



# 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:

- Friday, April 15, 2022
- Monday, April 18, 2022
- Monday, May 23, 2022
- Friday, July 1, 2022
- Monday, August 1, 2022
- Monday, September 5, 2022
- Friday, September 30, 2022
- Monday, October 10, 2022

**Summer Hours are in effect**  
**Tuesday, July 5 to**  
**Friday, September 2, 2022**  
**8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

## CONTACT NUMBERS:

**CRD Animal Control**  
 250-478-0624

**CRD Water Department**  
 250-474-9600

**Emterra Environmental**  
**CRD Blue Box pickup**  
 250-385-4399

**Greater Victoria Public Library**  
**Juan de Fuca Branch**  
 250-940-4875

**RCMP**  
 250-474-2264

**View Royal Public**  
**Safety Building**  
 250-479-7322

**View Royal Archives**  
 250-708-2275

**View Royal Reading Centre**  
 250-479-2723

**Waste Management**  
 250-652-6242

**West Shore Parks & Recreation**  
 250-478-8384



## From The Mayor's Desk

As I write this, clocks have gone ahead an hour and we can see the return of longer daylight hours. It feels like spring has sprung. After the last two years, I think we can all use that brightness, and with it, a sense of optimism that we are coming out of these difficult times. Having said that, it is hard to watch the events unfolding in Europe without a terrible sense of sadness and dread.

Recently Council made a decision that will see the size of View Royal Council increase to seven members after the October 15<sup>th</sup> election. While not a unanimous decision, the hope is that more members will bring greater diversity of opinion to the Council table. View Royal is the largest municipality in BC to still have a Council of five and, as a local government within a rapidly growing region, it is important to ensure that our Town is well represented. If you have ever considered running for Council, now is the time to be getting prepared. We need a good cross section of people to put their names forward if they are interested in serving their community. Later in the year, staff will host an information session on what is involved in running for Council. I would also be happy to speak with anyone considering running, so please feel free to reach out. We have a wonderful community here in View Royal and having a key role within our community can be a very rewarding experience.

I was very concerned recently to hear the Minister Responsible for Housing, David Eby, musing out loud about the Province overruling locally elected Council in regard to housing projects. We have already seen this use of supremacy first-hand in View Royal with the handyDART project that is well under way. Land use decisions must remain the sole domain of the locally elected Council. I encourage all to write to our MLA and the minister expressing concern about this direction.

The review of our Official Community Plan is in progress. This is the document that will guide our community in the years to come and resident input is essential to the process. Please watch for opportunities to have your voice heard. As restrictions are now easing, we look forward to welcoming you back into Council Chambers.

As always, all of us on Council are honoured to serve as your representatives and we welcome your questions and comments at any time.

Best regards,

David Screech

## CHECKOUT BAG REGULATION BYLAW

Effective Earth Day – April 22, 2022 – plastic bags are no longer able to be used by businesses at their checkouts in View Royal. In looking at what individual actions could be taken to reduce one's ecological footprint, Council recently took the step to pass Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw No. 1087. This Bylaw requires businesses to not only skip plastic bags altogether, but to also charge for providing other types of checkout bags such as paper (minimum \$0.25) or reusable bags (minimum \$2.00).

To create consistency for businesses and customers, the bylaw essentially mirrors bylaws from the Township of Esquimalt, the District of Saanich, and the City of Victoria. Look for FAQs and updates at <https://bit.ly/37KeSiu>. There businesses will find printable material to use to help customers with the transition.

**Bring Your Own Bag**



**Town of View Royal**

**Effective April 22, 2022**

Plastic bags will no longer be available at the checkout

Learn more at [viewroyal.ca](http://viewroyal.ca)

Questions? Call: 250-479-6800

Email: [info@viewroyal.ca](mailto:info@viewroyal.ca)





## SEWER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Please do **NOT** flush these items  
down your toilet:

- Any kind of wipes
- Cooking oil/fat/grease
- Paper towels
- Diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Human or pet hair
- Dental floss
- Condoms
- Paint/chemicals
- Plastic bags
- Construction debris
- Cat litter

Let's work together to keep repair and maintenance costs down!

## YARD WASTE IN PUBLIC SPACES

As the weather turns to spring, View Royal residents return to their outdoor spaces. Unfortunately, during this time, the Town sees an annual increase in yard & garden waste and other materials dumped in Town parks and public spaces. While it may not seem significant, uncontrolled disposal of yard waste can lead to fire hazards, spread invasive species and create unsightly spaces meant to be enjoyed by the public.

In addition, dumping in public spaces is in violation of both the Parks and Public Spaces Bylaw No. 986 and the Collection & Disposal of Residential Garbage & Household Food Waste Bylaw No. 745. Offenders could face fines for illegal dumping.

### Not sure what to do with your excess yard waste?

The Town completes an annual curbside collection of yard & garden waste in November for residences that are part of the Town's Garbage/Food Waste Collection Program.

Throughout the year, View Royal residents can take their yard waste to a composting facility in Esquimalt, located at 605 Canteen Road. Drop off is at no charge at the gate - simply remember to bring proof of address and check hours of operation on the Town's website.



## MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS



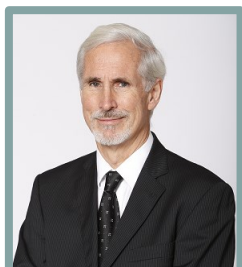
**Councillor  
Gerry Lemon**



**Mayor  
David Screech**



**Councillor  
Damian Kowalewich**



**Councillor  
Ron  
Mattson**



**Councillor  
John  
Rogers**

## DID YOU KNOW?

An oil tank older than 15 years should be replaced. If this applies to you, now is a good time to chat with a CleanBC Energy Coach at 1-844-881-9790 to learn about the significant rebate opportunities. Right now, the Town of View Royal has a \$350 added rebate available. Retrofitting to a heat pump soon will prepare your home for summer air conditioning and keep you warm and cozy during winter.

Visit CleanBC at [betterhomesbc.ca/community-coach/](https://betterhomesbc.ca/community-coach/) to learn how they can assist you to reach your energy reduction goals.

Submitted by View Royal Climate Coalition - a community-based local organization concerned about today's decisions affecting how we cope with uncomfortable climate change and severe climate events. New members welcome. Interested? Please contact Jane at [janelev.lee@gmail.com](mailto:janelev.lee@gmail.com).



## 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](mailto:emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca).

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Tsunami Preparedness Week is April 10–16, 2022**

Tsunami Awareness Workshop: Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
6:30—7:30pm

**Emergency Preparedness Week is May 1-7, 2022**

Earthquake Awareness Workshop: Monday, May 2, 2022  
6:30—7:30pm

Emergency Preparedness Workshop: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 6:30—7:30pm

To register for any of the workshops, please email: [emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca](mailto:emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca) or call 250-479-7322. Location/Venue TBD. Workshops may be hosted virtually.







## 2022 PROPERTY TAXES

### \*REMINDER\* HOME OWNER GRANT

In 2021, the home owner grant application process changed but program eligibility is unchanged. You must apply for your home owner grant online with the Province. Municipalities are NO longer accepting applications. To avoid penalties and interest, apply before the tax due date.

Learn more: [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) or phone 1-888-355-2700.

### 2022 PROPERTY TAXES DUE MONDAY, JULY 4, 2022

Property tax notices will be issued to property owners in the last week of May 2022. Any unpaid 2022 property taxes or unclaimed 2022 home owner grants as of 12:01am July 5, 2022 will have a 10% penalty added to the outstanding balance. As the penalty is Provincially legislated, there are NO exceptions.

### PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT

Effective 2020, BC municipalities no longer accept deferment applications. The Province launched a new online Property Tax Deferment process to make deferring your taxes easier – eliminating the need for paper forms and allowing you to auto renew your application directly with the Province of BC through eTaxBC. Applications are currently closed and will open again in May for the 2022 tax year. Learn more: [www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment](http://www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment) or phone 1-888-355-2700.

**IMPORTANT:** If you defer your taxes, remember to claim your home owner grant on or before July 4, 2022, if eligible. Deferment does not cover garbage user fees or arrears property taxes; refer to your tax notice and make payment to the Town of View Royal prior to applying or renewing deferment.

### 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 haven't already, be sure to sign up before May 1, 2022 to get your 2022 Property Tax Notice by email as soon as it is issued. If 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! Please visit [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca) and click on the 'Online Services' button.

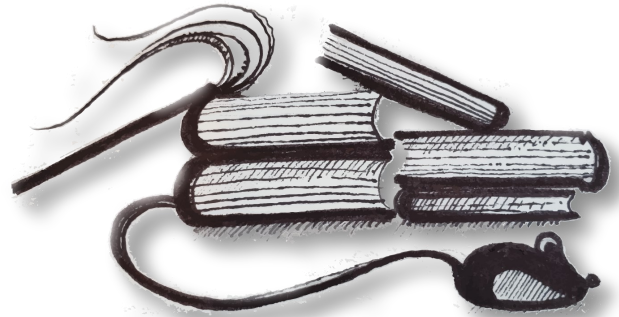
## FROM CUPBOARD TO COMPUTER – FEATURING OUR ARCHIVES COLLECTIONS ONLINE

It is not very often archives and technology are associated with one another. However, the digital world is growing and provides an accessible way to discover history. We are pleased to announce that the View Royal Archives has been busy selecting photos and documents from our collections for you to explore through an online repository with Access to Memory – memories in a mouse click! The site will continue to grow as we go through our cupboards and shelves (no mice allowed in those!).

Visit us at: [viewroyalarchives.accesstomemory.org/](http://viewroyalarchives.accesstomemory.org/) or check out the link on the Town's website at: <https://bit.ly/36FN2DE>

Best Regards, Auntie Archives

Play a part in history and consider donating to the View Royal Archives. Contact us at 250-708-2275 or email [archives@viewroyal.ca](mailto:archives@viewroyal.ca)



## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

**Coming Spring 2022**, a parking fee of \$1/hour for the first 3 hours and \$2/hour for each additional hour will be in place at all Town-owned electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Payment can be made using a credit card or with a charging network account card (such as Flo or ChargePoint).

With EVs becoming increasingly popular, the user fee is intended to encourage turnover, as well as recoup the costs of electricity, maintenance, and replacement of the stations. These new user fees and time limits are in keeping with other municipalities in the region and administered through the Town's Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 958.





## COUNCIL SIZE INCREASES TO 7 MEMBERS

View Royal voters will be voting for a 7-member Council this Fall in the municipal election instead of 5 as in previous years.

After fourteen months of consideration, Council Size Increase Bylaw No. 1086, 2022 was adopted February 15, 2022. Engagement over the months included two discussions by the Community Development Advisory Committee – who recommended support for the initiative with a view to increasing diversity – as well as two widely promoted open houses to seek public feedback. Input received showed a broad range of perspectives on the topic. With the Town's growing population in mind (recently released Statistics Canada census information for View Royal lists the 2021 population at 11,575), Council considered the future direction and vision for the community and decided to increase Council size. This means the Town's ballot for the October 15, 2022 general local election will seek to fill one mayoral and six councillor positions.

More information on the upcoming 2022 local government election voting opportunities will be available in the coming months as we approach October.



## 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 (ie. tsunami, earthquake, wildfire) and/or lower severity alerts (ie. traffic, weather). You can also choose to receive notifications for more than one location such as your home, office, cottage, family, friends, etc.

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. Visit <https://bit.ly/361C8le> to register.



TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL

## BLOCK PARTY TOOLKIT

### WHY HOST A BLOCK PARTY?

A block party is an outdoor opportunity to reconnect with your neighbours, meet new neighbours and can boost a sense of belonging to your community. A more connected community increases safety and encourages crime prevention. A block party is a great way to establish new friendships and share resources and interests such as carpools, babysitters, gardening and book clubs and ensure you are there for each other in case of emergency. Block parties build pride in your neighbourhood which encourages everyone to take care of it. Finally, a block party can just be held to have fun! You don't need a special reason to celebrate.

**Where Do I Start?** The idea behind a neighbourhood block party is to bring neighbours together, so a good first step is to find one or two neighbours to help you with the event. Neighbours can help with invitations as well as set-up and clean-up of the party.

If you will be closing the street for your party, remember to submit your Street Use Permit application form to the Town for approval at least four (4) weeks prior to your event. While the Town wants everyone to have fun at your block party, we ask that you keep the following in mind:

- Be mindful of the Town's Noise Control, Parks and Public Places and Streets Bylaws.
- Open fires are not permitted.
- Consider safety when setting up tables and chairs — on the outside chance that emergency vehicles should need to access your street for any reason during the event.
- Where possible, have a First Aid attendant present.
- You may wish to post signs the day before the event to remind people to remove vehicles for the street closure if the street is the selected venue.
- Neighbours should observe security precautions by keeping back doors locked and equipment in sight.

To view the complete [Block Party Toolkit](#) visit:

<https://bit.ly/37iBIXG>. Any Questions? Please contact the Engineering Department at [engineering@viewroyal.ca](mailto:engineering@viewroyal.ca) or 250-708-2258.

**Please follow any Provincial COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.**

