



VIEW ROYAL NEWS

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TOWN HALL HOURS & CLOSURES

Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, excluding statutory holidays. Town Hall will be closed on the following dates for statutory holidays:

- Monday, May 20, 2024
- Monday, July 1, 2024
- Monday, August 5, 2024
- Monday, September 2, 2024
- Monday, September 30, 2024

**Summer Hours are in effect
Wednesday, July 3 to
Friday, August 30, 2024**

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **Emergency Prepared Workshops**
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- **Resident Tree Planting Program**
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- **Tsunami Information**
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- **2024 Property Taxes and Provincial Home Owner Grant**
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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Tsunami Risk Workshop**, April 8 at 333 Island Hwy
- **Emergency Preparedness Workshop**, May 7 at 333 Island Hwy
- **ESS and Amateur Radio Volunteer Info. Session**, May 9 at 333 Island Hwy
- **Summer/Extreme Heat Preparedness Workshop**, June 3 at 333 Island Hwy
- **Canada Day Celebration**, July 1 at Craigflower Manor
- **Property Tax Deadline**, July 2, 2024



From The Mayor's Desk

Dear Residents of View Royal,

As we transition into the vibrant season of spring, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on some important matters impacting our community.

One of the key challenges we are currently facing is the integration of new Provincial housing legislation into our municipal bylaws. This legislation, mandated by the Provincial Government, will significantly impact the zoning regulations in View Royal. Our Council is working diligently to ensure that these changes are implemented smoothly and in compliance with the Provincial guidelines. By June, we aim to have all necessary adjustments made to our bylaws to reflect these changes accurately. We understand the importance of housing affordability and accessibility in our community and we are committed to navigating these changes in a way that best serves the needs of our residents.



On a related note, I am pleased to inform you that our budget engagement process has been open for public comment. Your input has been invaluable as we work towards finalizing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Despite the challenges posed by various economic factors, including the implementation of new Provincial legislation, I am proud to say that our Council has worked diligently to provide relief for taxpayers. As a result, I am pleased to announce that View Royal will have one of the lowest tax increases in the region. This achievement is a testament to our commitment to fiscal responsibility and our dedication to supporting our residents during these challenging times.

Your participation in the budget engagement process has been crucial and your feedback and suggestions have been considered by Council. Together, we can ensure that our budget reflects the priorities and needs of our community.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support and involvement in making View Royal a wonderful place to live, work, and play. As we move forward, let us remain united in our efforts to overcome challenges and build a brighter future for all.

Enjoy your spring and summer.

Respectfully, Sid Tobias



CANADA DAY CELEBRATION AT THE CRAIGFLOWER MANOR SITE ON MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

The Town of View Royal and the Victoria Highland Games Association invite you to partake in the day-long festivities of music and dance.

Come and connect with your neighbours and meet new friends. Admission to the site will be free.

Details, including volunteer opportunities, will be posted on the Town's website when available at www.viewroyal.ca.



RESIDENT TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

After the success of the Town’s first resident tree planting event, View Royal residents will be pleased to hear that the program is being renewed for 2024.



Stay tuned for dates.

In the meantime, go to the Town’s website:

[Resident Tree Planting Program](#) page or email Engineering@viewroyal.ca to find out more about the program and how to apply.

What is the Resident Tree Planting Program?

This program encourages residents to contribute to View Royal’s urban tree canopy by providing native tree species to residents to plant on their private property. Twice annually, the Town will review applications and purchase trees from a local nursery to be picked up at Town Hall by community members during the tree planting event (held seasonally, in the spring and fall).

ARE YOU AT RISK FROM TSUNAMIS?

Tsunamis that pose the most threat to shoreline homes in this region will almost always be generated from a large earthquake from the Cascadia Subduction Zone, about 150-200 km off the west coast of Vancouver Island. You will feel this earthquake and the shaking will last much longer than 1 minute. That is your warning to head to higher ground.

You can determine your Tsunami Safe Zone here: [Tsunami Information Map \(arcgis.com\)](#).

Sometimes we may be warned of distant tsunamis that come from Alaska or Japan for example. This warning will come in the form of an alert directly from the Province to your smart phones, television, and possibly radio. You may also be notified by local emergency responders going door to door or using loudhailers. While we take these tsunami warnings seriously, we typically do not feel these distant earthquakes and, once the tsunami arrives, it likely will not generate the same inundation of water as we would experience from a felt earthquake from the Cascadia Subduction Zone. That being said, strong earthquakes from distant areas can still create a hazard near the shoreline, marinas and docks.

Here are the tsunami warnings and what they mean:

ALERT LEVEL	THREAT	ACTION
WARNING	Flood wave possible	Full evacuation suggested
ADVISORY	Strong currents likely	Stay away from the shore
WATCH	Danger level not yet known	Stay alert for more information
INFORMATION STATEMENT	Minor waves at most	No action suggested
CANCELLATION	Tidal gauges show no wave activity	Confirm safety of local areas

For more information on tsunamis, check out the CRD website: [Capital Region Tsunami Information Portal \(arcgis.com\)](#)

AUNTIE ARCHIVES

Dear Readers,

Auntie Archives has been busy planning some new projects. Look for me on the Town of View Royal’s social media platforms, Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) every Friday for fun community facts and games, including “Where Am I” and “Stump Me if You Can!”. Posts will begin in April and run through to Canada Day.



Have any questions or View Royal information to share?

You can contact the Archives directly at:

archives@viewroyal.ca or 250-708-2275.

VIEW ROYAL EMERGENCY PROGRAM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Emergency Radio Team – Provides emergency communications during major emergencies and disasters. The Team meets weekly via radio net. Emergency management training and amateur radio licence provided free.

Emergency Support Services Team (ESS) – Provides emergency support to residents displaced due to emergencies or disasters. The Team delivers public education regarding emergency preparedness and assists with support to emergency responders. ESS and emergency management training are provided free and the Team meets monthly.

Interested or have questions? Contact View Royal Emergency Program at 250-479-7322 or email:

emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

April 14 - 20, 2024 is Tsunami Preparedness Week

May 5 - 11, 2024 is Emergency Preparedness Week (*Westshore Alert will be tested during this time; specific date and time to be determined.*)

Upcoming Emergency Program Workshops:

Monday April 8	6:30 - 7:30 P.M.	Tsunami Risk and Preparedness
Tuesday May 7	6:30 – 8:00 P.M.	Emergency Preparedness Workshop: Know Risks – Make Plans – Get Kits
Thursday May 9	6:30 – 7:30 P.M.	ESS and Amateur Radio Volunteer Info. Session
Monday June 3	7:00 – 8:00 P.M.	Summer/Extreme Heat Preparedness

Please email emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca or call 250-479-7322 if you wish to reserve a seat for any of these sessions. All sessions will take place at the View Royal Public Safety Building at 333 Island Highway.

PROPERTY TAXES



2024 PROPERTY TAXES

REMINDER HOME OWNER GRANT

Applications must be submitted **directly by the property owner** and received by the Province on or before **July 2, 2024** to avoid penalties. To claim your home owner grant go to www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or phone 1-888-355-2700.

2024 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024

Property tax notices will be issued to property owners in the last week of May 2024. Any unpaid 2024 property taxes or unclaimed 2024 home owner grants as of 12:01 A.M. July 3, 2024, will have a **10%** penalty added to the outstanding balance. As the penalty is Provincially legislated, there are **NO** exceptions.

Property taxes can be paid through online banking with your financial institution, via cheque, cash or debit. Credit cards are not accepted. If you are planning to pay with debit, please review your daily transaction limit to ensure the transaction can be successfully processed.

PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT

PROVINCIAL TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM:

You may qualify if you are 55 years of age or older, a surviving spouse, or a disabled person as defined by regulation, or financially supporting a dependent child under the age of 18. For details, go to www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral or phone 1-888-355-2700. Only your current year's taxes may be deferred. **You must pay your garbage user fees or property taxes, including sewer utility fees, owing from a prior year (if applicable) before you can defer your current year's taxes.**

ATKINS ROAD at SIX MILE ROAD ROUNABOUT UPDATE

Construction of the new roundabout on Six Mile Road at Atkins Road is well underway. Underground infrastructure has been installed and the contractor is now focusing on constructing the actual new road surface. Completion is anticipated for July of this year.

Next time you are on the Galloping Goose trestle over Six Mile Road, stop to take a look at the progress.

Impacts to traffic will be posted at www.viewroyal.ca and you can sign up to receive public notices, notifications, and updates.



ONLINE SERVICES

Did you know you can view your sewer utility and/or property tax accounts online? You can also sign up for e-billing to receive your sewer utility invoice and property tax notice via email.

If you have not already done so, be sure to sign up before May 1, 2024 to get your 2024 Property Tax Notice by email as soon as it is issued. Once you sign up for this service, you will not receive a paper copy in the mail.

Looking for a business located in View Royal? You can search for a municipally-licensed business via our online database.



Are you a business owner? You can view your account history and make account payments online!

SAVE SERIOUS \$\$\$ ON YOUR HEATING COSTS

Here is a testimonial from Ian Brown, View Royal resident and happy owner of a cost-saving heat pump:

"I know, heat pumps are horribly expensive. I thought so too until my friend, Larry, told me his story. He wanted to replace his present heating system with a heat pump and when he went to over a dozen installers, they proposed to charge him about \$22,500 or more and they refused to separate out the cost of the equipment from the cost of the labour to install.

Why does that matter? Well, Larry shopped for the equipment himself and then hired an installer who was willing to put it in. The final bill came out to be about \$11,500. The governments have grants for this that total \$10,000, so in the end, Larry was only out of pocket for \$1,500. Since the Canadian Climate Institute has found that in Victoria, a homeowner can save about \$400 a year using a heat pump rather than a gas furnace, Larry can easily pay his final cost off from his savings in about 4 years.

Yes, people complain about heat pumps being noisy. The old ones were. Now that I have one, mine is so quiet that our neighbours cannot tell when it is running as is the case with most of the new ones. Just make sure you do your due diligence and get a good quality heat pump that qualifies for a government rebate.

What about cold weather? Mine kept us snug and warm at -13C. Cold weather heat pumps can work very efficiently up to -25C and will still supply heat even when colder than that.

So, get a heat pump, pay off your costs out of the savings in 4 years, and put the savings in your pocket every year after that.

Turn over the page to read "Greener Living in Your Future?" to learn about resources available to you in making the switch...



Submitted by the View Royal Climate Coalition

GREENER LIVING IN YOUR FUTURE?

The Government of Canada offers Greener Homes Loans of \$5,000 to \$40,000, interest free for 10 years. As well, Canada Greener Homes provides an income based Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program. Homeowners that heat their home with oil may be eligible to receive up to a \$10,000 grant for upgrading to a heat pump. To learn more about these federal initiatives, check out:

<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-initiative/24831>.



At the Provincial level, information on saving energy and lower greenhouse gas emissions in homes, including rebate resources, such as the heat pump rebate program, can be found at: www.betterhomesbc.ca.

Another helpful resource is the **Home Energy Navigator Program**. Go to: <https://homeenergynav.ca/retrofit-roadmap/> or call: 1-866-381-9995. Participants are connected with an Energy Concierge who will be available throughout their upgrade project to answer questions, provide support, and give local, expert advice and guidance to navigate the world of home energy upgrades.

Submitted by the View Royal Climate Coalition

WESTSHORE PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (PANS)

**Sign up now to receive public safety alerts.
It only takes a few minutes.**

In the case of a public safety incident, the Westshore Public Alert Notification System (PANS) will be used to deliver critical and potentially life-saving alerts to residents who have registered. This information can help you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what to expect. Sign up to receive critical alerts for major emergencies and disasters (such as tsunamis, earthquakes, wildfires) and/or lower severity alerts (for example, traffic, weather). You can also choose to receive notifications for more than one location such as your home, office, or cottage.

Notifications can be received by:

- home, cell, or work phone
- email
- SMS text message
- smartphone app
- social media and more

If you live, work, or play in the Westshore, you are invited to register! Signing up is free, easy and can be done from your mobile phone, tablet, or computer.



Please visit westshorealert.ca to register.

HABITAT RESTORATION: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Want to help foster environmental stewardship within View Royal Parks?

The Town partners with two restoration teams that organize community invasive species removal parties throughout the year.

More information, including contact information for our coordinators and the

Greater Victoria Green Teams, can be found on the Town's website through [Environmental Stewardship](#).



PARKS PROJECTS UPDATES

Knollwood Park Playground Upgrade

Work is underway and the Town will be installing new playground equipment shortly once the surface is fully prepared.



View Royal Park Stormwater Management Improvements

Phase 1 of the View Royal Park Stormwater Management project has been completed and staff are monitoring its performance before moving to subsequent phases. The Parks Department is continuing with installation of split rail fencing to keep pets within the park and out of the riparian zones.

Watkiss Area Community Park (by the BC HandyDART site)

Following budget approval, the Town will retain a landscape architect to design a "quiet park space" as put forward by the community during 2023 public engagement.

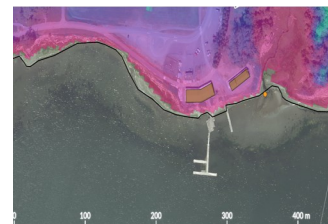
Chancellor Park Engagement

Following budget approval, Parks and Development Services will look to engage the public on what they would like to see as part of this playground upgrade project.

COASTAL FLOOD ADAPTATION PLAN

Work is starting on a Coastal Flood Adaptation Plan with a grant from the Province's Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Program. The Plan will examine how to address coastal flooding risks from sources such as sea level rise and tsunamis.

The first phase to be completed — by early 2025 — is a mapping of what the coastal flood impacts may be over the next 100 to 200 years and a risk assessment. Future phases will examine ways to address the impacts on public infrastructure, emergency planning, and future construction on private land.



For more information, please contact the Development Services Department at planning@viewroyal.ca.