



# VIEW ROYAL NEWS

[viewroyal.ca](http://viewroyal.ca) | [Facebook](#) | [Bluesky](#) | [Instagram](#)

## 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 18, 2025
- Monday, April 21, 2025
- Monday, May 19, 2025
- Tuesday July 1, 2025
- Monday, August 4, 2025
- Monday, September 1, 2025
- Monday, September 30, 2025

**Summer Hours are in effect**  
**Thursday, July 3 to**  
**Friday, August 29, 2025**  
**8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **Auntie Archives**  
See page 2
- **Community Plan Update**  
See page 2
- **Engage View Royal**  
See page 2
- **Resident Tree Planting Program**  
See page 2
- **2025 Property Taxes, Provincial Home Owner Grant and Tax Deferment**  
See page 3
- **Earthquake Safety Tips**  
See page 3
- **Parks Updates**  
See page 3
- **Emergency Preparedness**  
See page 4
- **FireSmart Spring News**  
See page 4
- **Road and Safety Updates**  
See page 4

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Canada Day Celebration**, July 1 at Craigflower Manor
- **Property Tax Deadline**, July 2, 2025



## From The Mayor's Desk

Dear Residents of View Royal,

Spring is here and with it comes an exciting opportunity for you to help shape the future of View Royal. We are in the process of updating our Official Community Plan (OCP) and we want to hear from you! The OCP sets the long-term vision for our town, guiding growth, development, and community priorities. Your input is invaluable in ensuring the OCP reflects the needs and aspirations of our residents. There are many ways to get involved, from online surveys to in-person events. Visit [engage.viewroyal.ca](http://engage.viewroyal.ca) for details on how you can share your thoughts and be part of this important conversation.

At the same time, budget season is underway and Council has begun deliberations on how to best allocate resources to meet community needs. We are proud to say that View Royal often has one of the lowest property taxes per capita in the Capital Region, balancing fiscal responsibility with investments in infrastructure, services and community programs.

One of the most significant projects ahead is the expansion of a new RCMP detachment, which will serve multiple West Shore municipalities. While View Royal's share is approximately 16% of the cost, this will be one of our town's largest capital investments. As per our contractual obligations, we must provide appropriate accommodations for RCMP staff. More details on this project will be shared in the coming months. Meanwhile, we continue to advocate for fairness, pushing back against the Province's decision to download E-Comm 911 costs without adequate governance.

In these uncertain times, we are standing up for our community by adopting a buy Canadian policy in response to ongoing trade challenges and we encourage you to support local businesses as well. We have also reaffirmed our support for Ukraine by once again hoisting the Ukrainian flag at Town Hall. These actions reflect the strong sense of community that makes View Royal such a great place to live. Thank you for staying engaged, supporting one another, and working together to keep our town vibrant and resilient.

Respectfully, Sid Tobias



**VIEW ROYAL 2050**  
 Our Future View

See more on  
 Page 2



## CANADA DAY CELEBRATION AT THE CRAIGFLOWER MANOR SITE ON TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025

The Town of View Royal and the Victoria Highland Games Association invite you to partake in the day-long festivities of music and dance.

Come and connect with your neighbours and meet new friends. Admission to the site will be free.

Details, including volunteer opportunities, will be posted on the Town's website when available at [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca).



## RESIDENT TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Funded through tree removal permitting, the **Resident Tree Planting Program** encourages residents to contribute to View Royal's urban canopy within their private property.



### Am I Eligible?

If you answer **YES** to the points below...

- ✓ Do you own a home in View Royal?
- ✓ Do you have extra outdoor green space suitable for tree planting?
- ✓ Are you able to plant and care for new trees on your property over the long-term?

...then apply at any time! There is no deadline for applications. Trees are purchased for both a spring and fall giveaway event each year.

### How do I Apply?

Complete an Application Form and submit to the Town for consideration. Application Forms can be found online at [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca) or can be picked up at Town Hall by request.



## TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL LAUNCHES OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE: **VIEW ROYAL 2050**

The Town of View Royal is excited to announce the launch of **View Royal 2050: Our Future View**, a comprehensive update to the Town's Official Community Plan (OCP). This initiative will shape the community's vision for the next 25 years, providing a roadmap for managing growth and development in alignment with community values and aspirations.

The OCP is one of the Town's most important guiding documents, addressing land use, housing, transportation, parks, environmental stewardship, climate action, and economic development. Through **View Royal 2050**, the Town will respond to emerging challenges and opportunities, ensuring a sustainable and inclusive future for all residents.

The OCP update will unfold over three phases, beginning in January 2025. Each phase will provide diverse opportunities for public input, including in-person and online engagement activities designed to hear from as many residents as possible.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed and participate by visiting the Town's new engagement platform, [engage.viewroyal.ca](http://engage.viewroyal.ca), which serves as the central hub for information, updates, and opportunities to get involved.

If you have questions or want to learn more about this project, contact us by email at: [ocp@viewroyal.ca](mailto:ocp@viewroyal.ca).



## AUNTIE ARCHIVES

### Where in the Town is Auntie Archives?

Auntie Archives will soon be out again photographing and researching areas of interest in View Royal!



Look for her **Where Am I?** challenges returning to the Town's Facebook and Bluesky accounts on Fridays starting in May.

Think you can stump the Archives with one of your own local photos? Email the [archives@viewroyal.ca](mailto:archives@viewroyal.ca) and we might feature your location in a **Where Am I?** post.

Interested in a visit to see the community collections? The Archives is open Fridays, 9:00 am – 3:30pm (lunch closure 12:30 – 1:30), or call for an appointment 250-708-2275.

## 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).

## DISCOVER- ENGAGE VIEW ROYAL

**What is it?** This new online platform is designed to connect you with the projects, policies and initiatives shaping our community. This interactive tool offers a range of ways for residents, businesses, and organizations to share ideas and provide feedback, ensuring your voice helps guide our town's future.

**Engage View Royal** is built around our commitment to meaningful, open, and inclusive engagement. You'll find:

- Surveys and Quick Polls – Share your thoughts in minutes.
- Interactive Maps – Highlight areas of interest or concern in our community.
- Idea Boards and Stories – Contribute your vision for the future of View Royal.
- Project Updates – Stay informed about topics that matter to you.

Visit <https://engage.viewroyal.ca> to explore current opportunities, sign up for updates, and participate in shaping the projects and initiatives that matter most to you.



## ONLINE SERVICES

Did you know that 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, 2025 to get your 2025 Property Tax Notice by email as soon as it is issued. Once 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!

## 2025 PROPERTY TAXES

### \*REMINDER\* HOME OWNER GRANT

Applications must be submitted **directly by the property owner** and received by the Province on or before **July 2, 2025** to avoid penalties. To claim your home owner grant, go to [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) or phone 1-888-355-2700.

### 2025 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025

Property tax notices will be issued to property owners in the last week of May 2025. Any unpaid 2025 property taxes or unclaimed 2025 home owner grants as of 12:01 A.M. July 3, 2025, will have a **10%** penalty added to the outstanding balance. As the penalty is Provincially legislated, there are **NO** exceptions.

Property taxes can be paid through online banking with your financial institution, via cheque, cash or debit. Credit cards are not accepted. If you are planning to pay with debit, please review your daily transaction limit to ensure the transaction can be successfully processed.

### 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/propertytaxdeferral](http://www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral) 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, including sewer utility fees, owing from a prior year (if applicable) before you can defer your current year's taxes.**

## PARKS PROJECTS UPDATES

### Knollwood Park Playground Upgrade

Fencing will be installed shortly and a celebration may be conducted to mark completion of this upgrade project.



### Watkiss Community Park (by the BC HandyDART site)

Final engagement has been conducted with positive results and detail design is underway for construction in 2025. More information can be found at <https://engage.viewroyal.ca/future-watkiss-way-park>.

### Urban Forest Strategy

A draft urban forest strategy will be ready for public engagement feedback later this Spring. More information can be found at <https://engage.viewroyal.ca/urban-forest-strategy>.

## EARTHQUAKE SAFETY REMINDER

### PROTECT YOURSELF!

Your past experience in earthquakes may give you a false sense of safety; you didn't do anything, or you ran outside, yet you survived with no injuries. Or perhaps you got under your desk and others thought you overreacted. However, you likely have never experienced the kind of strong earthquake shaking that is possible in much larger earthquakes; sudden and intense back and forth motions of several feet per second will cause the floor or the ground to jerk sideways out from under you, and every unsecured object around you could topple, fall, or become airborne, potentially causing serious injury. This is why you must learn to immediately protect yourself after the first jolt... don't wait to see if the earthquake shaking will be strong!

In most situations, if you feel shaking or get an earthquake alert, immediately:



**DROP** where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and reduces your chances of being hit by falling or flying objects.



**COVER** your head and neck with one arm and hand.

- If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath for shelter.
- If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall.
- Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs.



**HOLD ON** until the shaking stops.

- Under shelter: hold on to it with one hand; be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts
- No shelter: hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands.

**HEAT PUMPS & NOISE**

## A NEIGHBOURLY INSTALLATION GUIDE

If you are thinking about a heat pump you may be wondering about noise. Select a quiet unit, looking for models with the lowest decibel rating as well as the following features:

- variable speed fans and compressors,
- soft start and stop functions,
- nighttime/low sound modes, and
- insulated compressors.



Other factors to consider include:

- locate the unit outside the roof drip-line;
- be mindful of hard surfaces that may reflect sound towards your neighbours;
- use a certified technician for the installation;
- clean or change the air filters regularly; and
- keep coils clear of debris and dirt.

Here is a testimonial from a proud View Royal heat pump owner:

*“My 2 ½ ton capacity full house heat pump was installed 15 months ago. I know it is running only when walking past the heat pump by feeling a cool breeze and seeing the fan blade slowly spinning. There is no heat pump startup noise like the typical very noisy air conditioners that we all hate.”*  
R. Caldwell

Rebates remain available on energy saving devices such as electric heat pumps, solar panels, and storage batteries. Details can be found at: <https://homeenergynav.ca>.

Source: City of Vancouver and courtesy of the View Royal Climate Coalition

**TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY PROJECTS****Island Highway Sidewalk Extension (between 1658-1660 Island Highway)**

Construction of this sidewalk extension has started and will be finished later this Spring.

**Island Highway Transit Priority Upgrade Project**

Construction is almost complete for the BC Transit-led priority bus lane project on Island Highway, between the Colwood Interchange and Six Mile Road. Transit service is expected to see the benefits of this project later this Spring.

**Highway 1 Bus on Shoulders Project – (Led by Province of British Columbia)**

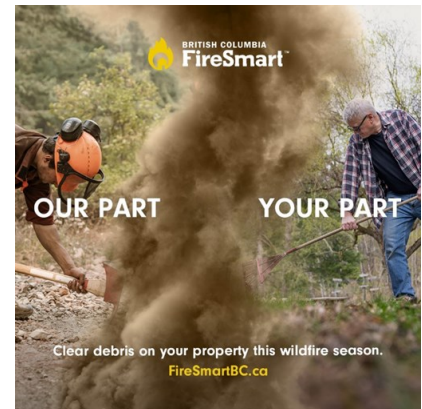
Staff have ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to ensure expectations are managed for View Royal residents and businesses. Works are expected to begin within View Royal in early Spring. More information on the project and how to contact the project manager can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation-projects/other-transportation-projects/highway-1-bus-on-shoulder>.

**WILDFIRE SEASON IS COMING - Get FireSmart**

Get prepared this spring with a **FREE FireSmart** Home Assessment.

Through the View Royal **FireSmart** program, residents can request a **FREE** Home Assessment to assess their home's wildfire risk and receive recommendations to help defend against structure ignition.

To request a **FREE** Home Assessment, visit [www.viewroyal.ca/firesmartassessment](http://www.viewroyal.ca/firesmartassessment)



For more information on the View Royal FireSmart Program contact:

Ryan Eason, FireSmart Coordinator  
[firesmart@viewroyal.ca](mailto:firesmart@viewroyal.ca)  
250-479-7322

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS****EV TRUCK PURCHASES**

Two EV trucks were recently purchased to replace aging vehicles within the Engineering and Parks Departments. These vehicles reduce the Town's reliance on fossil fuels.

**WILDLIFE ATTRACTANT MITIGATION**

The 2024 Bear Safe Bin Pilot Program has been completed for the Riverside Drive neighbourhood. While the pilot program is now closed and new requests are not being considered, questions and comments regarding the program can be directed to [engineering@viewroyal.ca](mailto:engineering@viewroyal.ca).

**REMINDER:**

Mitigating wildlife attractants is important for reducing human-wildlife conflicts and promoting safety. Here are some practical tips to mitigate wildlife attractants from your garbage collection bins:

- Set your carts out the morning of your collection day and not the night before.
- Wrap food scraps in newspaper and keep in your freezer until collection day.
- Contact BC Conservation Officers of any human-wildlife conflicts via the RAPP hotline 1-877-952-7277.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

April 13 -19 is Tsunami Preparedness Week

May 4 -10 is Emergency Preparedness Week

**(Westshore Alert will be tested during this time; specific date and time to be determined.)**

For information on upcoming Emergency Program Workshops, please email: [emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca](mailto:emergencyprogram@viewroyal.ca) or call 250-479-7322.