

# Colwood Connection

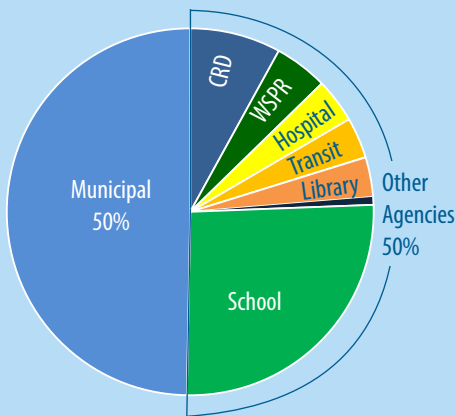
May 2017



## 50%

of the average Colwood residential property tax bill goes to other authorities:

- Provincial School Taxes - 26%
- Capital Regional District - 8%
- West Shore Parks & Rec - 5%
- Hospital District - 4%
- BC Transit - 3%
- Library - 3%
- BC Assessment & Municipal Finance Authority - 1%



## Strengthening our seaside community

A modest 2% municipal tax increase for 2017 matches the rate of inflation for our region. This will result in an increase of about \$37 for the *average* Colwood property assessed at \$500,000. This amount will vary if the property value increased more or less than the average. (The average residential market increase in our region for 2017 was 13%.) Additional taxes for other authorities, as shown in the pie chart, will add a further increase of about \$39 for the average Colwood property.

### Fiscal strength

Through strong financial planning and management, the City of Colwood's total financial assets now exceed its total liabilities by \$1 million. This demonstrates steady improvement in the City's financial position over recent years, compared with 2010 when the City's liabilities exceeded its assets by \$14 million. A stronger balance sheet enhances the ability to invest in City infrastructure, maintain and improve City services and provide the flexibility needed to adapt to changing circumstances.

### Enhancing our community

The City works to continually improve the safety and enjoyment of our city by investing in public safety, maintaining and upgrading infrastructure, improving transportation connections, enhancing public spaces and hosting events that strengthen community.

**Flip over**  
for an overview  
of community  
building projects  
planned in 2017.

## Making Waves



Creating a bold new plan for Colwood

Since November 2016, the City has worked hard to offer as many ways as possible for people in Colwood to provide input into an updated Official Community Plan. The plan will clearly define the kind of community we are working to create in Colwood. It will guide decisions about all aspects of our community, including development, business, environment, social and cultural issues. Learn more at [www.colwood.ca/MakingWaves](http://www.colwood.ca/MakingWaves).

## Property tax due July 4, 2017

### 1. Claim homeowner grant:

Claim your homeowner grant today at [www.Colwood.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.Colwood.ca/homeownergrant)

### 2. Pay one of several ways:

- Through your online banking
- In person at City Hall
- 24 hour drop box at City Hall
- At your bank
- Mail it to 3300 Wishart Rd. V9C 1R1
- Through your mortgage lender
- Tax deferral program

Don't wait *in* line...pay *online*!

### NEW! Pay by installments

Sign up now to pay *next year's* taxes in 10 equal no-fee direct debit payments over the year. [www.colwood.ca/taxes](http://www.colwood.ca/taxes)

## Connect with Colwood

Have questions about your 2017 Colwood property taxes? Call Colwood Finance at 250-294-8150

Visit [colwood.ca](http://colwood.ca) to learn more, share ideas, and get involved.

Visit: City Hall at 3300 Wishart Road

Phone: 250-478-5999 (general enquiries)

Online: [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

Email: [info@colwood.ca](mailto:info@colwood.ca)

Subscribe: [colwood.ca/subscribe](http://colwood.ca/subscribe)

Social: @CityofColwood   

## Upcoming community events

**Beach Food Fridays & Saturdays**  
Every week 11am - 7pm, May to September

**Colwood Fire Hall Open House**  
Sunday, June 11, 2017

**Canada Day at Fort Rodd Hill**  
Wednesday, July 1, 2017

**Eats & Beats at the Beach in Colwood**  
Food, live music, and fun activities on sand, sea and sky Saturday, July 15, 2017

**Neighbourhood Nights at Royal Bay Beachpark** Thursdays, July & August

**Movies on the Hill at JDF Recreation**  
Thursday, August 17, 2017

# 2017 Budget Highlights: Community Building Projects

Holding taxes to the rate of inflation (2%) while factoring in budget increases for external services RCMP, Library, BC Hydro and Labour Contracts.

## Transportation Improvements

- Completion of bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalk on Metchosin Road
- Signal upgrades, traffic calming and speed readers
- Explore traffic calming options for Ocean Boulevard
- Waterfront trail improvements
- Havenwood Park Crosswalk
- Wayfinding signs
- LED street lighting

## Safety Services

- Recruitment of new volunteer firefighters
- West Shore RCMP Building Improvements
- Additional West Shore RCMP Staffing
- Complete Backup Power for Emergency Operations at City Hall

## Increased Online Services & Open Government Initiatives

- Continue Making Waves OCP project
- Online NO FEE annual business license renewal
- Citizen Survey, feedback tools and forums
- Increased newsletters and notifications
- Electronic filing for better workflow and public access to information

## Maintain:

**60** City Parks  
**90** km of paved roadway  
**15+** km of boulevards  
**30+** flower & shrub beds  
**28+** hanging baskets

## Park Upgrades & Beautification

- Complete Water Park at Colwood Creek Park
- Water fountain at Herm Williams Park
- Improved park signs, banners, art
- New gardens and hanging baskets
- Stair and handrail improvements

## Asset and Infrastructure Upgrades

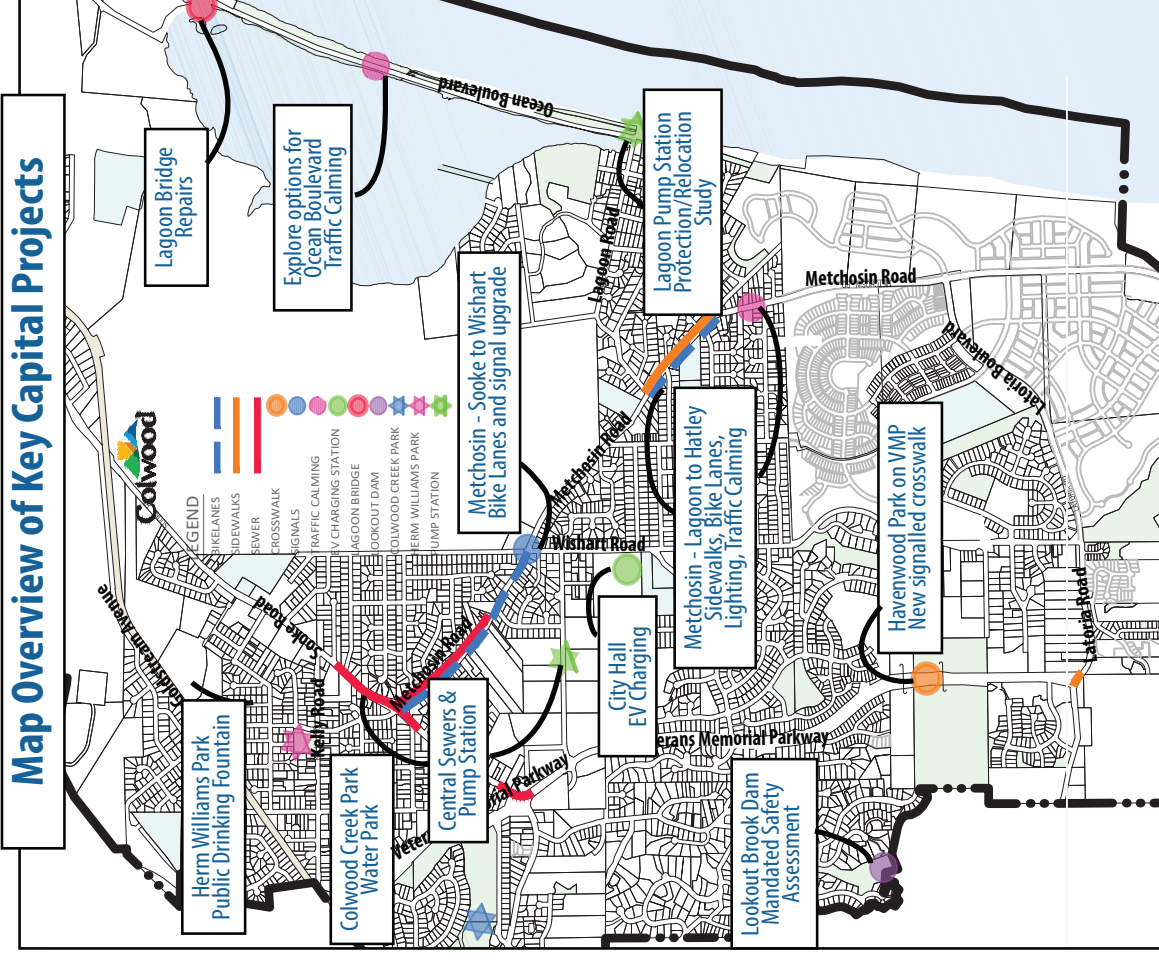
- Over \$1m reserve funding for long term infrastructure deficits
- Replace 3 aging vehicles with electric to reduce emissions
- Lagoon Bridge Repairs, Pump Station Protection Study
- Completion of Central Sewer Expansion
- Lookout Brook Dam Safety Assessment

## Recreation, Arts, Events & Heritage

- West Shore Parks & Recreation & Juan de Fuca Library
- Beach Food Fridays & Saturdays
- Eats & Beats at the Beach
- Colwood Seaside Festival
- Canada 150 Events & Activities
- Music and Movies in the Park Events

**28+** hanging baskets  
**15,953** branch drop off visits in 2016  
**543** spring clean up visits in 2017

**9** pedestrian and vehicle bridges



**35** km of storm drains

**1320+** catch basins

**9** sanitary sewer pump stations

**74** emergency vehicles, heavy equipment, and fleet vehicles