



View Royal

FALL & WINTER 2026

News

From the Mayor's Desk

As I write my final Mayor's message, I am struck by what an extraordinary privilege it has been to serve this community. Serving as Mayor of View Royal has been the honour of my career.

I am grateful to our residents for their trust and to the many partners who helped turn ideas into action. Together, we advanced the Reconciliation Corridor Initiative and the vision of rail connecting downtown Victoria to West Hill in Langford in 15 minutes. At the Capital Regional District, working with the Mayor of Esquimalt, we advanced plans for a new biochar project at Hartland Landfill, secured \$7 million in federal funding, and are moving toward a new approach to biosolids management that will transform Class A biosolids into biochar, a carbon-rich product with potential applications in construction, industrial, agriculture and forestry sectors.

Here at home, we received \$85,000 for our Parks and Trails Master Plan and will soon break ground on the new West Shore RCMP detachment. We also continued to advance our new Official Community Plan. Two years, six rounds of public engagement, and 28 committee and Council meetings have brought us to this important stage in shaping View Royal's future. Thank you to everyone who participated and shared their ideas and perspectives throughout the OCP process.

On September 26, residents are invited to the View Royal Public Safety Building for the formal change of command between our outgoing and incoming Fire Chiefs.

Now it is your turn to shape what comes next. I encourage every resident to vote in the upcoming general local election and make your voice heard.

A community is never finished. My hope is that View Royal continues to evolve while protecting what makes it special – our neighbourhoods, natural environment, sense of community and, above all, the people who call it home. Thank you for the conversation, advice, criticism, encouragement and trust. It has been an honour to serve you.

Sid Tobias, Mayor

View Royal All Candidates Forum

The WestShore Chamber of Commerce will host an online All Candidates Forum on Monday, September 28 at 6:30pm. Hear from candidates running in the 2026 General Local Election and learn more about their positions on local issues. The forum will be recorded and shared on the Chamber's YouTube channel following the event.

 www.westshore.bc.ca

Halloween 2026 at the View Royal Public Safety Building

October 31, 6:00 to 9:00pm
Public Safety Building, 333 Island Highway

Pumpkin Smash

November 7, 10:00am to 2:00pm
Public Safety Building, 333 Island Highway

Visiting Town Hall

Town Hall is open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, excluding statutory holidays.

Please note the following Town Hall closures:

- Monday, September 7, 2026
- Wednesday, September 30, 2026
- Monday, October 12, 2026
- Wednesday, November 11, 2026
- Thursday, December 24, 2026 at 2pm through to Friday, January 1, 2027
- Monday, February 15, 2027
- Friday, March 26, 2027
- Monday, March 29, 2027



2026 General Local Election

General Voting Day will take place on Saturday, October 17 from 8:00am until 8:00pm.

Two advance voting opportunities will be held on Wednesday, October 7 and Tuesday, October 13. For details and locations please see page 3 of the newsletter.

Dates to Remember

Sewer Utility Invoice Payment Deadline

End of November 2026

Business Licence Renewal Deadline

January 31, 2027

Type 2 Secondary Suite Renewal Deadline

February 28, 2027

CRD Dog Licence Renewal Deadline

March 1, 2027*

* For discounted fees, renew before December 31, 2026.



The community is invited to a special Open House celebrating two significant milestones for View Royal Fire Rescue. After 42 years of dedicated service, Fire Chief Paul Hurst will be recognized for his remarkable career and lasting contributions to the fire service and the communities he has served. The event will also include a ceremonial change of command, welcoming Assistant Chief Kris Malinosky as View Royal's new Fire Chief.

Residents, community partners and friends are invited to join us in recognizing Chief Hurst's legacy while welcoming the new Chief.

Date: Saturday, September 26

Time: 1:00 to 3:00pm

Location: Public Safety Building, 333 Island Highway



The Town is receiving \$85,000 through the federally funded Union of British Columbia Municipalities Strategic Priorities Fund for a new Parks and Trails Master Plan. The Plan will help guide future decision-making and investments in parks, trails, and shoreline access, with a focus on improving accessibility, protecting natural areas, and enhancing recreational opportunities. It will also provide a clear roadmap for maintaining and expanding these outdoor areas so residents and visitors can continue to enjoy safe, connected, and welcoming public spaces for years to come. The Parks and Trails Master Plan project will launch this fall and involve substantial community engagement to help determine the direction for the plan.

Stay tuned to the Town's Engage View Royal platform for the launch of a project webpage this fall.

 engage.viewroyal.ca

Exciting Environmental Initiative Coming to View Royal & the Westshore

The View Royal Climate Coalition would like to introduce residents to a new initiative happening on the Westshore, the Westshore Initiative for Sustainable Ecosystems (WISE). WISE will host a Westshore Bioregional Summit on April 10, 2027 in collaboration with Royal Roads University.

Vision: Thriving Westshore ecosystems sustained through cooperation across Indigenous nations, communities, and municipalities.

Mission: WISE and the Westshore Bioregional Summit will bring together communities and municipal leaders to advance a shared bioregional approach to ecosystem and biodiversity protection - fostering collaboration across boundaries, aligning policies, and supporting coordinated action across the Westshore.

Westshore groups focused on waterways, ecosystems, biodiversity or food systems can learn more or attend by contacting janedev.lee@gmail.com.

Submitted by: View Royal Climate Coalition



The Town is continuing work on the Transportation Master Plan. To date, two rounds of community engagement have helped inform the strategies and priorities being developed for the plan.

A third round of engagement will take place in early fall to gather feedback on proposed strategies and priorities.

 engage.viewroyal.ca/TMP



How Are We Meeting Our Tree Canopy Targets?

The Town has set a tree canopy cover target of 30% to be met in 20 years. The Urban Forest Strategy identifies 14 strategies and 51 actions required over this time period to achieve this goal.

This year, the Town is:

- Creating a climate adapted tree species list
- Establishing a modernized inventory for trees within the Town's roadways, green spaces and forested parks
- Beginning updates to the Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw



View Royal Votes 2026: Upcoming General Local Election

An election is being held to elect 1 Mayor, 6 Councillors, and School Board Trustees for Greater Victoria School District No. 61 and Sooke School District No. 62. General Voting Day is Saturday, October 17, 2026 from 8:00am to 8:00pm at View Royal Elementary School (218 Helmcken Road) and at Eagle View Elementary School (97 Talcott Road).

Advance voting will be on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 and Tuesday, October 13, 2026 from 8:00am to 8:00pm at View Royal Town Hall (45 View Royal Avenue).

For more election information, including voter eligibility, candidates and required identification, please visit the Town's election webpage or contact the Chief Election Officer at 250-479-6800.

Vote by Mail Ballot

Registered electors (resident or non-resident) may vote by mail. Electors must complete and submit an application form to the Town of View Royal to receive a mail ballot. You may obtain an application form by coming into Town Hall during regular office hours or by going to the Town's election webpage.

IMPORTANT: For your vote to be counted, your mail ballots must be received at View Royal Town Hall by 4:30pm on Friday, October 16, 2026. Alternatively, you may arrange for the ballot to be hand delivered to the Chief Election Officer at View Royal Elementary School between 8:00am to 8:00pm on General Voting Day (October 17).

 www.viewroyal.ca/elections



OCP Review Reaches Next Milestone

In April 2026, a first draft of the Official Community Plan (OCP) was prepared, marking a significant milestone in the project. Development of the first draft was the result of extensive public engagement that took place over five engagement touchpoints since the project launched in January 2025.

To ensure we 'got it right' a sixth round of engagement was opened between March and April 2026 to review the first draft OCP. Residents, community stakeholders, the OCP Review Advisory Committee, and Council were invited to participate in a survey that reviewed the draft vision statement, goals, and general objectives and policies. The

feedback collected was used to inform updates to the final draft of the OCP.

Following additional feedback and revisions, a draft bylaw was prepared and presented to Council on July 7, where Council gave first and second reading of the bylaw. At this meeting, a public hearing was scheduled for September 1, 2026, to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Plan, prior to Council's consideration of third reading and adoption of the bylaw.

The draft OCP sets the long-term vision for our community and plans our future growth and development. The updated OCP addresses emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities, and defines our community's values and priorities over the next 20 years.

 engage.viewroyal.ca/view-royal-2050



Watch for Your 2026 Sewer Utility Invoice

Sewer user fees help cover the cost of View Royal's sanitary sewer system and CRD sewer services. Residential and non-residential fees are based on water consumption from mid-October 2025 to mid-April 2026. Based on preliminary calculations Staff project the average 2026 residential sewer invoice, based on 87 cubic metres of winter water use, to increase by 3.86%, or \$22, due to higher costs and increased contributions to reserves for future infrastructure replacement.

Had a water leak?

You may be eligible for a sewer fee adjustment. Visit our website to review the leak adjustment policy and eligibility requirements. Keep any records related to the leak to support your application.

Invoices and Payment

Sewer utility invoices will be mailed in mid-October, with payment due near the end of November. Payment can be made through online banking, by mail, at Town Hall, or using the drop box outside Town Hall.

Property owners can access their sewer utility account online or opt to receive it via email through **Online Services**. Sign up by October 15, 2026 to receive this year's invoice by email. Once you sign up, you will no longer receive a paper copy in the mail.

 www.viewroyal.ca/online-services

Questions? Contact the Finance Department at finance@viewroyal.ca or 250-708-2270



Manage Your Town Accounts Online

With Online Services you can:

- View sewer utility and property tax accounts and recent payments
- Sign up for e-billing and download bills and tax notices
- View property assessment and tax information
- Renew and pay for business licences
- Search licenced View Royal businesses

Register Today:

 www.viewroyal.ca/online-services



Lawn and Garden Waste Collection Returns This Fall

The Town's waste collection contractor, Waste Management, will collect curbside lawn and garden waste this fall. See the schedule below for your collection date:

Regular Weekly Garbage Day	Lawn & Garden Waste Collection 2026
Tuesday	Saturday, November 7
Wednesday	Saturday, November 14
Thursday	Saturday, November 21
Friday	Saturday, November 28

How to Prepare for Collection

Place items at the curb by 7:00am on your collection day. Only the following items will be accepted:

- **Grass, leaves, flowers, shrub clippings & weeds:** Place in recyclable brown paper yard waste bags weighing no more than 35 lbs each. Shake excess soil from flowers and weeds to reduce weight.
Note: Invasive and noxious weeds, such as Scotch Broom, English Ivy, and Himalayan Blackberry are not allowed in this collection service. They can be included in your weekly garbage in a separate bag.
- **Bundled branches:** Branches are to be no longer than 3 feet in length, no more than 3 inches in diameter, and are to be bundled and then tied with string in bundles that weigh no more than 35 lbs each.

Each household is allowed up to 5 of the above bags or bundles in total. If you would like to put out more than this, you can purchase extra bag decals at Town Hall for \$3.50 each, for each additional bag or bundle.

If your lawn and garden waste does not meet the above guidelines, it will not be collected.



Engineering Updates

Highway 1 Bus on Shoulder Project (Led by Province of BC)

Staff continue to communicate with the Province regarding the project and its potential impacts to View Royal residents and businesses. Information continues to be available on the Province's project website.

Atkins Road Sidewalk Upgrade Project

Work is nearing completion, with the project expected to be substantially complete by late summer. A ribbon-cutting event is being planned to celebrate the project's completion. Event details will be posted on the Town's website when available.

Upcoming Projects:

- Helmcken Road at Watkiss Way Intersection Improvements
- Six Mile Road Street Lighting and Crosswalk Improvements
- Bus stop improvements



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. Both ESS and emergency management training are provided free and the Team meets monthly.

Interested or have questions?

Contact View Royal Emergency Program at emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca or 250-479-7322.



Back to School with the FireSmart Education Program

The FireSmart Education Program teaches students about wildfire risk and practical ways to help protect their homes and communities.

View Royal teachers can book a free classroom session this fall by emailing firesmart@viewroyal.ca.

 firesmartbc.ca/educationprogram