

MARCH 2026 • ISSUE 15

INSIDE VIEW ROYAL

Town of View Royal Monthly e-Update



VIEW ROYAL 2050 Our Future View

The final round of engagement for View Royal 2050 is now underway, with the draft Official Community Plan available for review and feedback until April 15.

This is an important milestone in the process to update the Town's Official Community Plan, which will guide decisions about land use, housing, transportation, parks, climate action, community wellbeing, and more for the next 20 years.

Community members can review the full draft document or read the summary report before completing the online survey. This is the last opportunity to provide feedback before the plan is finalized and brought forward for Council consideration. A Public Hearing is anticipated in early summer, with final adoption expected later this year.

To learn more about View Royal 2050 visit:

engage.viewroyal.ca/view-royal-2050

Urban Forest Strategy Adopted by Town Council

The Town of View Royal's first Urban Forest Strategy has been adopted by Council, marking a key step in guiding the long-term management, protection, and growth of the community's urban forest.

Informed by community input, the Strategy sets a framework through to 2046 and includes a canopy cover target of 30%, based on operational and financial analysis of different scenarios.

Learn more:

[Urban Forest Strategy](#)





2026 Budget Engagement: Open Until March 31

The Town of View Royal is inviting residents to review and provide feedback on the draft 2026–2030 Financial Plan.

The Financial Plan outlines how the Town funds services such as police, fire, parks, infrastructure, and administration. The draft 2026 budget includes a projected 8.69% increase in municipal property tax revenue, along with adjustments to user fees to support service delivery and long-term infrastructure needs. For an average household, total municipal taxes and user fees are estimated to increase by approximately \$249 in 2026, though individual impacts will vary.

Public feedback will be considered as part of upcoming budget discussions. An online survey is available until March 31, 2026.

Learn more and complete the survey:

engage.viewroyal.ca/budget-2026

Upcoming Town Hall Closure

Town Hall will be closed on Friday, April 3 and Monday, April 6 for the Easter holiday. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, April 7.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter weekend.



View Royal Garden Club – April Meeting

Join the View Royal Garden Club for their next monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 15, at 7:00pm. This month’s guest speaker is Bethany Couture, a certified horticulturalist, permaculture practitioner, herbalist and educator who is passionate about sustainable gardening.

Learn how to grow a nativescape that prioritizes Native Plants, provides food, shelter and water for wildlife while building healthy soil and requiring less maintenance.

For details, visit viewroyalgardenclub.ca.





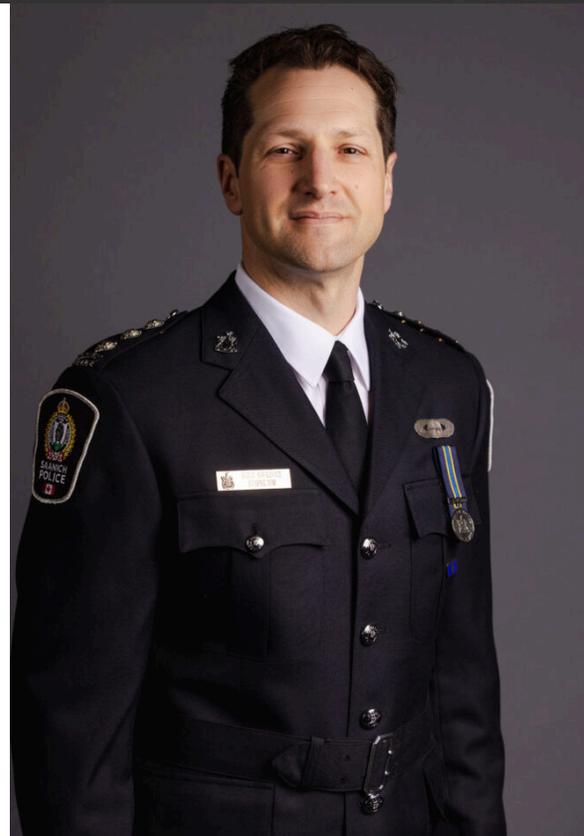
Councillor Kowalewich Steps Down After Years of Service to the View Royal Community

Councillor Damian Kowalewich will step down from View Royal Council on March 31, 2026, as he takes on a new role as Deputy Chief of the Saanich Police Department.

First elected in 2017, he has been a dedicated member of Council with a strong focus on youth recreation, and thoughtful community growth.

The Town thanks Councillor Kowalewich for his service and contributions, and wishes him all the best in his new role.

[Read the full announcement](#)



Thank You Fire Chief Hurst for 42 Years of Service

After more than four decades of service, Fire Chief Paul Hurst will retire from the View Royal Fire Department effective October 1, 2026.

Chief Hurst's career with View Royal Fire began at age 16 as a volunteer, following in the footsteps of his father, a longtime member of the department. He became a career firefighter in 1988 and was appointed Fire Chief in 2006. Over his career, he has played a key role in advancing fire services in View Royal and across the region,

The Town thanks Chief Hurst for his leadership, dedication, and lasting contributions to the community.

[Read the full announcement](#)





Save the Date:
2026 Emergency Preparedness Fair

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR

Sunday May 3rd 11am - 3pm
Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre
1767 Island Highway

A SHOWCASE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCIES AND SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS!

FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

- Fun Activities for Kids
- Food Vendors
- Fire Trucks
- Meet Emergency Responders
- Live Demonstrations
- Interactive Displays
- Emergency Preparedness Tips
- Giveaways, Draws and More!



WE ARE PREPARED. ARE YOU?

For more information, visit: www.epfair.ca

Volunteer Work Party: Portage Park

There is just one more opportunity this month to roll up your sleeves and make a difference at Portage Park. Join the View Royal Habitat Restoration group for the final March work party, help remove invasive species, care for local natural areas, and see the impact of your efforts firsthand.



Sunday, March 29



9:30am – 12:30pm



Portage Park

Meet by the playground at Portage Park.

For more details, please contact Chris Junck, Habitat Restoration Coordinator:

restorevr@gmail.com





Upcoming Meetings

March 30, 2026 6:30pm	OCP Advisory Committee Meeting
March 31, 2026 6:00pm	Special Council Meeting
April 7, 2026 6:00pm	Council Meeting
April 14, 2026 6:00pm	Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 21, 2026 6:00pm	Council Meeting

Meetings are held in person in Council Chambers as well as virtually via [Live Webcast](#). The meeting duration will vary according to the agenda. Agendas are normally posted on the Friday prior to the meeting on the [Agendas, Minutes & Videos](#) page of the website.

For a full list of upcoming meetings, visit: [2026 Council & COW Meeting Schedule](#).

Departmental Update

Looking for more detail about the Town's activities and projects?

Explore the monthly **Departmental Update** for an in-depth look at key initiatives, community updates, and the progress of various projects shaping our town.

Stay informed and engaged with the latest from Town Hall!

[March 2026 Update](#)

