



VIEW ROYAL NEWS

www.viewroyal.ca | www.facebook.com/townofviewroyal | www.twitter.com/townofviewroyal

While Town Hall has reopened, the public is encouraged to conduct Town business online or via phone as much as possible. Prior to visiting Town Hall, please check if an in-person visit is required.

Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, excluding statutory holidays.

Statutory holidays are:

- Friday, April 2, 2021
- Monday, April 5, 2021
- Monday, May 24, 2021
- Thursday, July 1, 2021
- Monday, August 2, 2021
- Monday, September 6, 2021
- Monday, October 11, 2021

Summer Hours are in effect
Monday, July 5 to
Friday, September 3, 2021
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **2021 Property Taxes and Changes for the Provincial Home Owner Grant**
See pg. 3 for more information.
- **View Royal Fire Rescue Volunteer Recruitment**
See pg. 2 for more information.
- **Update on EV Charging Stations in View Royal**
See pg. 3 for more information.



From The Mayor's Desk

As I write this, we have just moved the clocks ahead an hour and spring feels like it is here. We can all use some warmth and brightness after what has been a stressful time; hopefully we are on a slow path to recovery from COVID-19 and all it has entailed.

During budget time last year Council decided to keep the tax increase minimal because of COVID-19 and the concerns about financial hardship for our residents.

Unfortunately, the budget has been a struggle this year

and we will see an increase of 4.5 %, resulting in a two-year average of 3%.

Our challenges have been compounded by the Provincial Government which, with little input from the Town, placed View Royal in a difficult position. Specifically, when the former youth detention centre was built many years ago, the Province entered into an agreement that saw the Town receive quite a significant grant in lieu of taxes in return for View Royal allowing construction of that facility. As of this year, the Province has ceased to pay that grant as part of a phase-out plan. In addition, you may have read that the Province recently acquired the Thetis Cove lands making that sizeable property tax exempt. Combined, these two situations leave the Town of View Royal some \$205,000 short in revenue this year - the equivalent of just over a 2% tax hike. Essentially then, the tax increase this year is 2.5% but due to the shortfall in revenue from the Province, the number is 4.5%. When you add this to the challenges we face with the Casino being closed, it has been a tough year for our budget process. Council and staff have trimmed spending where possible while ensuring that the levels of services in the Town are maintained.

The dynamic between a Provincial Government and a local government is an interesting one. Given the budget issues and with the Province also overriding zoning for the Transit handyDART site on Watkiss Way at Burnside Road, it is fair to say Provincial decisions are directly impacting our residents and businesses. The Town has little to no recourse. Meanwhile, we have also been notified that jurisdictions served by the RCMP will be having 100% of the police dispatch costs transferred to them over the next three years. There was no consultation or discussion and once again this will put upwards pressure on our property taxes. Be assured the interests of local taxpayers are constantly at the forefront of our decision-making, and both Council and staff are acutely aware of the difficulties property owners face with rising taxes.

View Royal now live webcasts all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings. Please take a moment to watch a meeting and see what is going on at Town Hall. People can also call in to the meeting and interact with Council in real time. It is my hope that by the fall we will be able to once again have the public attend our meetings in person.

As always members of Council are honoured to serve as your representatives and we invite you to reach out to any of us with questions or concerns.

Best regards, David Screech

LOOKING BACK AT LOOKING AHEAD: VIEW ROYAL'S FIRST REFERENDUM

In spring 1959 a petition signed by 500 residents pushed for this area to incorporate as a village. At the time, View Royal was 1,050 acres with approximately 750 homes and 1028 eligible voters. View Royal declined offers to incorporate with Langford, Colwood or Glen Lake. The proposed village boundaries did not include North View Royal, but the easterly boundary extended along Craigflower Road to Garthland Road!

Public debate raged up to voting day on November 26, 1959. Newspaper headlines the next day read: "Village Status Proposal Crushed in View Royal". Of the 721 voters, 74% were against and 26% were for incorporation. As a result, View Royal remained under Provincial jurisdiction for another 29 years – incorporating as the Town of View Royal in 1988.

What can you find about View Royal's history in the free, online archives of the British Colonist (also called the Daily British Colonist and the Daily Colonist over the years):

www.britishcolonist.ca/?

Submitted by: John Rogers, Councillor



The Daily Colonist, Nov. 27, 1959, front page

SEWER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

A friendly reminder that the homeowner or occupant of the home is responsible for the proper use of the sewer system. Please help keep the municipal sewer system working as designed and maintenance costs to a minimum by NOT flushing these items. They have been causing our sewer main pumps to be jammed repeatedly, resulting in increased maintenance costs to YOU the user:



• Bacterial wipes	• Flammable substances
• And kind of wipes	• Paint
• Paper towel	• Elastic bands
• Chemicals	• Plastic bags
• Glass	• Cat litter
• Human or pet hair	• Abrasives (sand, steel wool)
• Mop heads	• Cooking fat, grease and oil
• Feminine hygiene products	• Construction material
• Dental Floss	• Drywall dust, grout
• Cotton swabs	• Cleaning cloths
• Condoms/Diapers	• Swiffer/J-Cloths

“DEAR AUNTIE ARCHIVES”

*Dear Auntie Archives,
I've been getting out and walking around View Royal quite a bit this past year. Sometimes I wonder about the stories attached to the areas and features I pass by everyday. Could you share some View Royal points of interest?
Sincerely, Needs New Runners*

Dear NNR,
So good to hear you are out and about enjoying the fresh air and green spaces. Below are some fun facts about View Royal:

- Craigflower Farm (Craigflower Manor) operated a bakery that supplied the Royal Navy with biscuits.
 - By autumn 1886, the Esquimalt & Nanaimo (E&N) Railway came from Esquimalt through the areas of Portage Inlet and Helmcken Road, continuing through Colwood and Langford before ascending the Malahat and heading to Nanaimo and Wellington. The line was comprised of several large timber trestles and bridges. One expanse was almost 550 metres (1,800 feet) long and ran from the Thetis Lake overpass area to Six Mile Pub at Parson's Bridge.
 - The View Royal Community Hall at 279 Old Island Highway was completed in 1943 as an A.R.P (Air Raid Precaution) centre.
 - A fire at a softball game in the 1930s prompted players from the sports club, District Merchants, to initiate a volunteer fire-fighters group. As WWII started, the efforts became more organized, with their first official location being the A.R.P building. The View Royal Fire Department was officially formed in 1948, with a new structure added at the back of the A.R.P centre a couple years later to accommodate a fire truck.
- (With recognition of Maureen Duffus's research and her book "Craigflower Country 1850 – 1950")* Sincerely, Auntie Archives

Town of View Royal Archives

Email: archives@viewroyal.ca

Please email as we are having no visitors at this time.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL

Town of View Royal wants you to get connected and stay informed about the latest news, public notices, events, newsletters and agendas and minutes.



Email Notifications: sign up at: www.viewroyal.ca



'Like' our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/townofviewroyal



Follow us on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/townofviewroyal

You can sign up for monthly e-newsletters to get timely information on happenings in the Town.

For more information on how you can get connected:
Phone: 250-479-6800, email: info@viewroyal.ca or check out our website: www.viewroyal.ca.

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.



VIEW ROYAL FIRE RESCUE IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS



PROPERTY TAXES



2021 PROPERTY TAXES

***NEW* HOME OWNER GRANT IN 2021**

Starting May 2021, you will apply for your home owner grant online with the Province. Municipalities are **NO longer** accepting applications. Program eligibility is unchanged. To avoid penalties and interest, apply before the tax due date, starting May 2021.

Learn more: www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or phone 1-888-355-2700 to speak with a live agent.

**2021 PROPERTY TAXES
DUE FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021**

Property tax notices will be issued to property owners in the last week of May 2021. Any unpaid 2021 property taxes or unclaimed 2021 Home Owner Grants as of 12:01am July 3, 2021 will have a 10% penalty added to the outstanding balance. As the penalty is Provincially legislated, there are NO exceptions.

EXPANDED 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! Be sure to sign up before May 1, 2021 to get your 2021 Property Tax Notice by email as soon as it is issued.



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!

Please visit www.viewroyal.ca and click on the 'Online Services' button.

MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

**Councillor
Gery Lemon**

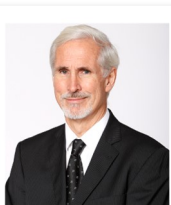


**Mayor
David Screech**



**Councillor
Damian Kowalewich**

**Councillor
Ron
Mattson**



**Councillor
John
Rogers**

**BUILDING A MORE
RESILIENT VIEW ROYAL**

re-sil-ient | \ ri-'zil-yənt \

Definition of *resilient*: able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult situations

One lesson learned from this pandemic is that we need to work together to build a more local, resilient, self-sustaining community. Food security is one example where adverse external forces can put us and future generations at risk socially, economically, and environmentally. What is your vision for a more resilient View Royal – food security, zero waste, cheaper “green” heating options, local power, healthier efficient buildings, cleaner air, electric buses, better cycling/walking/transit routes, protected ecosystems, etc?

If you want to help create that happy, healthier, resilient community, please consider joining the View Royal Climate Coalition (VRCC) – a community-based local organization. Together, and with like minded regional citizen groups, let's help make it happen!

Contact janedev.lee@gmail.com

Submitted by View Royal Climate Coalition

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS****Coming Spring 2021**

A parking fee of \$1 per hour and a 3 hour time limit will be in place at all Town-owned electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the near future. With EVs becoming increasingly popular, the user fee and time limit is intended to encourage turnover, as well as recuperate the costs of electricity, maintenance, and replacement of the stations. These new user fees and time limits will be in-line with other municipalities in the region.








Town of View Royal Streets Bylaw No. 980 Helping You Get Around Town



With spring around the corner, you may be dreaming about getting outside on your bike, skateboard or push scooter.

Did you know the Town of View Royal's "Streets Bylaw" talks about how you can use these and other fun modes of transport on the Town's streets and sidewalks? The aim is to make getting around our neighbourhoods both easy and as safe as possible for everyone!

So what's allowed where?

IF I AM ON... ↓	CAN I BE ON A SIDEWALK?	CAN I BE IN A CYCLE LANE?	CAN I BE IN THE ROADWAY?
Skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, push scooter, strider bike 	YES	NO	YES, if there is no sidewalk
Bicycle 	NO	YES, if there is one, use it!	YES
Motorized scooter, motorized skateboard, hoverboard, Segway, pocket bike, and similar recreation vehicles (gas or electric) 	NO	NO	NO

For more information, please visit the ICBC website: <https://www.icbc.com/vehicle-registration/specialty-vehicles/low-powered-vehicles>.

Any questions? Please call 250-479-6800 or email info@viewroyal.ca.