

Colwood Connection

May 2013

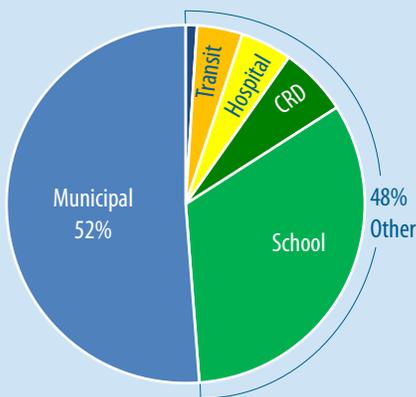
Inviting your involvement in decisions about our vibrant waterfront community.



48%

of the average Colwood residential property tax bill goes to other agencies over which the city has no direct control:

- Provincial School Taxes - 32%
- Capital Regional District - 6%
- Hospital District - 5%
- BC Transit - 4%
- BC Assessment & Municipal Finance Authority - 1%



Did You Know?

Colwood has the 4th lowest property tax rate in the Capital Region.

We're keeping your taxes in check as our community grows

Even with rising costs and many exciting developments and improvements underway, we've worked hard to rein in municipal property tax rates. Most residents will see a modest increase of about 3.43% over last year, which, for the average household, works out to about \$52.

Planning thoughtfully, spending wisely

Using federal gas tax funds and other grants effectively means that the cost of many major planning initiatives, road improvements and park enhancements won't add to your tax burden.

We planned ahead to make major capital purchases before the HST changeover so that Colwood avoided the financial burden that some municipalities now face.

Looking to the future

Developments in the heart of Colwood and the Royal Bay area will bring new residents and businesses to our community.

We've been busy getting ready to welcome this growth.

An **economic development strategy** will guide how we work with businesses to strengthen our financial base.

A fresh look at **land use, subdivision and development guidelines** will ensure the unique aspects of Colwood are considered as we grow and prosper.

A **transportation master plan** will help us design effective travel routes that encourage active transportation and create beautiful streetscapes and gathering places that foster a renewed sense of pride in our city.

A **comprehensive communication strategy and new city website** will allow us to reach out to inform and involve you in decisions that affect our community better than ever before. Read more about these plans at colwood.ca.

What city services do your tax dollars pay for?

Each dollar you pay in municipal property tax goes toward funding a variety of services and amenities that help make Colwood a great place to live, work and play. Here's how each dollar breaks down:



Grants

Colwood is proactive in applying for grants and other funding that helps to offset the cost of maintaining and improving our City.

Gas Tax Funds	\$820,588
ICBC Safer Roads Grant	4,500
Heritage Canada Grant	11,800
Donations	12,500

Understanding sewer fees.

- Properties connected to municipal sewers pay a sewer user fee to help keep pipes, infrastructure and equipment in safe working order.
- All Colwood property owners pay a portion of the cost of the planned Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Sewage Treatment Facility.
- Properties with septic systems pay the CRD Onsite Sewage Parcel Tax which allows the CRD to monitor for safety of septic systems.

Please visit www.colwood.ca for more detail about sewer fees.

Your feedback and ideas are important. I am grateful to the members of our community who take the time get in touch and join us at meetings where decisions are made. I encourage you to connect with us too!

- Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton

Join us at community events.

Colwood Fire Hall Open House

Sunday, June 23, 2013

Canada Day Celebration at Fort Rodd Hill

Monday, July 1, 2013

Acres of Art at Coast Collective

Friday, July 7, 2013

Rock the Shores at Juan de Fuca Rec

Saturday, July 13 and Sunday July 14, 2013

Art and Wine Festival at Fort Rodd Hill

Sunday, July 28, 2013

St. John the Baptist Centennial

Saturday, August 24 2013

Share your ideas about projects on the go...

- Shoreline Study
- Park Enhancements at Havenwood and Colwood Creek Parks
- Planning for success: Transportation, Economic Development, Land Use, Subdivision & Development
- Performing Arts Centre Planning

...and exciting developments.

- Capital City Centre
- Royal Bay School
- Hotel at Westridge Landing

Connect with us.

We want to make it easy for you to have a say in decisions that make Colwood a vibrant, connected community that we all take pride in.

Check your city website at colwood.ca for ways to share your ideas, read about meetings where you can get involved and even view Council meetings online.

Visit: City Hall at 3300 Wishart Road

Phone: 250-478-5999

Email: mayor@colwood.ca