



# 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 3, 2026
- Monday, April 6, 2026
- Monday, May 18, 2026
- Wednesday July 1, 2026
- Monday, August 3, 2026
- Monday, September 7, 2026
- Wednesday, September 30, 2026

**Summer Hours are in effect  
Friday, July 3 to  
Friday, September 4, 2026  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

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## DATE TO REMEMBER:

- **Property Tax Due Date**  
July 2, 2026



## From The Mayor's Desk

Dear Residents of View Royal,

This update comes at a moment of transition - and of choice - for our community.

I want to begin by recognizing Councillor Damian Kowalewich for three terms of dedicated service to the

Town of View Royal. He brought focus, integrity, and a willingness to do the hard work behind the scenes. That kind of leadership doesn't always make headlines, but it shapes outcomes. It builds trust. It leaves a mark. I also want to congratulate him on his appointment as Deputy Chief of the Saanich Police Department. It is a well-earned step forward in a career defined by service.

We are also looking ahead to the retirement of Fire Chief Paul Hurst this October, closing out an extraordinary 42-year career that began when he was just 16 years old. For over four decades, Paul has answered the call - day and night - leading with professionalism, courage, and a deep sense of responsibility to this community. He didn't just lead a department; he helped define what service looks like in View Royal. That legacy will endure.

Moments like these remind us that the strength of our community depends on people stepping forward and taking part. Local democracy happens every day – it depends on participation, on people putting their names on a ballot, and on bringing their perspective to the table. If you have ever considered running for Council or Mayor, now is the time to act. If you choose not to run, then choose to vote, because the decisions made here shape your neighbourhood, your services, and your future.

Finally, I encourage you to take part in shaping our Official Community Plan by April 15 at: [View Royal 2050: Our Future View | Engage View Royal](#).

Respectfully, Sid Tobias



## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT RUNNING FOR TOWN COUNCIL?

**Your voice matters.  
So does your perspective.**

Local government shapes the community where we live, work, and play.  
More information on page 3

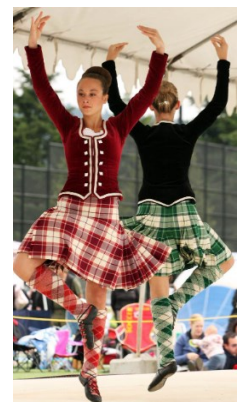


## CANADA DAY CELEBRATION AT THE CRAIGFLOWER MANOR SITE ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

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: [View Royal - Tree Protection](#) or can be picked up at Town Hall.



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

In January 2025, the Town launched View Royal 2050, a process to develop a new Official Community Plan (OCP). An OCP is a municipal bylaw that sets the community's long-term vision for the next 10 to 20 years, shaped by input from residents and stakeholders. It guides growth, development, and public investment, and serves as a broad policy framework for decisions about land use, housing, infrastructure, and services, helping shape social, economic, cultural, and environmental outcomes.

Through five engagement touchpoints, we heard from community members about what matters most for the Town's long-term direction. Residents shared their thoughts on future growth, housing needs, transportation, parks and green spaces, climate action, economic opportunities, neighbourhood character, and more. This input, along with updated technical studies, new provincial housing requirements, and input from Council and the OCP Review Advisory Committee, has helped shape the draft plan.

The draft OCP is now available on the project website. In the coming months, the process will move into the final stages including a Public Hearing anticipated in early summer. Following the Public Hearing, the final OCP will be brought forward to Council for consideration of adoption this summer.

Learn more at: [View Royal 2050: Our Future View | Engage View Royal](#).



## WILDLIFE ATTRACTANT MITIGATION

Mitigating wildlife attractants is important for reducing human-wildlife conflicts and promoting safety. The following are practical steps to reduce attractants from your garbage collection bins:



- Set your bins out the morning of your collection day, rather than the night before.
- Wrap food scraps in newspaper and store them in your freezer until collection day.
- Report any human-wildlife conflicts to the BC Conservation Officer Service through the RAPP hotline at: 1-877-952-7277.



## 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).

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

### Atkins Road Sidewalk Upgrade:

Construction is underway with completion anticipated in late spring. The project will connect the existing sidewalk on Atkins Road, near Anya Lane, westward to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail at the Langford municipal border.



### Glenairlie Pump Station Upgrades:

Upgrades to the Glenairlie Pump Station are expected to begin in late spring. Temporary local traffic disruptions will occur periodically during construction.

### Upcoming Projects:

The Engineering Department is finalizing designs for several projects anticipated to begin construction in the near future. These include street lighting improvements on Six Mile Road, intersection improvements at Helmcken Road at Watkiss Way, and ongoing bus stop upgrades in priority areas.



# PROPERTY TAXES

## 2026 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, 2026** 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.

### 2026 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026

Property tax notices will be issued to property owners in the last week of May 2026. Any unpaid 2026 property taxes or unclaimed 2026 home owner grants as of 12:01 A.M. July 3, 2026 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

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

Tendering for the installation of the "Quiet Park" is expected to begin this spring. More information can be found at:

[Watkiss Way Neighbourhood Park | Engage View Royal.](#)



#### Urban Forest Strategy

Council has adopted a draft Urban Forest Strategy, which sets a target of achieving a 30% tree canopy cover by 2046. Staff will now develop short and long-term programs to support this goal, which will be brought forward for Council consideration as part of future budget discussions.

Interested in how the strategy will help protect and enhance trees in our community? Visit [Urban Forest Strategy | Engage View Royal](#) to learn more and get involved.



## ONLINE SERVICES



Did you know that you can....

- View your sewer utility and/or property tax accounts online, including recent payments
- View your sewer utility consumption and annual usage trends
- Sign-up for e-billing to receive sewer utility bills and property tax notices by email
- Download and print your bills
- Access your property's legal description, assessment history, and tax levies
- Renew your business licence and make payments online
- View municipally licenced businesses located in View Royal through our online database.





If you have not already done so, be sure to sign up before May 1, 2026, to receive your 2026 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. To sign up, look for **Online Services** under **QUICKLINKS** on our home page at: [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca).

### HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT RUNNING FOR TOWN COUNCIL?

View Royal's Council is made up of a Mayor and six Councillors, who work together to set the direction for the Town and make choices that affect residents everyday.

The 2026 general local election is an opportunity for residents to get involved in local government and help shape the community's future. Serving as an elected official – whether as a Mayor or Councillor – is one of the most direct ways to contribute to decisions that affect everyone who lives, works, and plays in View Royal. If you are interested in serving your community in this way, consider running for Council in the next local election on October 17, 2026.

### WHAT'S INVOLVED TO RUN FOR COUNCIL:

-  You must be 18+, a Canadian citizen, and live in BC.
-  You don't need to belong to a political party.
-  You'll bring your lived experience and ideas to decisions that affect parks, planning, roads, housing, emergency services and more.
-  There are tools and resources available to help you understand the process.

For more information and resources, visit: [www.viewroyal.ca/elections](http://www.viewroyal.ca/elections) or contact the Corporate Administration department at 250-479-6800 or by email at: [info@viewroyal.ca](mailto:info@viewroyal.ca).



## BEAT THE HEAT RETROFIT FAIR

Save the Date! Don't miss the Beat the Heat Retrofit Fair, a family-friendly community event proudly hosted by the View Royal Community Association and the View Royal Climate Coalition.

**When: Saturday, June 6, 2026 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Where: View Royal Community Hall, 279 Island Hwy**

Chat with our expert exhibitors, ready to guide you through your unique retrofit journey toward a healthier, safer, and more climate-resilient home while helping you lower your monthly energy bills.

Come see the CRD thermal imaging camera in action and discover how heat moves through your home. Local Emergency Support Services (ESS) will also be on-site to share important strategies for staying safe and cool during extreme heat waves. Don't forget the kids! Enter our grand prize draw for a shaded 2-ring kiddie splash pool.



Our local firefighters will be on hand with the **FireSmart** Program to guide you through essential **FireSmart** landscaping tips.

To help you get started, there will be free draws for beautiful, drought-resistant **FireSmart** plants!

Trees help build our climate resiliency. Consider participating in View Royal's Resident Tree Planting Program. For more information, see the newsletter article titled "**RESIDENT TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**".



Courtesy of the View Royal Climate Coalition



## TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS - STAY INFORMED

The Town has enhanced how residents can stay informed about traffic disruptions in and around View Royal. Our website now features a map-based tool that provides real time information on road impacts, helping you quickly identify delays and choose the best route. Residents can also sign up to receive public notices through RSS feeds.

Visit: [View Royal - Construction Advisories and Notices](#) for more information.

### Highway 1 Bus on Shoulder Project – (Led by Province of British Columbia)

Staff have ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Transportation & Transit and BC Transit to ensure expectations are managed for View Royal residents and businesses.

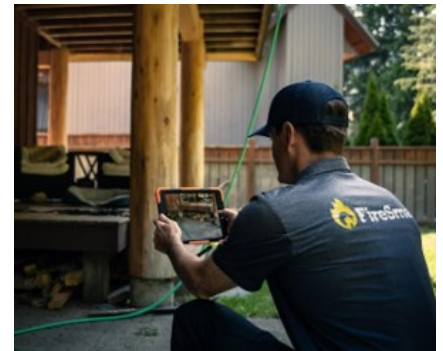
More information on the project and how to contact the project manager can be found here: [Highway 1 Bus on Shoulder McKenzie to Colwood - Province of British Columbia](#).



## 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 FireSmart** Home Assessment, visit: [FireSmart BC](#).

For more information on the View Royal FireSmart Program visit: [View Royal - FireSmart](#).

## 2026 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR

Save the date! Don't miss the Emergency Preparedness Fair, a free, family-friendly community event showcasing local emergency response agencies and support organizations.

**When: Sunday, May 3, 2026 - 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**Where: Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre, 1767 Island Hwy**

### Enjoy:

- Fun activities for kids
- Live demonstrations
- Interactive displays
- Food vendors
- Fire trucks
- Emergency responders
- Emergency preparedness tips
- Giveaways, draws and more!

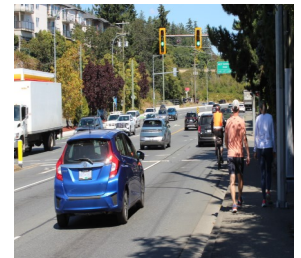
For more information visit: [www.epfair.ca](http://www.epfair.ca)



## TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

We are updating View Royal's Transportation Master Plan to improve safety, accessibility, and connections for all road users.

The project is now moving into Phase 2: Future Network Evaluations. As part of this phase, the Town will launch a second survey and host a series of pop up kiosks at key locations around View Royal. Engagement will also include discussions with neighbouring local governments, the Province of BC, outreach to First Nations, and other interest groups and stakeholders.



Want to have a say in the 20 year vision for transportation in View Royal? For details on how to participate visit: [Transportation Master Plan Update | Engage View Royal](#).