

Check out these fun community events

There's always something happening in Port Coquitlam, and this summer is no exception. Our many outdoor events are fun and family-oriented, close to home and a great way to spend a day. Mark these on your calendar:

- **Canada Day – Sunday, July 1, 8 a.m.-dusk**
 8 -11:30 a.m.: Enjoy a pancake breakfast and fishing derby at Lions Park. Noon-dusk: Head to Castle Park for opening ceremonies, a community showcase, live entertainment, vendors, multicultural displays, food and fireworks at dusk. (Parking restrictions in effect from 4 p.m. to midnight.)
- **Music in the Park – Sundays, July 8 - August 26, 2-4 p.m.**
 Head to Lions Park with a chair or blanket for our free outdoor concert series. July 8 – Afro-Latin/Flamenco/Gypsy; July 15 – jazz; July 22 – blues; July 29 – Celtic/World; Aug. 5 – African; Aug. 12 – roots/folk; Aug. 19 – Gypsy jazz; Aug. 26 – folk.
- **Live @ Leigh Square – Saturdays, July 14 - August 25, 1:30 p.m. start**
 Experience diverse local youth talent at the bandshell in the beautiful new surroundings at Leigh Square. July 14 – metal; July 21 – orchestral light classical and pop; July 28 – open mike; Aug. 4 – metal; Aug. 11 – garage bands; Aug. 18 – jazz; Aug. 25 – variety showcase. Bring a chair or blanket.
(Turn the page for more activities at the Leigh Square Community Arts Village.)
- **Downtown Car Show – Sunday, August 19**
 More than 200 unique, vintage and custom cars, trucks and motorcycles line the downtown streets for this annual event.
- **Terry Fox Hometown Run – Sunday, September 16, 10 a.m. start**
 Port Coquitlam's Hometown Run is a non-competitive event aimed to raise money for cancer research in Terry's name. Run, walk or wheel your choice of a 2.5 km, 6 km or 10 km routes that start and end from Hyde Creek Recreation Centre. Registration starts at 8 a.m.
- **Rivers & Trails Festival – Sunday, September 30, noon-4 p.m.**
 Visit beautiful riverside Peace Park to enjoy a working boat parade, paddlewheeler trips, community displays, children's activities and more.
- **Trail River Run - Half Marathon – Sunday, September 30**
 Run or walk a 5 km or 21.1 km route along the scenic Traboulay PoCo Trail, leaving from Peace Park. The walk begins at 7:30 am, the 21.1 km run begins at 8:30 am and the 5 km run begins at 9:30 am.

For more details about these events, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca.

Something for everyone at Gates Park



Recent upgrades at Port Coquitlam's Gates Park have turned it into a community attraction with something for people of all ages and interests.

For the kid at heart, there's a new multi-age playground. Try the Wallcano vertical wall climber, the double wave Zip Slide, the Sky Bridge, the Treescape deck, and the Xcelerator for a little spin.

If tennis is your game, find a partner and your racket and head on down to one of the six newly renovated and lit tennis courts.

You can also bring along your appetite and enjoy lunch, dinner or a snack at the new Pajo's Fish and Chips in the Gates Park Field House. Pajo's opened in May and offers a variety of meal and dessert items.

All this is available amidst Gates Park's many sports field options, including an artificial turf playing field and practice field, five baseball diamonds, three turf soccer fields and a lit all-weather field.

Whether you're walking or cycling along the Traboulay PoCo Trail or arriving from the residential areas nearby, Gates Park is a great destination. You'll find Gates Park at 2300 Reeve Street, next to Riverside Secondary School.

Three-year-old Andrew enjoys the playground at Gates Park.

TRI-CITY NEWS PHOTO

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Discover what your community has to offer this summer

Consider getting out of the house this summer and seeing what your community has to offer, in terms of public amenities, services and just good old family fun.

Certainly the warmer weather offers a great opportunity to check out Port Coquitlam's extensive trail network – perfect for an after-dinner stroll, a day-long exploration of the community or a traffic-free commute by bicycle. They're also an easy and fun way to keep your commitment to a more active and healthy lifestyle.

Leigh Square – Our New Arts Hub

Follow the trails into the downtown core this summer to check out the new Leigh Square Community Arts Village. This is the new focal point for arts and culture in Port Coquitlam – come on down to experience exciting community arts programming, art exhibits, performances and much more (see the article in this edition of *Update* for more details).

The beautiful and functional new spaces in the arts village

are a testament to the efforts of a long list of volunteers and partners who helped turn the dream into a reality. Without their dedication, hard work and positive energy, this significant new community asset would not exist.

We can all show our thanks by making good use of these facilities – they are truly a source of community pride.

Finding Fun in the City

Looking for inexpensive and fun activities for your family this summer? You certainly won't have to leave the community to find them.

Port Coquitlam residents are lucky to have a variety of beautiful parks to visit and enjoy, as well as two outdoor pools, two wading pools and a spray park. Many of these sites can be accessed by the trail network. For more information about



our parks and recreation amenities, please check out our civic website at www.portcoquitlam.ca.

And of course, what would summer be in Port Coquitlam without our many free festivals and events? I urge you to take full advantage of these community celebrations – they're a terrific way to spend quality time with family and friends, meet your neighbours and experience the spirit of Port Coquitlam – also known as PoCo Pride. Aside from that, they're a lot of fun! For a listing of festivals and happenings in the coming months, check out the article on this page or visit our website.

Don't let the good weather pass you by – explore your community and discover just how special it is.

Mayor Scott Young

Consider the neighbours before making noise

During the warm summer months, many residents take the opportunity to enjoy their outdoor spaces and let some fresh air into their homes. It's also the time of year to be especially mindful of how much noise you generate on your property.

Please be considerate of your neighbours and try to limit your noise as much as possible. Keep in mind that under the City's Noise Control Bylaw, it is a violation to make noise that unreasonably disturbs the "quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the neighbourhood or of person(s) in the vicinity."

If you are bothered by a neighbour's noise, often the best first step is to approach them directly, if you feel comfortable doing so. Chances are, they probably don't realize they are bothering their neighbours and will reduce their noise level immediately.

If the problem is not resolved, contact the Bylaw Services Office at 604-927-5440. In extreme cases, where immediate action is necessary and the Bylaw Services Office cannot be reached, call the RCMP at 604-945-1550.

Repeat offenders of the Noise Control Bylaw are subject to a \$100 fine for each incident, assuming there is sufficient evidence to support a conviction.

Typical sources of noise disturbances:

Barking dogs

- A properly socialized dog should not bark for long periods except in unusual circumstances.
- Problem barking is curable but it requires effective intervention.
- Barking dog cases are handled by the SPCA, the City's animal control contractor.

Construction

- Construction noise is exempt from the bylaw between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays and between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays.
- At all other times, including Sundays and holidays, construction noise is subject to enforcement based on complaint.

Heat pumps, air conditioners and ventilation systems

- If installed correctly, such devices are usually not a problem.
- If malfunctioning or installed too close to adjoining homes, remedial measures may be required to reduce noise.

Parties

- Loud conversation and amplified music occurring after 11 p.m. have been deemed offensive by council.

Vehicles

- Normal vehicle noise is exempt from the bylaw.
- Defective mufflers and "boom cars" are subject to enforcement on complaint.

Capital projects for 2007

Each year, funds are set aside in the City's Capital Improvement Program for two broad purposes:

- Development of new City equipment or facilities, and
- Renewal, refurbishment, or replacement of equipment or facilities.

Port Coquitlam's Capital Improvement Program calls

for \$157 million in capital expenditures over the next five years, with \$44.3 million taking place in 2007. In 2007, only \$3.8 million comes from property taxes – less than nine per cent!

The 2007 budget includes a very high rate of capital spending, reflecting the construction of a wide variety of projects for the community.

Sample projects for 2007 include:

- Coast Meridian Overpass – \$19.5 million
- Broadway Avenue improvements – \$7.4 million
- Dominion Avenue improvements – \$7.4 million
- Other roadways and drainage systems – \$1.3 million
- Water distribution system – \$2.1 million
- Sanitary sewerage system – \$1.3 million
- Equipment – \$1.6 million
- Parks facilities – \$1.1 million
- Civic buildings (including recreation centres) – \$0.5 million



Hawthorne Avenue construction



TRI-CITY NEWS PHOTO

The opening of Leigh Square Community Arts Village – including the Outlet (above) and the Gathering Place – launched a new era for the arts in Port Coquitlam.

Experience the local arts scene at Leigh Square Community Arts Village

The much anticipated Leigh Square Community Arts Village opened May 5 in the heart of downtown Port Coquitlam with a vibrant celebration of music, dance and community arts.

The excitement will continue over the summer, with a variety of arts and cultural activities for the community to enjoy. Here's a sample:

- The **Live @ Leigh Square** free outdoor music series plays at the Leigh Square bandshell on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., starting July 14.
- **Free Improv Workouts** by Table 23 will take place on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Living Room in the new Gathering Place building, starting July 19.
- The **Living Room** at the Gathering Place is not only the place to view exhibitions or take in musical events, it is an open social space for folks to meet and gather, read a book, play the piano or just sit and contemplate. Everyone is welcome.
- The **summer art exhibition** – featuring local artists Linda Thiessen, Sherrill Hardy and Stephen Will.i.Am Baylis – opens July 12 and runs to the end of August. It includes interactive sessions with the artists on Saturday afternoons starting July 21.
- Don't forget to visit **Ten Thousand Villages** in the Outlet (the former post office building). This arts and craft store works with over 100 artisan groups in more than 30 countries.

For more information about the Leigh Square Community Arts Village, please call 604-927-8400 or visit www.portcoquitlam.ca.



Friends of Leigh Square Society

Working in partnership with the City, the Friends of Leigh Square Society is dedicated to stimulating the arts in Port Coquitlam by supporting the Arts Village. The society is currently engaged in a variety of projects and invites community participation.

Portable Open Design Studios (Art PODS)

Attention weavers, woodcarvers, potters and painters: artists now have an opportunity to use Art PODS – mobile mini studios – to engage the public at Leigh Square.

Friends of Leigh Square Society would like to thank Liberty Homes for their generous sponsorship of the first Art POD. The society will be fundraising in order to build five more PODS to enhance the Arts Village and provide opportunities for artisans.

Village Hosts

Your creativity, energy and ideas are needed! As a Friends of Leigh Square volunteer, you will help to develop and support the Arts Village. Village Hosts will meet and greet the public, conduct tours and assist at events.

Get Involved!

Join Friends of Leigh Square Society and help us make the Leigh Square Community Arts Village an exciting destination.

For more information about the society or any of its projects, contact info@friendsofleighsquare.ca or visit www.friendsofleighsquare.ca.

PROPERTY TAXES DUE TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2007

To avoid penalties, Port Coquitlam property owners must ensure their property taxes are paid by July 3 - even if they have not received a tax notice.

Late payment penalties:

- A 5% penalty will be added to 2007 current property taxes outstanding after July 3, 2007.
- A further 5% penalty will be applied after August 15, 2007.

**EXTENDED HOURS AT
THE CITY TAX OFFICE:
JUNE 18 TO JULY 3
8 A.M. – 5 P.M.**

Six ways to pay your property taxes

1. PAY AT YOUR BANK

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

2. PAY BY PHONE/INTERNET

Check with your bank or credit union to see if it offers this service. You can also claim your Home Owner Grant online at www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog.

3. PAY BY MAIL

Mail your cheque or money order to City of Port Coquitlam, 2580 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam BC V3C 2A8. Cheques post-dated up to July 3, 2007 are accepted.

4. 24-HOUR DROP-OFF

Drop your payment in the mail slot to the right of the main entrance to City Hall. Cheques post-dated up to July 3, 2007 are accepted.

5. PAY IN PERSON

Bring your payment to the Tax Office on the main floor of City Hall from Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays), 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. *Extended tax office hours from June 18 to July 3: 8 am to 5 pm.* Please be prepared to wait in line. Cheques post-dated up to July 3, 2007 are accepted.

6. FOR NEXT YEAR

Consider joining our Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for property taxes and utilities. More information is available from the Tax Office (604-927-5425) or www.portcoquitlam.ca.

Credit Card Payments: The City of Port Coquitlam does not accept credit card payments for property taxes or utilities.

BUDGET 2007

Where did your taxes go?

In 2007, an average Port Coquitlam single family home assessed at \$370,665 paid \$2,172.26 in taxes and levies, an increase of 5.1% over 2006. Port Coquitlam still has the lowest tax rate in the Tri-Cities.

REVENUE: 2007

Sources	Amount	Percentage
Property Taxes & Grants-in-lieu	\$ 38,462,642	37
Savings Withdrawals for Projects	\$ 16,178,790	16
External Capital Funding	\$ 10,595,200	10
Land Sales	\$12,615,000	12
Sewer User Fees	\$ 6,164,175	6
Water User Fees	\$ 5,948,120	6
Recreation User Fees	\$ 3,438,400	3
Investment Income	\$ 2,892,700	3
Public Works Fees	\$ 2,697,880	3
Garbage Collection Fees	\$ 1,993,120	2
Protective Service Fees	\$ 1,338,275	1
Development Service Fees	\$ 952,860	1
All Other Funding Sources	\$ 752,000	1
Total Sources	\$104,029,162	100

EXPENDITURES: 2007

Uses	Amount	Percentage
Capital: Facilities, Roads & Utilities	\$ 44,258,525	43%
Public Works	\$ 13,134,200	13%
Parks and Recreation	\$ 11,468,100	11%
Police	\$ 9,626,500	9%
Regional District Charges – Sewer/Water	\$ 7,973,415	8%
Fire	\$ 6,776,400	7%
Administration	\$ 5,133,027	5%
Transfer to Savings for Future Projects	\$ 1,870,645	2%
Development Services	\$ 1,841,800	2%
Other Protective Services	\$ 997,550	1%
Fiscal Services	\$ 949,000	1%
Total Expenditures	\$104,029,162	100

Save money, save a stamp: claim your grant online

Your Home Owner Grant is just a click away with Port Coquitlam's online application service. So far, more than 1,957 local homeowners have taken advantage of this service, launched in 2006 through www.portcoquitlam.ca.

Dubbed E-HOG, the service allows eligible taxpayers to apply for their basic or additional Home Owner Grant online in a



minute or two, rather than having to drop off or mail their applications to City Hall.

The application procedure is fast and easy. All you need is the Folio Number and Access Code listed on your tax notice. Then, simply access E-HOG directly by going to www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog, or go to the City website at www.portcoquitlam.ca, click on Online Payments & Services and follow the prompts. You'll find additional E-HOG information and FAQs there as well.

Please note the following if your 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 by the due date to avoid penalties.
- At their request, your mortgage company is advised of property taxes payable ONLY, and NOT ANY UNPAID water and sewer levies for the current year.

For more information, contact the City Tax Office at 604-927-5425 or taxes@portcoquitlam.ca, or visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog.

Help eliminate auto theft this summer with HEAT

This summer, Port Coquitlam Community Police Stations will be rolling out HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) – a new, volunteer-driven crime prevention program that aims to raise awareness about the risk of leaving valuables unattended in a vehicle.

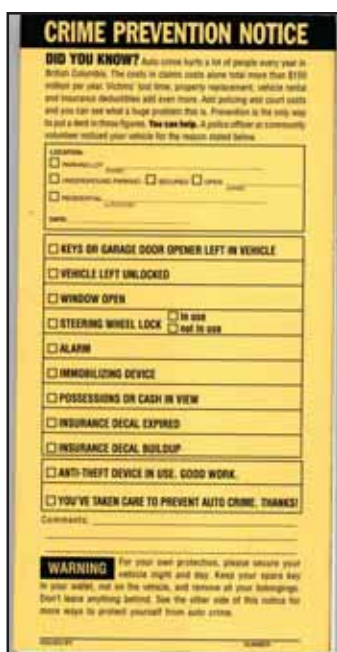
As the weather warms up and schools let out for the summer, the parking lots in shopping and recreation areas become target-rich environments for local auto thieves.

Port Coquitlam's HEAT program is based on a similar program developed in Kamloops. Under the local HEAT program, Community Police volunteers will carry out foot and bike patrols, looking for visible items in unattended cars. They will leave crime prevention information and bright yellow HEAT notices on windshields to educate car owners about securing their property.

Motorists who receive HEAT notices are encouraged to return them to the Community Police Offices at 2581 Mary Hill Road or 3312 Coast Meridian Road in Port Coquitlam, to learn more about locking out auto crime and to receive a door prize. All notices received by Friday, August 31 will be entered in a grand prize draw.

ICBC 2006 statistics report that auto crime in B.C. is dropping (see adjacent statistics). Are you doing your part to prevent auto theft crime?

To learn more about the HEAT program, call your local Community Police Office at 604-927-2383 (downtown) or 604-927-5451 (northside).



The HEAT notices will be similar to this Crime Prevention Notice.

Auto theft statistics from ICBC

On an average day in BC*:

- 48 vehicles are stolen
- 78 vehicles are broken into
- 72 vehicles are vandalized

*2006 claims reported to ICBC.

Some good news

- **Vehicle break-ins** reported to ICBC fell from 32,000 in 2005 to 28,000 in 2006 – a drop of 13 per cent.
- **Vehicle thefts** reported to ICBC fell from 21,000 in 2005 to 17,000 in 2006 – a drop of 19 per cent. In Port Coquitlam, auto thefts dropped by 43 per cent during that time frame.

Overall auto theft has decreased by 43 per cent in the Lower Mainland since 2004 because of bait cars, increased use of anti-theft devices and improved court sentencing. It's good news, but we still have to keep our guard up.

RESIDENTIAL GARDEN AWARDS

Plant some PoCo Pride

Nominations are now being sought for the annual PoCo Pride Residential Garden Awards.

Held by the PoCo Garden Club and the City of Port Coquitlam, the awards recognize the efforts and promote awareness of those who beautify our community through the use of plants, flowers and landscape materials.

Citizens are encouraged to nominate residential gardens that offer striking floral displays and landscaping designs in the following categories:

- single-family residence
- multi-family residential development
- balcony garden

Nomination forms are available from City facilities and garden supply businesses in Port Coquitlam, as well as online at www.portcoquitlam.ca.

The closing date for awards nominations is **July 18, 2007**, and the judging will take place the following week. A panel of judges comprised of representatives of the City of Port Coquitlam and the PoCo Garden Club will view all nominated gardens and judge them for front yard street appeal. Consideration will also be given to effective use of colour and space, and maintenance of plant and landscape materials.

Nominated homes will be given a nomination sign to display in their yards. Prize-winning gardens will be photographed and may be featured on the City's website or in publications such as the Community Calendar. Award winners receive a Certificate of Appreciation, a copy of the Port Coquitlam history book *Where Rails Meet Rivers*, and gift certificates sponsored by Art Knapp Plantland and Florist and Meadows Landscape Supply.

The 2007 PoCo Pride Residential Garden Awards will be recognized at the Sept. 10 Council meeting.

For more information, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca or call the Parks and Services Division at 604-927-5480.

Working for the City

YOU are looking for a job that:

- Is close to home and fairly compensated
- Is fulfilling and challenging
- Enables you to make a difference

WE are looking for employees who:

- Are willing to learn and be challenged
- Take initiative and always seek to do things better
- Want to be part of a team that takes pride in providing stellar service to our community

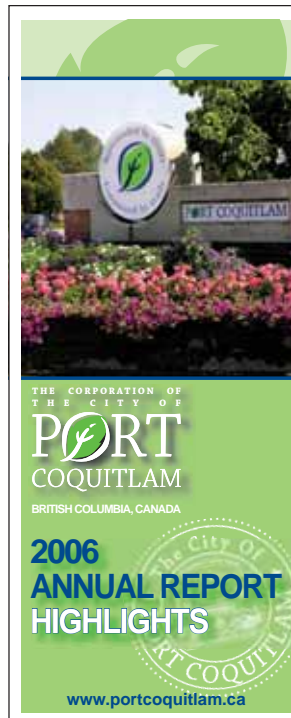
Let's work together to make a difference!

The City of Port Coquitlam is a progressive, thriving community of more than 57,000 people. Beautiful natural surroundings, a small-town feel and big-city connections and amenities make Port Coquitlam a unique place to work and live.

Want to find out more? Check out our Employment Opportunities page at www.portcoquitlam.ca, call our job line at 604-927-5479 or contact us at:

City of Port Coquitlam
Human Resources Division
2580 Shaughnessy Street
Port Coquitlam BC, V3C 2A8

E-mail: human-resources@portcoquitlam.ca
Fax: 604-927-5454



The City of Port Coquitlam's 2006 Annual Report is now available.

Annual Report: a snapshot of the City

The City of Port Coquitlam's 2006 Annual Report, now available, is a wealth of City information. The document outlines the City's accomplishments, activities and financial results for 2006, as well as its plans for 2007 and beyond.

Council adopted the 2006 Annual Report at the regular council meeting on June 11, along with the Audited Financial Statements for 2006 and a report of council remuneration and expenses.

In addition to detailed financial and statistical information, the Annual Report provides a snapshot of Port Coquitlam's government and highlights the Strategic Plan, which was developed by the community in 2002 to guide the City's future growth and direction.

A section of the Annual Report is dedicated to demonstrating the City's efforts to

implement the Strategic Plan's eight objectives: Improve Mobility and Access, Maintain and Improve Infrastructure Assets, Build a Complete Community, Enhance Community Safety, Enhance Customer Service, Build Strategic Alliances, Maintain Financial Stability and Build a Strong Organization.

The City's 2005 Annual Report received a Canadian Award for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, and the 2006 report continues to conform with the requirements for the award program.

Printed copies of the 2006 Annual Report, as well as a brochure containing the highlights of the report, are available at City Hall.

You can also download a complete copy of the 2006 Annual Report from www.portcoquitlam.ca.

Annual lawn sprinkling restrictions are now in effect

The following lawn sprinkling regulations are in effect from June 1 to September 30:

- Sprinkling is only allowed from 4-9 a.m. and 7-10 p.m.
- Wednesday & Saturday: EVEN numbered houses
- Thursday & Sunday: ODD numbered houses

For more information and tips on water conservation, visit the Greater Vancouver Regional District website at www.gvrd.bc.ca/water/conservation.htm

CITY CONTACTS

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT	604-543-6700	FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	604-927-5466
BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS	604-927-5444	<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	9-1-1
24-Hour Request Line	604-927-5445	GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION	604-927-5488
BUSINESS LICENCES	604-927-5238	HYDE CREEK RECREATION CENTRE	604-927-7946
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	604-927-5440	LEIGH SQUARE COMMUNITY ARTS VILLAGE	604-927-8400
CEMETERY	604-927-5251	MAYOR & COUNCILLORS	604-927-5410
COMMUNITY POLICE STATIONS		OPERATIONS (Drainage/flood control; roads & lanes; sanitary, sewer; sidewalks, street lighting & traffic; signal outages, traffic inquiries, water system)	604-927-5488
3312 Coast Meridian	604-927-5451	<i>Emergency - After Hours</i>	604-543-6700
2581 Mary Hill Road	604-927-2383	POLICE (RCMP)	604-945-1550
DOG LICENCES	604-927-5425	<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	9-1-1
EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES	604-927-5479	PORT COQUITLAM RECREATION COMPLEX	604-927-7970
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR	604-927-5466	PROPERTY TAXES & UTILITY PAYMENTS	604-927-5425
FACILITY BOOKINGS	604-927-7903	VECTOR CONTROL (Pest Control)	604-927-5447
FIELDS CLOSURES	604-927-5455	WILSON CENTRE (Seniors Centre)	604-927-7970