

First World War

REMEMBERING WORLD WAR ONE

Work continues on the multi-year initiative "Saanich Remembers World War One". When complete in November 2018, the project will commemorate the men and women of Saanich who served in the First World War. The project centres on the Saanich WWI Honour Roll that was started in 1916 but never completed. With the help of volunteer researchers, information about Saanich's First World War veterans will be preserved in the Archives and shared on the website.



PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY

Work with the community on the 2017-2021 Police Strategic Plan will start shortly. This update will identify and address the needs of the community for public safety and community well-being. There will be a focus on community engagement, collaboration and partnerships, service excellence and making the most efficient and effective use of resources as the plan is developed.



A Message from Saanich Council

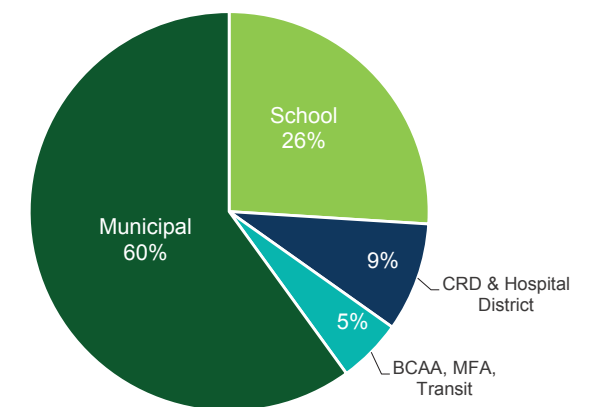


Mayor Richard Atwell

Greetings from Mayor Richard Atwell and Saanich Council. We are sending you this newsletter with your 2016 property tax notice to provide you some background information about your property taxes and how your tax dollars are being put to work in Saanich. Your ideas and feedback are important to us as we move the municipality forward. We invite you to join us at Council meetings where decisions are made and to connect with us by email at mayor@saanich.ca and council@saanich.ca.

Your 2016 property tax notice is enclosed. Each homeowner's change in taxation varies due to property tax assessments. If the change to the assessment of your home was the same as the average change for homes in Saanich, then your general municipal tax increase will be 1.44% for core operations, 0.39% for resource requests to maintain current service levels, 0.69% for capital replacement and 0.12% for the Greater Victoria Public Libraries (\$61.87 for the average home assessed at \$624,600).

2016 Property Taxes by Agency



Property Taxes and Home Owner Grant Applications are due on Monday, July 4, 2016. Online services are described below, or go to saanich.ca/tax

Monday, July 4, 2016.

Home owner grants:	Property tax payments:	Deferment application or renewals:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claim your home owner grant online at saanich.ca/grant – do not claim your grant at your financial institution. You will need your folio number and your access code from your tax notice to claim online. You must submit a grant application each year you are eligible and it must be submitted by July 4, 2016 to avoid penalty. Unclaimed grants constitute unpaid taxes and will be subject to a 10% penalty if not claimed by July 4, 2016. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure when paying online or at your financial institution that you are familiar with their local transaction cut off time. Any payments with a payment date after July 4, 2016 will be considered late and will be subject to a 10% penalty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All deferment applications and renewals must be received at the District of Saanich by July 4, 2016. Applications and renewals received after July 4, 2016 are subject to a 10% penalty. You must submit a renewal application every year you intend to defer your property taxes. Applications that are not approved by the Provincial Deferment Office will be subject to a 10% penalty.

Pay your taxes with one of our 9 convenient options. Details at saanich.ca/tax

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact Saanich tax at 250-475-5454 or go to saanich.ca/tax



How your taxes are calculated?

Assessed Value x Tax Rate = Tax Bill

In addition to municipal levies, taxes are collected on behalf of other taxing authorities, who generate their own calculations to determine taxes to be collected by Saanich. For 2016, taxes collected on behalf of these various authorities represent 40% of your total property tax amount. The chart above provides the details of amounts collected on behalf of each agency.

Standing left to right: Councillors Vicki Sanders, Vic Derman, Leif Wergeland, Dean Murdock, Judy Brownoff and Colin Plant. Seated: Councillor Fred Haynes, Mayor Richard Atwell and Councillor Susan Brice.

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Achieving the Saanich Vision - Your Municipal Tax Dollars at Work

We are proud to focus your tax dollars on achieving the Saanich Vision. The Vision is founded on the underlying principles of sustainability and liveability and integrates environmental integrity, social well-being and economic vibrancy.



Where Your Saanich Tax Dollars will be Spent in 2016

The municipal portion of your tax dollars ensures that Saanich is financially sustainable and has adequate resources to maintain the services and programs that meet community needs and move us further toward the Saanich Vision.

	Monthly Cost (rounded)	Percentage
Police Services	\$54	27%
Fire & Emergency Programs	\$31	15%
Parks & Recreation	\$26	13%
Engineering & Public Works	\$21	11%
Capital Projects	\$21	11%
Support Services	\$21	11%
Fiscal Services	\$12	6%
Cultural (including Library)	\$10	5%
Planning & Development	\$4	2%

The example is based on annual municipal taxes of \$2,409.

Projects to Watch in 2016 and 2017

Some key projects we are planning or starting to implement are highlighted below.



COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAM

In partnership with BC Hydro through the Community Energy Program, a residential building retrofit strategy will be implemented in 2016. It will help residents improve energy efficiency and save money through increased energy assessment opportunities, incentives for heating systems and building improvements and one-on-one support.



OLDER ADULT STRATEGY

Following on the success of the recent Youth Development Strategy, an Older Adult Strategy has been started. This project will emphasize healthy, active and engaged aging, and will provide a five year plan to best meet the needs of older adults. Look for opportunities to share your opinion and provide feedback in the coming months.



REDESIGN FOR MUNICIPAL WEBSITE

Staff throughout the District have been working on the redesign of the municipal website as a key component of the communication program. With a focus on developing and strengthening community engagement, the next generation of the website will strive to improve the overall user experience and allow increased interaction and information sharing. Look for the launch in July of 2016.



WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Webcasting of Council meetings will allow the public to have greater access to the decision-making process and help to promote openness and transparency. The installation of video capabilities in Council Chambers to facilitate the recording and viewing of meetings will take place shortly. The agenda will connect with the webcast.



ACTIVE & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

In partnership with the Active & Safe Routes to School Program, Saanich plans to complete four routes during 2016. With a goal to overcoming barriers to active school travel by mobilizing children and families. This is part of a national movement dedicated to mobility, health and happiness.



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

To improve transportation safety in Saanich, the Traffic Safety Unit will continue to work with the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes. They will target locations that experience the highest volume of severe crashes which result in the greatest number of injuries.



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Several transportation initiatives are underway: As a long-term strategic vision for active transportation in Saanich, a master plan will help guide decisions and public investments for years ahead. Work with BC Transit on the transit exchange at Uptown Centre and implementation of bus rapid transit on Douglas Street are also in progress. The Wilkinson Bridge replacement project includes adding new bike lanes, sidewalks and extending the Colquitz River Trail.



MIXED USE COMMUNITIES

The planning initiative related to the Douglas Corridor and Uptown Centre will help bring together a cross section of stakeholder interests with the common goal of creating a desirable and environmentally friendly, mixed use community. Full scale community engagement will begin in 2016 on a variety of issues and through a variety of means.