has considered a number of options for fiscal planning and believes that maintaining a Police Bridging Capital Fund continues to be the most prudent financial strategy going forward. This ensures the needed capital infrastructure is maintained or improved before increased police operating costs limit our opportunities.”

According to Talitha Soldera, CPA, CGA, Director of Finance, “after debating various options during the budget process, City Council is considering maintaining tax increases close to the rate of inflation for the next six years, with a steady increase from 2.4% in 2017 to 4.4% in 2022, which will protect taxpayers from a large tax increase if the City’s population rises over the threshold.”

In the meantime, the City once again has the opportunity to use the funds that would otherwise have gone towards the increased cost of policing to pay for capital projects, such as road improvements and boulevard improvements along the Trans-Canada Highway. The proposed Six Year Financial Plan includes spending just over \$4 million over six years on capital projects without having to borrow funding.

Questions and feedback on the budget are welcome, please visit [www.placespeak.com](http://www.placespeak.com) or email [finance@duncan.ca](mailto:finance@duncan.ca)



### Commissionaires’ Union Donates to Food Bank

City Commissioner, Stu Allen, on behalf of the Commissionaires’ Union, presents a cheque for \$2,000 to Colleen Fuller of the Cowichan Valley Basket Society to go towards the Duncan Food Bank Program.

## WATER BILL BY EMAIL

Would you rather receive your semi-annual water bill by email? If so, send a note to [utilities@duncan.ca](mailto:utilities@duncan.ca) with your account number, tax roll number, or address.

## Notice of Water Main Flushing April 17 – May 19

Please be advised that the City of Duncan is conducting its annual water main flushing between April 17 and May 19, 2017, which will affect all users of the City of Duncan water system. This flushing is done to ensure the continued supply of safe drinking water.

Portions of this work will be conducted during the early morning hours in an attempt to minimize any inconvenience. Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants, and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their area.

Some users may notice a slight chlorine taste and some discolouration of the water during this time, which can be restored by simply running a cold-water tap for a short period of time. Those who depend on medical equipment that uses water, or those who have questions or concerns, can contact the Public Works Department at 250-746-5321 for specific flushing dates.

Next year, notice will only be provided in the newspaper, on the City’s website, and on Facebook.



## Claim your place. Speak your mind!

Thanks to the Cowichan Valley Regional District, residents now have a new way to connect with the City of Duncan: PlaceSpeak, a powerful new tool that is convenient and offers greater accessibility for residents to engage with their municipality, even on their mobile devices.

The City recently sought input on the proposed Six Year Financial plan and will soon be asking for feedback on a new Zoning Bylaw. PlaceSpeak provides a single stop for residents to engage with the issues that directly impact their communities.

To learn more about engagement opportunities, create an account on the online location-based platform: [www.placespeak.com/cowichan](http://www.placespeak.com/cowichan)

PlaceSpeak

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Claim your  
place.

Speak your  
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Influence the  
outcome.