

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

BC Assessment Authority: 604.294.6441
 City of Port Coquitlam Tax Office:
 604.927.5425
 Greater Vancouver Regional District:
 604.432.6249
 Municipal Finance Authority: 1.250.383.1181
 School Taxes: 1.250.356.0907
 TransLink: 604.453.4500



Your grant is just a click away
 Claim your Home Owner Grant online:
www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog

SIX WAYS TO PAY YOUR PROPERTY TAXES IN PORT COQUITLAM

1. PAY AT YOUR BANK

Save time. Pay your taxes and other bills while banking.

2. PAY BY PHONE OR 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.

4. *24-HOUR DROP OFF

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

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 hours from June 18 to July 3: 8 am to 5 pm.* Please be prepared to wait in line.

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.

* Cheques post-dated up to July 3, 2007 accepted.

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

Message from Council

Additional policing, arts programming and improved transportation are among the City of Port Coquitlam's top spending priorities in the next five years. Tax revenue funds these important services, which reflect the input our citizens provide to the City.

The City's financial plan calls for an additional \$891,300 for police services in 2007, including new officers and police support services. Other community-safety spending will support crime prevention efforts, emergency preparation programs and an update of the City's disaster plan.

Transportation is an ongoing focus, and in 2007 Port Coquitlam will spend about \$39 million on a variety of road, drainage and sewer projects. The most significant of these is the Coast Meridian Overpass, which will begin construction this coming winter. This critical transportation project will significantly improve access in our community and the region.

The highlight of this year's arts and recreation funding is the new Leigh Square Community Arts Village, a hub for arts and cultural initiatives and programming. The City's provision of sustaining funding is essential to ensure this important and long-anticipated community asset is utilized to its full potential.

The context for all of the City's spending decisions is a prudent fiscal approach that balances our taxpayers' desires and needs with their ability to pay. Even with this year's tax increase, municipal levies for Port Coquitlam homeowners are less than the average in the Lower Mainland, while business and industry municipal levies are close to the average.

As we move forward, we are committed to continually consulting with our citizens to ensure the City's direction remains consistent with our community's priorities.

City prepares for possible flooding this spring

Above-normal snowpack in the Fraser River brings the potential for flooding in May and June. In Port Coquitlam, the Coquitlam River and Pitt River flood plains could be affected if flooding occurs.

The City's preparations include upgrading and patrolling dikes, disseminating flood information to the public and developing contingency and evacuation plans.

If flooding occurs, the City may not be able to provide assistance to individual property owners. If you live in a flood plain, it's up to you to prepare for potential flooding to minimize damage to your property and to ensure your family's safety.

For information on flood plains and preparing for potential flooding, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca



Coast Meridian Overpass – May 31 open house

The City has made considerable progress on the Coast Meridian Overpass project. The four-lane overpass will triple the City's north-south capacity over the CP Rail yard and improve access for residents, businesses, emergency responders, cyclists and transit users.

Recent efforts include detailed impact and mitigation assessments, preliminary road design, and assembly of the team that will complete the design and build the project. Construction is scheduled to begin this winter.

The City will host an **Open House** on May 31, 4:30-7:30 pm in the Terry Fox Secondary School gymnasium. It will include detailed information about the project design and mitigation treatments for sound and visual impacts. Residents, homeowners and business owners are invited to attend and provide feedback to the City.

For more information about the project, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/cmo.

Port Coquitlam has a great cycling network, including the 24-km Traboulay PoCo Trail.



Bike Month is your chance to discover quiet, safe, beautiful routes for excursions or everyday trips. Feel the sun on your face and the wind in your hair. Get fit. Save money. Fall in love with your commute. For more about Bike Month, visit www.best.bc.ca.

Enjoy the parks and trails with your dog... responsibly

Protecting Your Pet and the City

- Keep your dog on a leash in all public areas, including parks and trails.
- Remove your dog's feces and place in a covered garbage receptacle. There is no excuse for not picking up after your pet.
- Your dog requires a current dog licence and should be up-to-date on its vaccinations.
- Do not let your dog jump on or approach anyone.
- Do not allow your dog to dig holes in parks.

Safety

- Many people have very real fears about dogs and do not know if your dog is dangerous or not.
- There are public health concerns about uncollected feces and noncompliance with scooping bylaws.

The Environment

Even on a leash, dogs can disturb wildlife and sensitive environmental areas like streams, ponds and nesting areas. Please keep dogs out of stream and garden areas and keep your dogs on the trails in natural areas.

About the 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 application.
- You must complete a new Home Owner Grant application each year.

Explanatory Notes – Home Owner Grant

BASIC GRANT: For applicants under 65 years of age. If the current year tax is less than \$920, the Home Owner Grant is the amount of the current year taxes less \$350. If the current year tax is \$920 or more, the Home Owner Grant is \$570. The minimum tax payment required from applicants under 65 is \$350.

ADDITIONAL GRANT: For applicants 65 years of age or older, or in receipt of an allowance under the War Veteran Act or Civilian War Related Benefits Act, disability assistance, hardship assistance or a supplement under the BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act, or a person with disabilities under the regulations. If the current year tax is less than \$945, 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 \$945 or more, the Home Owner Grant, inclusive of the additional grant, is \$845. The Home Owner Grant is reduced by \$5 for every \$1,000 of residential assessed value in excess of \$950,000.

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, 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:
 - 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
 - you are a permanent resident of B.C. (either a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant); and
 - you occupy, as your principal residence, the dwelling described on your application form.
2. You and your spouse together may qualify for only one 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 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:
 - you are over 65 (please state your birth date on the application form); or
 - 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, 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 grant on or before the tax due date of July 3, 2007 (you may apply before the tax due date even if you are not paying your taxes before the due date).

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@portcoquitlam.ca, or visit www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog.

WORKING TOGETHER

to make our neighbourhoods safer

The City of Port Coquitlam offers many programs aimed to create safe, healthy and happy neighbourhoods.

BLOCK PARTIES

Block parties are a terrific way to meet your neighbours, build a sense of neighbourhood and have some fun. They often lead to further gatherings and may result in improvement projects.

With permission from the City's Engineering and Operations Department, you can close your neighbourhood road from 2 to 11 p.m. for your block party. For \$25, the City will provide barricades.

You don't have to live in a house to hold a block party. Block parties can take place in common spaces in townhouse complexes, in front of apartment buildings or at a nearby park.

For information about planning your block party, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca (Engineering and Operations Department) or contact Engineering and Operations at 604.927.5420.

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS PROGRAM

Over the summer months, Port Coquitlam's fire crews visit neighbourhoods and talk to youth about bike and skateboard helmet safety. They also provide information to homeowners about home fire safety, including the correct use of fire extinguishers and smoke alarms. If you're planning a summer block party or neighbourhood gathering, invite the fire crews to stop by.

For more information on the Hot Summer Nights program or to sign up for a visit, contact the Fire & Emergency Services Department at 604.927.5466 or by email at fire@portcoquitlam.ca. Information can also be found at www.portcoquitlam.ca (Citizen Services > Community Safety).

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD PREPAREDNESS

How prepared is your neighbourhood for a disaster? While nothing can prevent a disaster such as an earthquake or flood, people who are prepared are more likely to cope effectively during the event and recover more quickly afterwards.

The City's Neighbourhood Program teaches individuals and families how to become personally sufficient for a minimum of 72 hours. It teaches neighbourhoods how to plan and train as a group to respond safely and effectively as an organized team during a disaster or major emergency. The preparedness skills can be used in your home, neighbourhood, workplace, school and community.

The training is free, but participants purchase their own supplies. The program can be adapted for houses, apartments, townhouses or rural areas. For details, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca (Fire & Emergency Services > Emergency Preparedness) or call the Emergency Preparedness Office at 604.927.5466.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Port Coquitlam's two Community Policing Stations offer a variety of community safety initiatives, including bike and foot patrols, child identification, Business Watch, bike safety program, video loan program and Meth Watch. Volunteer opportunities are also available, with training provided. For information, call the Northside station at 604.927.5451, the Southside station at 604.927.2383 or visit www.portcoquitlam.ca (Citizen Services > Community Safety).



BE BEAR AWARE

Port Coquitlam residents may encounter bears not only on trails and in parks, but in their own backyards. Some tips:

- Keep dogs leashed and in control.
- Make noise to prevent encounters in parks and on trails.
- If you come across a bear, slowly back up while talking to it.
- NEVER feed a bear.
- Clean barbecues of food residue.
- Remove bird feeders March to December.
- Don't put trash out until 7 am on collection day.
- Pick fruit trees frequently and remove fallen fruit.

For more information, visit www.bearaware.bc.ca

CITY CONTACTS

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT	604.543.6700	FIRE DEPARTMENT	604.927.5466
BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS	604.927.5444	<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	911
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	MAYOR & COUNCILLORS	604.927.5410
CEMETERY	604.927.5251	OPERATIONS	604.927.5488
COMMUNITY POLICE STATIONS		(Drainage & flood control; roads & lanes; sanitary, sewer; sidewalks, street lighting & traffic; signal outages, traffic inquiries; water system)	
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>	911
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



2580 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8

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www.portcoquitlam.ca