



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 and winter break:

- Monday, October 12, 2020
- Wednesday, November 11, 2020
- Winter Break — Thursday, December 24 close at 2:00 pm — January 4, 2021. Town Hall re-opens Monday, January 4, 2021 @ 8:30 am
- Monday, February 15, 2021
- Friday, April 2, 2021
- Monday, April 5, 2021

NEWS AND REMINDERS

- The Great BC Shakeout, Thursday, October 15 at 10:15 am. See pg. 2 for more information.
- IMPORTANT: Changes coming to the Sewer Utility Invoice. Please see pg. 3 for more information.
- Lawn and Garden Waste Curbside Collection November 2020. Please see pg. 4 for more information.
- Business Licence Renewal deadline is January 29, 2021.
- Secondary Suite Renewal deadline is February 26, 2021.
- CRD Dog Licence Renewal deadline is March 1, 2021.



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



Our world has changed a great deal since I last wrote to you in the spring. I want to begin by thanking everyone from the Police to the Fire Department to our municipal staff and contractors along with many volunteers involved with the running of our Town. I offer Council's sincere thanks for keeping the Town running smoothly during these difficult times.

This pandemic has changed so much that we have had to be versatile, flexible, and committed to this new reality. I was especially proud that View Royal was one of only three municipal halls that reopened in time to process property tax payments in person. We will be living with this pandemic for the foreseeable future and must be adaptive as we move forward. We are so fortunate in View Royal to have a very capably run Town and that has been especially clear these last few months. I also extend our thanks and appreciation to all who have worked through this crisis, especially our health care professionals.

Our procedures at Town Hall are very different now. Residents were naturally frustrated at the inability to attend and speak directly with Council at meetings. In response, the Town accelerated the installation of live streaming capability and all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are now being live streamed. The result is that the public can now participate in real time over the telephone or in the chat feature through the live webcast. We look forward to when the public can join us again in Council Chambers however, in the meantime, please participate through telephone or by writing in. We read and consider all correspondence sent in.

Many residents have been asking me about the closure of Elements Casino and the impact on the Town. While clearly not an ideal situation for the Town's finances, we will be able to absorb the impact in the short term. Some capital projects will be deferred a year or two down the road, but the operations of the Town will not be affected and we will work hard at budget time to minimize any tax increase.

There are some major development applications working their way through the process, both on the north and south side of the Trans-Canada Highway. Please watch the Town's website for updates on these developments and let Council know your thoughts. We are honoured to serve as your representatives and invite residents to contact us with any concerns or questions.

I suspect, the next few months will be a challenge for all of us. Remember to take care of one another and in the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry be kind, be calm and be safe.

Best regards, David Screech

“DEAR AUNTIE ARCHIVES”

Dear Auntie Archives,

As the Town continues to follow COVID guidelines, I understand the Archives is currently closed to visitors. How can I access information during this time?

Keep well, Miss. U. Lotts

Dear Miss. Lotts,

Yes, we are learning how to adapt the way we do things but remain at the desk to answer your emails. If you have any inquires or research needs, please contact us and we will be happy to meet your requests as best as possible.

Sincerely, Auntie Archives

Town of View Royal Archives archives@viewroyal.ca



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS TO WATCH FOR:

LED Lighting Program



To brighten your day, and night, the Town has now converted the majority of our traffic corridor street lighting to LED, including Island Highway, Watkiss Way, Burnside Road W, Helmcken Road and Six Mile Road. Not only improving visibility, LED lighting provides the opportunity to realize cost savings in electrical and maintenance costs over the lifespan of the equipment.

Six Mile Road Corridor

With thanks to all of the residents who took time to participate in the Six Mile Road Traffic Corridor Study, the Town will be converting the intersection of Six Mile Road at Chilco/Nursery Hill Drive to a 4-way stop. As part of this phased approach to traffic mitigation, a speed reader board will also be installed to help reduce the speed of traffic coming into Town from the TransCanada Highway.



School Zones

School zones can be hectic places, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times. To help draw more attention to the 30 kilometres per hour school zones, the Town has added speed boxes to all three View Royal schools. We are asking the community to do their part and abide by the posted school zone speed limits to ensure the safety of our students.



HOUSING NEED REPORT FOR VIEW ROYAL

Housing, and particularly affordable housing are topics that we frequently see in the news. Until recently, there was no requirement for local governments to gather data about the extent of the issue within a community. Last year the province mandated that all municipalities must complete a housing needs assessment. Over the past year, the Town has completed this project, and the final document is available on our website (search for Housing Needs Assessment Report).

Some of our community has direct experience with how challenging the local market can be as either a purchaser or a renter. The Housing Needs Assessment highlights that there are both owners and renters who live in View Royal who are challenged to afford to continue living here. Over the next five years, there will be a need for an additional 70 affordable housing units (both rental and ownership tenures) in View Royal. On top of this, we anticipate that there will continue to be additional demand for market housing from within the community - particularly for young people (moving out of your basement) and seniors who wish to remain in View Royal but no longer find a detached home to be suitable for their needs.



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.

THE GREAT BC SHAKEOUT

Don't leave it to luck. Get the facts on how to protect yourself during an earthquake by participating in the Great British Columbia Shakeout at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2020.

Register today at www.shakeoutbc.ca and join more than 910,000 British Columbians for the tenth annual "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill.

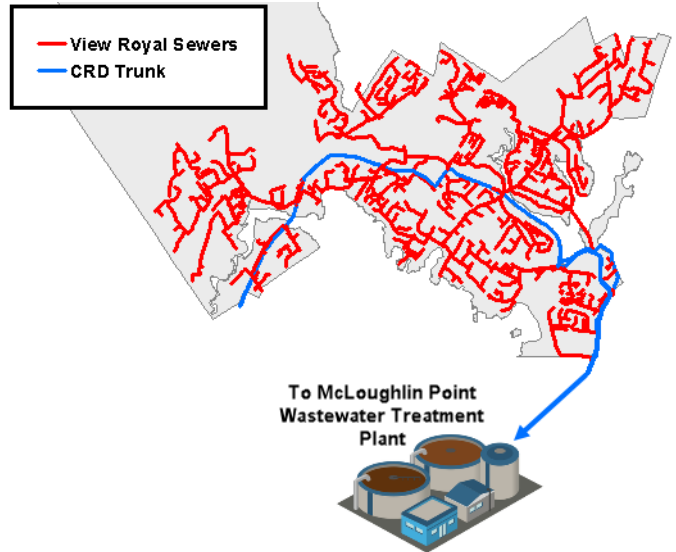




CRD SEWER CHARGE HAS MOVED FROM YOUR PROPERTY TAX NOTICE TO YOUR VIEW ROYAL SEWER UTILITY INVOICE

Starting this year, your Town of View Royal sewer utility bill will also include Capital Regional District (CRD) sewer costs. You may have noticed that the CRD sewer tax was missing on your 2020 property tax notice. Your CRD sewer costs will now be based solely on your metered water consumption (rather than on the assessed value of your home) and these charges will appear only on your utility bill.

View Royal's sewer system consists of approximately 50 kilometres of pipeline and 17 pump stations which are electronically monitored on a continual basis. All sewage from View Royal flows through the CRD sewage system through the Craigflower pump station at 150 Island Highway and then on to the wastewater treatment plant.



The implication for property owners varies:

- The 2020 Sewer Utility Invoice for residential users will continue to be based on winter water consumption as it has been since 2008. In 2019, a residential property with the average assessed value of \$730,000 paid about \$265 as a sewer tax for use of the CRD's sanitary sewer system, plus a View Royal sewer utility invoice of approximately \$138 for a total of \$403. While new CRD user rates have not yet been finalized, homeowners whose property value was near the average and whose winter water consumption was near the average of 77 cubic meters should expect to pay a similar amount in 2020.
- Property owners with high water consumption will likely pay more than they did in 2019, however the elimination of the CRD sewer tax will offset some of this increase, depending on the 2019 property assessment.
- Strata property owners will no longer pay CRD sewer costs on their individual strata property tax bills. Rather, the CRD sewer costs will be billed along with the Town of View Royal's sewer fee on a single strata sewer utility invoice. Most strata properties utilize a single water meter, meaning that the combined CRD/Town of View Royal sewer costs will be billed to the strata corporation and distributed to the individual strata property owner through the strata fees.
- Tax exempt properties will also now be obligated to pay for their share of the sewer utility costs.

Basing sewer charges on water consumption is considered a best practice, transparent to all property owners, and is more equitable than basing costs on assessed property value. This system has the most direct relationship to the actual sewage use and is the closest to a user-pay relationship. In addition, it will allow users to potentially reduce their CRD sewer costs by reducing water consumption.

The 2020 Sewer Utility Invoice will be issued in October with payment due in December. If you have not received your invoice by October 31, 2020, please contact the Finance Department at 250-708 -2270 or email finance@viewroyal.ca. Watch www.viewroyal.ca for more information about this change.

TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM Sign up now to receive public safety alerts – it only takes a few minutes

To register, go to: <https://www.ersadadvantage.com/register/crd/viewroyal>, create a user name and password, and provide at least one communication device and a valid civic (physical) address within the Town of View Royal. Please indicate in the registration that your "City" is "View Royal". You can login to update your contact information or unsubscribe anytime at: <https://www.ersadadvantage.com/login/crd/crd>.



WE HAVE A SPOT FOR YOU

VIEW ROYAL FIRE RESCUE IS NOW RECRUITING
Applications available on-line @ www.viewroyalfire.ca
or call 250-479-7322 for more information

SEWER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

NOT A TRASH CAN



Please put these items in the trash and not in your toilet:

- Any kind of wipes
- Paper towels
- Diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Cooking oil/fat/grease
- Dental floss
- Condoms
- Paint/chemicals
- Plastic bags

FALL AND WINTER MAINTENANCE

As the season changes, the Town of View Royal would like to remind residents to be prepared for rain, snow and inclement weather.

Property Maintenance

- Clean your roof gutters and dispose of yard waste (branches and leaves).
- Keep on-street drains and culverts near your home clear of leaves and debris to avoid flooding issues. If standing water is still an issue after removing debris, contact 250-708-2258.

Garbage & Recycling

- Be sure to secure all garbage and recycling bins to prevent debris from blowing around the neighbourhood on windy days. In the case debris does get loose, it is the responsibility of the property owner to clean it up.
- In the event of a heavy snowstorm or icy road conditions, the garbage collection contractor may not be able to service certain customers due to safety or access reasons. All missed garbage will be collected as soon as it is safe to do so.

Snow Clearing

- Roads are cleared in the following order:
 - * 1st Priority = Major Roads
 - * 2nd Priority = Steep Hills
 - * 3rd Priority = Collectors, School and Playground Zones
 - * Lowest Priority = Local Roads
- During prolonged snowfall, crews may need to continue maintaining higher priority roads before attempting lower priority ones.
- In the event of snowfall, please do not park on the roadway in order to ensure snow-clearing equipment can navigate the streets safely. Owners of vehicles parked on the roadway can be subject to fines and/or towed away at the owner's expense.
- Property owners must clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property. Be sure to arrange for help in advance if you plan to be away from your home or if you require assistance with snow and ice removal. Please volunteer to help your elderly or handicapped neighbours who may need assistance with snow and ice removal.
- When clearing snow in your driveway or private road, be sure to pile the snow to the left hand side (facing your home) so the snow plow does not plow excess snow across your driveway or private road access.



LAWN AND GARDEN WASTE CURBSIDE COLLECTION IN NOVEMBER 2020

The Town's waste collection contractor, Waste Management, will be collecting lawn and garden waste (grass, leaves, flowers, shrub clippings, weeds and small branches) from the curbside of View Royal residential homes this fall on the following dates:

- For those residents who get their weekly garbage picked up on **TUESDAYS**, your lawn and garden waste pick-up day will be **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020**.
- For those residents who get their weekly garbage picked up on **WEDNESDAYS**, your lawn and garden waste pick-up day will be **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2020**.
- For those residents who get their weekly garbage picked up on **THURSDAYS**, your lawn and garden waste pick-up day will be **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2020**.
- For those residents who get their weekly garbage picked up on **FRIDAYS**, your lawn and garden waste pick-up day will be **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2020**.

THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW ARE:

All items are to be placed at the end of your driveway at the curbside by **7:00 am** on the day of your collection. We will accept these items **ONLY**:

GRASS, LEAVES, FLOWERS, SHRUB CLIPPINGS & WEEDS

These are to be put in RECYCLABLE BROWN PAPER YARD WASTE BAGS and weigh no more than **35 pounds** each. Please shake off any extra 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 are allowed in Hartland Landfill and can be included in your weekly garbage.

BUNDLED BRANCHES: Branches are to be no longer than 3 ft. 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 pounds** each.

Each resident 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 the Town Hall for \$3.00 each, for each additional bag or bundle over this limit.

IF YOUR LAWN & GARDEN WASTE DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE, IT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.

This service does not include composted food materials, and please note that this service applies only to those residences that are part of the Town's Residential Garbage and Household Food Waste Collection Program.

NOTE: Private strata roads cannot accommodate the size of the lawn and garden waste collection truck. Residents on these roads need to place their lawn and garden waste at the edge of the main road into the strata.

For more information about this service or to report a missed pick up, please contact the Town Hall at (250) 479-6800.

Remember also that the Yard and Garden Waste Transfer Station Facility on Canteen Road in Esquimalt is available to View Royal residents free of charge at the gate. Please call the facility at (250) 883-8683 for operating hours, location, and materials allowed.

