

## Port Coquitlam Policing Plan to look at priorities

In the past months the City has been working with the RCMP to identify the community's policing concerns and priorities with the end objective of developing strategies to address them. This work began with an independent, statistically valid, comprehensive citizen survey on police services issued in November of 2003 prepared by the University College of the Fraser Valley. Some of the key findings of this survey are that residents:

- are satisfied (61%) with the police services they receive from the RCMP; only 7% are dissatisfied;
- report feeling less safe today than they did when they moved into their current neighbourhoods, which was, on average, eleven years ago; and
- are willing to pay more for police services (80% of residents would be very or extremely supportive of an increase of \$25 a year; 63% of a \$50 increase).

When asked if there was any particular problem that the RCMP should devote more resources to, the following top five issues were cited: need for more police patrols (25%), traffic offences (17%), youth crimes (17.5%), drugs (12%) and break & enter / auto theft (8.5%).

This spring, the City and the RCMP formally began the process of developing a Police Services Strategic Plan that will state the community level priorities identified for police services and their related goals/objectives. In addition to the aforementioned survey, one of the key inputs to this plan will be information gathered from a meeting held on March 25th with a group of citizens representing all sectors of the community including youth, church groups, large and small business, seniors, and social and charity groups. This group identified a number of policing priorities including: communication/ partnerships/education, youth issues, police visibility, response times to lower priority calls, traffic issues, and drug related crimes including grow-ops, break and enters, and car theft.

We anticipate that the Police Services Strategic Plan (PSSP) will be in place by June of this year. Following Council's adoption of this plan, the RCMP will develop an action plan for how the goals and objectives can best be achieved, including resource needs, which will be considered by Council during the 2005 budget process. This process and the eventual plans for local police services will be a first for the City. The intent is for this to be an annual process, including reporting back by the local RCMP detachment on what has been done or accomplished respecting the local priorities.

For more information please contact, Nancy Gomerich, Director of Corporate Services and staff liaison with the RCMP at 604-927-5211 or gomerichn@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca.

BUILDING & PLUMBING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS	604-927-5444
24 Hour Request Line	604-927-5445
BUSINESS LICENCES	604-927-5238
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	604-927-5440
CEMETERY	604-927-5251
COMMUNITY POLICE STATIONS	
3312 Coast Meridian Road	604-927-5451
2581 Mary Hill Road	604-927-2383
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	604-927-5442
DOG LICENCES	604-927-5425
EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES	604-927-5479
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR	604-927-5466
ENGINEERING	604-927-5420
FACILITY BOOKINGS	604-927-7903
FIELDS CLOSURES	604-927-5455
FIRE DEPARTMENT	604-927-5466
<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	911
GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION	604-927-5488
HYDE CREEK RECREATION CENTRE	604-927-7946
MAYOR & COUNCILLORS	604-927-5410
OPERATIONS	604-927-5488
<i>(Drainage &amp; Flood Control, Roads &amp; Lanes/Sanitary, Sewer/Sidewalks/ Street Lighting &amp; Traffic, Signal Outages/ Traffic Inquiries/Water System)</i>	
<i>Emergency (After Hours)</i>	604-543-6700
POLICE (RCMP)	604-945-1550
<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	911
PORT COQUITLAM RECREATION COMPLEX	604-927-7970
PROPERTY TAXES & UTILITY PAYMENTS	604-927-5425
VECTOR CONTROL (Pest Control)	604-927-5447
WILSON CENTRE (Seniors Centre)	604-927-7970

CITY CONTACTS

## COMMUNITY POLICING GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAM

### What Do I Do? Report it!

Graffiti, like other forms of vandalism, is a crime! Report graffiti to your local Community Police Station by phone or in person. Be prepared to provide details regarding the location of the graffiti, a description and, if possible, the date and approximate time the graffiti was done. These details provide important clues to help apprehend perpetrators and prevent reoccurrence.

For more information on the Community Policing Graffiti Removal Program, contact:

- Coast Meridian Community Police Station, 604-927-5451, 3312 Coast Meridian Road
- Mary Hill Community Police Station, 604-927-2383, 2581 Mary Hill Road

## Important Phone Numbers

School Taxes .....1-250-356-0907  
 Greater Vancouver  
 Regional District .....604-432-6249  
 TransLink Board .....604-453-4500  
 BC Assessment  
 Authority .....604-465-7343  
 Municipal Finance  
 Authority .....1-250-383-1181  
 City of Port Coquitlam,  
 Tax Office .....604-927-5425

## Six Ways to Pay

### YOUR PROPERTY TAXES IN PORT COQUITLAM

#### 1. Pay at your bank

Save time. Pay your tax notice and other bills while banking.

#### 2. Pay by phone/internet

You must be a member of a bank or credit union that offers pay-by-phone services. Call your branch for details.

#### 3. Pay by mail\*

Mail your payment (cheque or money order) to:  
 City of Port Coquitlam,  
 2580 Shaughnessy Street,  
 Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8.

#### 4. 24 Hour drop-off\*

Drop your payment in the mail slot located to the right of the main entrance to City Hall.

#### 5. Pay in person\*

Bring your bill payment to the Tax Office on the main floor of City Hall, Monday to Friday (excluding Statutory Holidays) from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Please be prepared to wait in line.

#### 6. For next year

Consider joining our Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for property taxes and utilities.

\* Cheques post-dated up to July 2, 2004 accepted.

#### Credit Card Payments:

The City of Port Coquitlam does not accept credit cards as payment for property taxes or utilities.

MAY 2004

## Message from the Mayor

The City's 2002 Strategic Plan developed eight strategic objectives that set out a plan that fosters the development of a complete and safe community while supporting the expanding needs and expectations of our residents and businesses. As we implemented our plan in 2003 we focused on attainable goals that promise responsible leadership, financial stability, enhanced safety, quality services, smart growth, and improved communication. In 2004 we look forward to the ongoing achievement of our strategic goals.

City Council and staff are committed to the highest quality services possible, while keeping our property taxes low. When comparing Port Coquitlam's tax and utility billings between 1996 and 2004 with those of neighbouring communities, we noted that the average home in Port Coquitlam

experienced an increase of \$287 compared to \$475 in Coquitlam and \$446 in Port Moody. During this period we have maintained our service levels through a combination of operating efficiencies, and revenue from new construction.

Our priorities for 2004 are improving transportation and transit infrastructure; planning and managing growth; sustainable financial and economic development; nurturing community safety; effective communications; and quality services enhanced by leading edge technology and innovation.



Scott Young  
Mayor



## PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE FRIDAY, JULY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004

- A 5% penalty will be added to 2004 current property taxes outstanding after July 2nd, 2004.
- A further 5% penalty will be applied after August 16, 2004.

#### Property owners whose property taxes are paid by a mortgage company:

- It is the sole responsibility of the property owner to complete the Home Owner Grant every year (if eligible). You must submit your application to the City Collector by the due date in order to avoid penalties.
- Your mortgage company is advised of property taxes payable ONLY and NOT ANY UNPAID water and sewer levies for the current year.

#### Tax Deferment Program

The BC Property Tax Deferment Program allows you to apply to defer payment of annual property taxes on your home if you are:

- 60 years or older; or
- widowed; or
- a disabled person as defined by the Land Tax Deferment Regulations; and you are
- a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who has lived in British Columbia for at least one year immediately prior to applying for tax deferment benefits.

### For more information on the Tax Deferment Program and an application form, contact:

- **City's Tax Office** at 604-927-5425, or email at [taxes@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca](mailto:taxes@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca)
- **Provincial Tax Deferment Office** at 1-250-953-5185
- **Tax Deferment Program** website at [www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/property\\_tax\\_deferment.htm](http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/property_tax_deferment.htm)

## Home Owner Grant

To help us process your payment faster:

- Complete your Home Owner Grant application in full, if you are eligible. Missing information may delay processing and could result in late charges.
- If you are 65 years of age or older, please ensure your birth date is included on the bottom left hand corner of the application.
- A new Home Owner Grant application must be completed each year.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES – HOME OWNER GRANT

Applicant under 65 years of age: If the current year tax is less than \$820, the Home Owner Grant is the amount of the current year taxes less \$350. If the current year tax is \$820 or more, the Home Owner Grant is \$470. The minimum tax payment required from applicants under 65 is \$350.

Applicant 65 years of age or older, or in receipt of an allowance under the War Veteran Act, or Merchant Navy Veteran and Civilian War Related Benefits Act or disability allowance under the Disability Benefits Program Act, or a person with disabilities under the regulations: If the current year tax is less than \$845, the Home Owner Grant, inclusive of the additional grant, is the amount of the current year taxes less \$100. If the current year tax is \$845 or more, the Home Owner Grant, inclusive of the additional grant is \$745. The Home Owner Grant is reduced by \$10, for every \$1,000 of residential assessed value in excess of \$585,000.

These notes are intended for general guidance only and are subject to the detailed provisions in the Home Owner Grant Act and regulations.

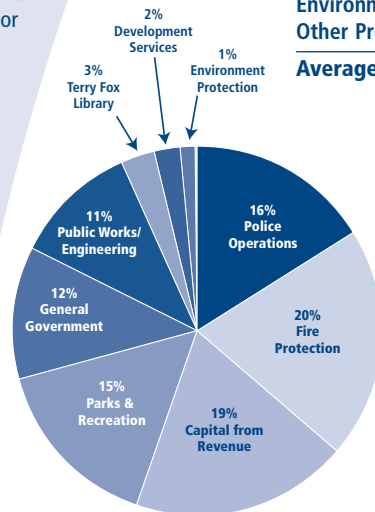
To obtain the grant, you must complete and submit an application form. If you qualify for the additional grant (see below) and wish to obtain it, you must complete the box on the application form that best describes your qualification and provide the required information and forms.

### WHO MAY QUALIFY?

1. You may qualify for a Home Owner Grant if:
  - a) You are an owner (as defined in the Local Government Act and the Taxation [Rural Area] Act, which includes a lessee under a registered lease of 99 years or more who is required to pay the current year taxes); and
  - b) you are a permanent resident of British Columbia (either a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant); and
  - c) you occupy as your principal residence the dwelling described on your application form.
2. You and your spouse together may qualify for only one Home Owner Grant on one residence in British Columbia in any one calendar year even if you live in separate residences (unless you are legally separated).
3. If you are the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother or sister of a qualifying deceased owner, you may be eligible for the Home Owner Grant in the year of the owner's death if the residence was your principal residence at the time of death.
4. You may qualify for the additional grant if:
  - a) you are over 65 (please state your birth date on the application form); or
  - b) you have a permanent disability, or are the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, step parent or person standing in the place of a parent, grandparent, brother or sister of a person with a permanent disability who resides in your home (complete the required forms, which are available from the City Collector).
5. The City Collector or Grant Administrator may require any documentation considered necessary to confirm your eligibility.
6. Corporations are not eligible for a grant unless they qualify as owners of eligible buildings, land cooperatives or multi dwelling leased parcels, as defined in the Home Owner Grant Act. Such owners must use the prescribed Form A, which is available from the City Collector at City Hall, 2580 Shaughnessy Street or 604-927-5425.
7. If an owner is unable to apply in person, the owner's committee or a person appointed in writing as the owner's attorney (Power of Attorney) or authorized representative (Representation Agreement) may apply on behalf of the owner.
8. To avoid penalty for late payment of your taxes, you must apply for a Home Owner Grant on or before the tax due date of July 2nd, 2004 (you may apply before the tax due date even if you are not paying your taxes before the due date).
9. A grant for the current tax year may not be allowed if an application for the grant is delivered to the City Collector later than December 31 of that year. Extensions of one year may be allowed. For more information, contact the City Collector at 604-927-5425 or taxes@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca.

## Where your money goes

Police Operations . . . . .	\$ 184
Fire Protection . . . . .	232
Capital from Revenue . . . . .	218
Parks & Recreation . . . . .	177
General Government . . . . .	133
Public Works/Engineering . . . . .	125
Terry Fox Library . . . . .	34
Development Services . . . . .	26
Environment Protection . . . . .	15
Other Protection . . . . .	2
<b>Average City Property Tax . . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 1,147</b>



For more detailed information on the 2004-2008 Financial Plan, please contact the City's Budget Officer at 604-927-5486 or grahamr@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca

## Spring Greening

The growing season is upon us and many residents will be out cleaning their yards, preparing their vegetable patches and generating greater amounts of green waste.

In the past, the City has collected unlimited amounts of green waste. Now, with greater awareness of the environment and sustainability issues, we are encouraging residents to grass-cycle, backyard compost and manage more green waste at home. Over the years the City has sold composters at a subsidized rate to promote backyard home composting. The composting program has been very successful and some residents have returned their green waste carts to the City, as they now handle their green waste in their backyard through composting and other environmentally friendly methods.

Other disposal options available to owners and residents include upsizing to larger or additional carts for an annual fee. Green waste can also be managed on site and/or stock piled until the next collection day. Wastech Services, located at 1200 United Boulevard, and the Landscape Centre at 3090 Westwood Street also accept green waste materials.

The City's new automated collection service is consistent with one of the corner stones of our Strategic Plan -- to protect, improve and sustain our environment as well as to maintain financial stability by implementing innovative methods for service delivery. We thank all residents who have supported us in this responsible and proactive approach to maintaining a sustainable community and a healthy environment for present and future generations.



## 2004 Capital Projects

Capital Projects are improvements undertaken by the City that generally happen on a one-time basis. These projects include improvements to traffic signals, bicycle lanes, pedestrian paths, and streets as well as water, wastewater, and flood control systems. In addition, these projects may require the purchase of land or major equipment, construction of new buildings or facilities, and building improvements or additions to existing facilities.

The capital projects planned for 2004 have been selected because they either improve mobility and access within the City, such as road construction and traffic signals, or they enhance public safety such as the improvements to the water mains and stormwater and sanitary pump stations. Included in this year's capital improvement plan are the following projects:

- **Dominion Road Reconstruction** (Nile Gate to Dyke) . . . . . \$5,360,000
- **Pitt River Road Construction** (Cameron Ave. to Mercer Ave.) . \$1,000,000
- **Water Main Replacements** . . . . . \$590,000
  - Pooley Avenue (Pitt River Road to Eastern)
  - Clare Place (Columbia to end)
  - Gail Place (Lancaster to Raleigh)
  - Kitchener Avenue (Hastings east to end)
  - Rita Place (Pooley to end)
- **Sanitary Pump Station Upgrades** . \$431,000
  - Lynnwood Pump Station Retrofit
  - Hyde Creek Park Pump Station Upgrade
  - Argue Pump Station Upgrade
- **Sewer and Connections Upgrades for Pavement Rehabilitation Program** . . . . . \$424,000
  - Vivian Place; Paula Place; 1900 Block Kingsway Avenue; 2100 Block Coquitlam Avenue; Rita Place; 2000 Block Pooley Avenue; 2600 Block Gail Avenue
- **Harbour Stormwater Pump Station Upgrade** . . . . . \$275,000
- **Broadway Storm Sewer** (Design and Environmental Approvals) . . . . . \$250,000
- **Traffic Signals** . . . . . \$210,000
  - Pitt River Rd at Citadel Drive
  - Coast Meridian at Birchland Manor
- **Industrial Ave Construction** (Broadway to 200m East, including Design) . . . . \$50,000
- **Traffic Calming Program** (Proposed for Westminster Avenue at James Park Elementary School) . . . . . \$45,000
- **Daylighting the Fox Creek Storm Drain** (Design and Environmental Approvals) . . . . . \$10,900



The City of Port Coquitlam is pursuing a partnership with the Maple Creek Streamkeepers, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Canadian Pacific Railway to construct an open watercourse complete with fisheries and riparian habitat enhancements adjacent to Fox Street. Some of the benefits of this project include:

- improved flow of water in Fox Creek by reducing peak flows and maintaining base flows;
- reduced property erosion;
- public education and awareness;
- improved water quality through filtering of sediments and pollutants; and
- park beautification and natural environment enhancement through a diversification of plants and wildlife.

### **We all have a role in community safety. Emergency Preparedness**

We encourage you to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders in providing disaster relief and community safety.

The City's Emergency Preparedness Program provides the following complimentary courses to Port Coquitlam residents:

- Personal Family Preparedness - June 8th, September 21st and November 16th
- Rapid Damage Assessment - June 10th, September 23rd and November 18th
- Basic Fire Suppression - June 15th, September 28th and November 23rd
- Light Urban Search and Rescue - September 29th and November 30th
- First Aid Awareness - September 30th and November 25th

**To register call 604-927-5466 – space is limited, register early to assure your spot!!**

Port Coquitlam's Emergency Preparedness Program always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in becoming involved in our community's EP Program, please contact 604-927-5466 or email [fire@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca](mailto:fire@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca).

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### *Experience it!*

#### **Outdoor Youth Park**

After considerable public input, Lions Park (parking lot area) has been selected for the development of an Outdoor Youth parksite. This destination park is slated to be constructed over the summer of 2004 to be ready for use late this fall. The design will include a place where youth can go to enjoy skateboarding, in-line skating, basketball and other hard surface sports, biking and socializing. An artist will also be working with the consultant team and youth to integrate community art into the project.

#### **Gates Park Baseball Field and Washroom/Changerooms**

Construction is scheduled to commence soon for a new baseball facility at Gates Park. A consultant team and the Port Coquitlam Minor Baseball Association worked together in the development of this site, which will include a Bantam level baseball field with lights for night play. The associated facilities include two new changerooms, public washrooms, a concession area, a meeting room and caretaker/maintenance spaces. Construction is intended to take place over the Summer/Fall 2004 to be ready for the 2005 season.

#### **Leigh Square Community Arts Village**

The City has been granted \$1.6 million for the development of the innovative Leigh Square Community Arts Village, which will include three sites surrounding Leigh Square. The scheduled design includes spaces for arts, cultural and heritage activities such as arts studios, a display centre, performance space, workshop area, meeting rooms and a resource centre as well as an outlet for local artisans to market their wares. Construction on the first phase, which includes the old post office building on McAllister and the existing Parks & Recreation building, is scheduled to begin later this year.

#### **Internet Registration – Coming Soon**

The City is committed to providing great customer service. As a result, we are introducing our latest customer service initiative:



This on-line registration system will provide residents with a convenient and easy way to register for leisure programs seven days a week. Just think, you can register for a program from the comfort of your home, laptop or office computer. To be able to use this service you will need a family PIN and personal barcode for each family member.

Sign up now by calling 604-927-7970 or 604-927-7946, emailing [parksrec@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca](mailto:parksrec@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca) or visiting one of our recreation centres.