



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 7, 2023
- Monday, April 10, 2023
- Monday, May 22, 2023
- Monday, July 3, 2023
- Monday, August 7, 2023
- Monday, September 4, 2023
- Monday, October 2, 2023
- Monday, October 9, 2023

Summer Hours are in effect
Wednesday, July 5 to
Friday, September 1, 2023
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **2023 Property Taxes and Provincial Home Owner Grant**
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- **BC Energy Step Code**
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- **Emergency Preparedness Fair & Display**
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- **Earth Day & Resident Tree Planting Program**
See page 2 for more info

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION RETURNS TO THE CRAIGFLOWER MANOR SITE ON SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023

The Town of View Royal and the Victoria Highland Games Association invite you to partake in the day-long festivities. Admission to the site will be free. Details will be posted on the Town's website when available www.viewroyal.ca. If you would like to volunteer for the event, please email: gmathies@shaw.ca.



From The Mayor's Desk

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

As a new mayor I have been very proud to represent the Town at the regional, provincial, and federal levels and have had some excellent occasions in the past six months to do so. From opening the new Victoria Scottish Community

Centre to the first Black-led daycare in British Columbia, it is clear we have much to be proud of. I am in awe of the hard work and selfless dedication of resident volunteers who want to make their community a better place. The Westshore mayors have also seen great opportunities to build on areas of mutual interests, meeting regularly to discuss these.

View Royal Council's highest goal is to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Town. As elected officials, we are responsible for making decisions concerning policy and bylaws implemented by the Town's highly qualified staff. The new council had two additional members when we were sworn in, in the Fall. I am very pleased at how much we have accomplished and I am confident of many achievements to come. There is a great sense of teamwork and collaboration.

There were contentious issues such as the funding of elementary school crossing guards and the decision to remain with the 2011 Official Community Plan for the time being as it continues to offer a sustainable development plan that provides protection for the environment, infrastructure, and safety. Over the coming months, Council will explore improved ways to increase public engagement from all parts of the Town to ensure that we are informed by your opinions and the data required to make sound decisions about our collective future.

Council has gone through the Town's budget line-by-line to ensure we can control costs associated with the unprecedented growth period and inflationary pressures. As your representative at the Capital Region District, I have worked very hard to keep tax increases under the level of inflation. I am very pleased that the Town will be receiving \$4.6 million through the Provincial Government's Growing Communities Fund. This funding will assist in delivering infrastructure to make View Royal safer, more resilient, and better connected.

Over the next few months, we will be calling out for new opportunities for advisory committees as they are restructured to better represent this diverse community in areas of specific concern. If you are interested in an important position on an advisory committee such as Arts and Culture, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Planning and Engagement, or the Environment, please reach out by email and I will alert you when the intake process is open. Council needs your support and involvement to make the best decisions. As well, stay tuned as we engage all neighbourhoods in reviewing the Official Community Plan.

Enjoy your spring and summer.

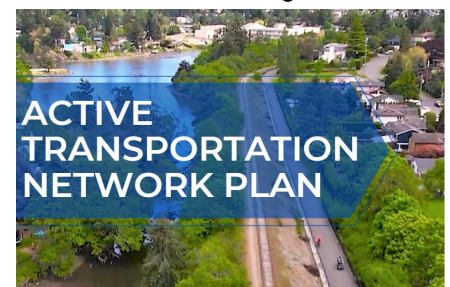
Respectfully, Sid Tobias

DRAFT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PLAN

The Town's staff and consultant presented the draft **Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP)** to the community in an open house held April 3, 2023 at Town Hall. The ATNP will supplement the Town's Transportation Master Plan by emphasizing greener and human-powered modes of transportation. Once complete, the ATNP will act as a tool to guide View Royal towards promoting multi-modal transportation methods across the Town.

The draft plan includes feedback received in previous rounds of engagement. The open house provided a final opportunity for the community to offer feedback on the final document.

Want to learn more? Please visit the [Active Transportation Network Plan](#) on the Town's website.



EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2023 RESIDENT TREE PLANTING PROGRAM



The Town of View Royal will be celebrating Earth Day by hosting its **FIRST-EVER** Resident Tree Planting event!

On Saturday, April 22, residents of View Royal who applied to participate in the Town's Resident Tree Planting Program in 2022 will meet staff at Town Hall to pick up trees to be planted on their properties. The inaugural event will see numerous trees distributed to the community with the hope of providing many more trees to be planted in association with upcoming planting events.

What is the Resident Tree Planting Program?

This program encourages residents to contribute to View Royal's urban canopy by providing native species of trees 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 next tree planting event (seasonally, in the spring and fall).

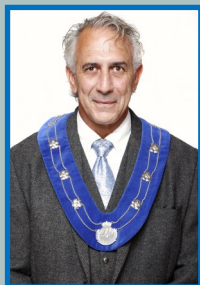
How do I Find More Information and How to Apply?

Go to the Town's website [Resident Tree Planting Program](#) page or call the Engineering Department at 250-708-2258.

Save the Date! Deadline to apply for the Fall 2023 tree planting event is **May 31, 2023**.



MEET YOUR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS



Mayor Sid Tobias



Councillor
Don Brown



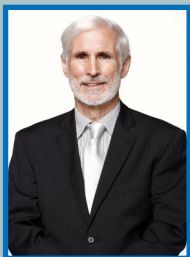
Councillor
Gery Lemon



Councillor
Damian Kowalewich



Councillor
Alison MacKenzie



Councillor
Ron Mattson



Councillor
John Rogers

AUNTIE ARCHIVES

Dear Readers,

Spring brings out the green thumbs. So, in this newsletter, I am planting a seed for thought. I would like to invite you to help chronicle community life with the View Royal Archives.

We are always looking to add photographs, correspondence, and information on local activities to our collections. Do you take bird photos while walking the neighbourhood? Do you have an old map or city directory tucked away in the attic? Do you belong to a View Royal team or club? You can cultivate the memories we preserve for the community - today and into the future. If you have captured a moment in time - please consider sharing with us!
P.S. We love hearing from our young residents too!

You are most welcome to contact us at:
archives@viewroyal.ca or 250-708-2275

Cordially, Auntie Archives

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

Tsunami Preparedness Week is April 9 — 15, 2023

Tsunami Awareness Workshop: Thursday, April 13, 2023
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

The workshop will be held at the Public Safety Building 333 Island Hwy. To register for the workshop, please email:
emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca or call 250-479-7322.

Emergency Preparedness Fair and Display

Sunday, May 7, 2023 — 11 am to 3 pm
Juan de Fuca Seniors Centre
1767 Island Highway



The Emergency Preparedness Fair and Display is a fun and informative way to learn more about how to be prepared for emergencies and about the many emergency resources available in our area. Check out cool emergency vehicles, equipment and emergency supplies as well as interactive activities for the kids, food vendors, giveaways, draws and more. Everyone welcome!

PROPERTY TAXES



2023 PROPERTY TAXES

REMINDER HOME OWNER GRANT

Applications must be received by the Province on or before **July 4, 2023** to avoid penalties. To claim your home owner grant go to www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or phone 1-888-355-2700.

2023 PROPERTY TAXES DUE TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023

Property tax notices will be issued to property owners in the last week of May 2023. Any unpaid 2023 property taxes or unclaimed 2023 home owner grants as of 12:01am July 5, 2023 will have a 10% penalty added to the outstanding balance. As the penalty is Provincially legislated, there are NO exceptions.

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/propertytaxdeferment 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 owing from a prior year (if applicable) before you can defer your current year's taxes.**

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, minutes and videos.



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. Public notices will inform you of traffic advisories, development permits, public hearings, garbage service delays and more. 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 and click on Notifications at the top of the home page.



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[MUNICIPAL SERVICES](#) | [BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT](#)

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, 2023 to get your 2023 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 and click on the 'Online Services' button.



THINKING ABOUT UPGRADING YOUR HOME?

Thousands of dollars are available in retrofit rebates and free local energy experts are available to help get the most out of them. The Town is a partner in the CRD's Home Energy Navigator program. The program engages and supports homeowners by giving access to:

- A free virtual home energy consultation
- Enhanced retrofit decision-making and technical support
- Customized retrofit roadmap
- Quote reviews
- Free retrofit resources, webinars, and workshops

Homeowners can participate in the program for free by filling out a registration form at homeenergynav.ca or by calling 1-866-381-9995. Once registered, you will be connected with an Energy Concierge who will provide as much guidance as you would like throughout your retrofit project.



Upgrading your home?
Save your energy.
Free local energy experts are here to help:



Virtual home energy
consultation



Technology
comparisons



Expert upgrade
support



Rebate navigation
and more!

Find out more:

homeenergynav.ca

New Regional Service
Brought to You by:



HEAT YOUR FOOD NOT THE PLANET!

Cooking with an electric or induction cooktop protects your family from harmful indoor air pollutants and potential methane leaks at the fittings and connections associated with gas stoves.

Induction cooktops:

- save you money as they are very energy efficient;
- cook food very quickly;
- clean up with a wipe;
- produce no noxious fumes; and
- will not catch objects, like dishcloths, on fire as they only heat items that contain iron particles, not the cooktop.

If you are not yet ready to replace your gas stove, a portable induction cooktop can help you stop burning fossil fuels in your home when you cook. You can find induction cooktops starting at under \$100. Your lungs will love you for it!

For information about the environmental and health effects of cooking with natural gas, check out this eleven minute PBS News-Hour clip: <https://www.pbs.org/video/cooking-without-gas-1674168238/>.

Submitted by 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 (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. Please visit westshorealert.ca to register.

VIEW ROYAL THINKS GLOBALLY ACTS LOCALLY

View Royal Council voted unanimously to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT), joining the growing number of communities globally advocating to prevent the expansion of coal, oil, and gas by ending all new exploration and production. Just as nuclear free cities played a critical role in calling for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, councils around the world can help build momentum towards a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

BC is proud to be top of the leaderboard globally for the number of endorsements for a region. To see the full list of city endorsements, go to <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/endorsements>.

BC ENERGY STEP CODE

The Town is committed to taking steps to increase energy-efficiency in new buildings. On January 1, 2023, the Town implemented BC Energy Step Code 3 for Part 9 Buildings (single-family dwellings, duplexes, and townhouses) and wood frame buildings consisting of six-storeys or less regulated by the Part 3 of the BC Building Code, and Step Code 2 for Part 3 Buildings (other residential and commercial buildings). This change does not affect existing in-stream development applications (development permits and building permits) that were received prior to January 1, 2023.

Through the BC Energy Step Code, the Province has established a series of performance requirements that will increase energy efficiency of newly constructed buildings. The Province's goal is that all new buildings are net-zero energy-ready by 2032, which is being achieved through a set of incremental Step Code levels.

These changes at the Provincial level align with View Royal's commitment to reduce energy use and emissions in buildings, identified in the Town's Official Community Plan and the recently adopted Community Climate Action Strategy.

PATHWAY TO 2032: PART 9 (HOMES)



PATHWAY TO 2032: PART 3 (WOOD-FRAME RESIDENTIAL)

