

# Colwood Connection

Keeping you informed about our seaside community and encouraging you to get involved.

Mar 2024

Spring at the Castle by Stephanie Little

## Colwood Climate Action

### Get to know the Climate Action Plan

Check out the plan to learn how you can support climate action related to things like transportation, low carbon buildings, emergency preparedness, biodiversity, natural assets, and eco-innovation.

[Colwood.ca/ClimateAction](http://Colwood.ca/ClimateAction)

### Consider upgrading to a Heat Pump

Heat pumps are the most energy efficient way to heat and cool your home. There's a team of people ready to help you access rebates and navigate the process.

Connect with an Energy Concierge for free and they will answer questions, provide support, and give local, expert advice and guidance. [HomeEnergyNav.ca](http://HomeEnergyNav.ca)

### Target: Zero Carbon for new homes

What does it mean that Colwood has adopted the Zero Carbon Step Code? One example: newly built homes will need use electricity for home heating and cooling. Get all the details at [www.Colwood.ca/StepCode](http://www.Colwood.ca/StepCode)

### Be prepared for a tsunami

Do you know how high a wave would go if Colwood experienced a tsunami? Like fire drills, it's important to practice how to stay safe in the event of a tsunami.

Learn more by joining Colwood's High Ground Hike this coming April!

[www.Colwood.ca/Tsunami](http://www.Colwood.ca/Tsunami)



## Working to improve access to health care in Colwood

Health is one of the strategic pathways in Colwood's draft Strategic Plan. It is also one of the themes Council asked residents about at the 2023 Ideas Fair and in the fall Life in Colwood Survey.

**There is no more important issue to many Colwoodians than improved access to primary health care services.**

Council took your feedback to the Minister of Health and our teams are working together to improve access to health care in Colwood.

Colwood has roughly 22,000 residents and is growing rapidly, with zero full-time doctors. The Ministry of Health defines a full-time family practice as having 1250 patients. This means Colwood needs 18 family doctors to be self sufficient.

**Working to attract health care providers to a new medical clinic.** Colwood is exploring an opportunity to address our community's current health care challenge in partnership with Pure Pharmacy and Aroga Lifestyle Medicine by establishing a medical clinic in a newly constructed facility at the Commons in Royal Bay.

The funding required for the consideration of this *business case* would come from Colwood's Corporate Contingency Budget. The specific funding required for *establishing* and supporting a primary health care service function will be established through business case development.

[Colwood.ca/HealthCare](http://Colwood.ca/HealthCare)



Colwood Council with Health Minister Adrian Dix

## Keep an eye on The Beachlands

Seacliff & Reliance Properties have announced the start of construction at The Beachlands with a presentation centre and coffee shop overlooking the ocean. The building is envisioned as an architectural gateway, welcoming residents and visitors to a new seaside village in Colwood.



The Beachlands encompasses 134 acres of oceanfront land with 1.4 kilometres of shoreline. Colwood staff and Council worked

to ensure that over 47 acres of the property will be dedicated to parks, trails and public space, including playgrounds, nature parks, a network of trails, a covered public plaza and an amphitheatre.

The Beachlands team noted that two multifamily buildings are expected by summer 2026, followed by a waterfront plaza with pubs, restaurants, coffee shops, doctors offices, fitness facilities and more.

[www.Colwood.ca/TheBeachlands](http://www.Colwood.ca/TheBeachlands)

## Planning for a new Community Centre

Access to recreation is important for health, well-being and quality of life. Colwood's Parks & Rec Master Plan calls for more recreational & community facility space as our population grows. The City has the opportunity now to secure land in the Royal Bay development, and has prepared a feasibility study to plan for a future Community Centre. The study positions the City well to apply for grants that would allow for such a project to proceed.

Learn more at [Colwood.ca/CommunityCentre](http://Colwood.ca/CommunityCentre)

## Competing priorities: more homes >< less traffic

### Increasing housing options

In recent years Colwood has enabled over 300 units of income-based housing at 2006 Sooke, 342 Wale, and 330 Goldstream.

At the same time, Colwood housing options are growing with **618** new homes (including a mix of apartments, condos, townhomes, and single family homes) permitted in 2023.

**The Province is working to enable more housing.** Bill 44 has the potential to increase the number of units permitted on land with sewer service and access to transit. Development in Colwood is focused in transit growth areas as outlined in the City's community-led OCP. As property owners develop, the City works to preserve connections to nature, create enjoyable public places, and enhance transportation. Learn more at [Colwood.ca/DevelopmentActivity](http://Colwood.ca/DevelopmentActivity)

### Colwood's own sea walk Waterfront Walkway

Colwood is building a walkway along the length of the waterfront from the Lagoon Bridge to The Beachlands, supported by a \$6M federal grant.

This will provide an enjoyable route for residents and visitors to walk or cycle between the Galloping Goose at Colwood Corners and The Beachlands and Royal Bay, while protecting the sensitive ecology and archaeology of shoreline areas.

The Waterfront Stewardship Plan was developed with extensive community and stakeholder engagement that began in 2021 and will continue through ongoing consultation with the Xwsepsum and Songhees Nations during the implementation phase of the project.

First steps are underway in partnership with local Nations and the BC Archaeology Branch to ensure the protection of the sensitive ecology and archaeology of the coastline and lagoon areas.

The grant requires that the work be completed by 2028.

[www.Colwood.ca/WaterfrontWalkway](http://www.Colwood.ca/WaterfrontWalkway)

#### LIFE IN COLWOOD

**41%** of residents don't feel that buying a house in Colwood is attainable.

#### LIFE IN COLWOOD

**3 in 4** residents feel transportation improvements enhance quality of life.

### Updating the Transportation Plan

Since 2015, Colwood's Transportation Master Plan has provided direction for transportation improvements. What improvements, you ask? A few examples:

- Design of all roadways for new developments
- Latoria & Metchosin intersection and bus exchange
- Sidewalks on Metchosin, Painter, Benhomer, Owens
- The roundabout at Veterans Memorial & Latoria
- Plans earned a \$4M grant for the Galloping Goose Bridge and a \$6M grant for the waterfront walkway

#### Watch for opportunities to get involved.

In addition to public input, updates will be guided by a new traffic model that shows the impact of planned development, technical data like traffic & speed counts, and existing plans like the OCP, Active Transportation, Climate Action, and Parks & Rec Plans.

Learn more at [Colwood.ca/Transportation](http://Colwood.ca/Transportation)

### Keeping our community LITTER FREE

Are you part of a group that might be interested in organizing a community clean up in your neighbourhood? Call 250-474-4133.

The Colwood Parks Team has **litter pick kits** that residents can book. Kits include 10 litter pickers, gloves, and garbage bags. When you return the kit you can also leave the garbage bags for disposal.

Your efforts will be an example that fosters pride in our community and discourages litterbugs!

[www.Colwood.ca/Volunteer](http://www.Colwood.ca/Volunteer)

### And while we're talking trash...

#### DON'T GIVE BEARS A REASON TO STICK AROUND

We're fortunate to be connected to nature in Colwood. Wildlife such as black bears, cougars and other animals are part of the coastal ecosystem. From time to time we may catch a glimpse of these animals in natural areas

#### REMOVE OR SECURE ATTRACTANTS:

- GARBAGE
- FALLEN FRUIT
- BIRD FEEDERS
- BBQ'S
- COMPOST
- PET FOOD
- OUTDOOR FRIDGE OR FREEZER



**PLEASE SECURE ALL BEAR ATTRACTANTS**

Colwood

## Household Prosperity: What you shared in the LIFE IN COLWOOD survey

Household prosperity considers economic factors such as income, housing and education, but also the social, cultural and environmental aspects that contribute to well being and quality of life. Here's what residents had to say during the recent Household Prosperity Survey:



#### Colwood is seen as a welcoming community with rich recreational opportunities.

The city is widely perceived as friendly and positive.

**75%** of residents actively engage in nature trails and parks weekly.



#### A strong sense of community and a desire for more places and ways to connect.

The need for more restaurants and small businesses was a recurring theme.

**3 in 10** express interest in learning more about volunteer opportunities in the city.



#### Diverse opinions on prosperity, with a third saying theirs has decreased.

High cost of living and lack of affordable housing emerged as top issues among those who cannot achieve their financial goals while balancing work and life.



#### The employment landscape is changing, with high demand for remote work.

6 in 10 perceive employment opportunities in Colwood as limited.

**52%** have embraced hybrid or fully remote work for improved work-life balance.



#### Transportation dynamics play a crucial role in quality of life in Colwood.

**40%** of residents commute outside of Colwood daily, another 40% weekly.

3 in 4 residents agree that improved transportation would enhance quality of life.



#### Addressing healthcare access is important for residents.

**69%** of respondents are dissatisfied with healthcare service availability.

Top issues are difficulty in finding providers, limited facilities, and long wait times.



#### Concern about affordable housing, particularly for seniors and youth in Colwood.

**41%** of residents don't feel that buying a house in Colwood is attainable. Only 3% see affordable housing options for youth, and 18% see affordable housing for seniors.

**Are you on the panel?** The next step is to invite residents to offer insight as part of a panel on topics like transportation, business attraction, youth engagement and more.

Get the details at [www.Colwood.ca/HouseholdProsperity](http://www.Colwood.ca/HouseholdProsperity)



### More restaurants please!

With a growing number of commercial areas in our community, Colwood is developing a **Retail Strategy** to attract the right mix of new eateries, shops, and services with the goal of improving our economy, quality of life, and sense of place. In addition to supporting the leasing efforts of commercial property owners, this work will inform Colwood's 50-year **Gateway Vision** to transform the Colwood Corners area into a vibrant, walkable town centre. Check it out at [www.Colwood.ca/GatewayVision](http://www.Colwood.ca/GatewayVision)

#### LIFE IN COLWOOD

Just **34%** of residents feel that Colwood has sufficient choice of coffee shops and restaurants.

## Budget 2024 Fast Facts

Like any business or household, the needs and expectations of a municipality are often greater than what can be afforded at one time. Choices must be made based on the priorities of community and Council.

The goal is to deliver a high level of service that strikes a balance between household prosperity and city-building initiatives that enhance quality of life.

The draft 2024-2028 Financial Plan enables the City to keep pace with the maintenance, repair and anticipated replacement of an estimated \$350M+ in assets, as well as serving and protecting the safety of a growing number of residents. The plan also accounts for large capital projects like the waterfront walkway, pedestrian and cycling bridge, sidewalks, and other improvements.

**BUDGET 2024**

RATE OF INFLATION\*  
**3.9%**

\*BC Stats Victoria CPI, Dec '23

Increase for CITY SERVICES & CAPITAL PROJECTS  
**3.26%**

ADD: SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE  
**1.64%**

TOTAL TAX INCREASE  
**4.90%**

[www.Colwood.ca/Budget](http://www.Colwood.ca/Budget)

### Don't spray that pesticide!

Pesticides move through air, land, and water, contributing to the chemical load absorbed by our environment.

**Colwood has a new bylaw that limits pesticide use to protect our natural assets, waterways, ecological habitats, and cultural heritage.**

[www.Colwood.ca/PesticideUse](http://www.Colwood.ca/PesticideUse)

## Connect with Colwood!

The City of Colwood sits on the ancestral lands of Teechamista and the Lekwungen-speaking people now known as the Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations.



Report an issue at [Colwood.ca/ActionRequest](http://Colwood.ca/ActionRequest)

Subscribe for email updates at [Colwood.ca/Subscribe](http://Colwood.ca/Subscribe)

Follow @CityofColwood on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram



## Community Connections

### West Shore Parks & Recreation

1767 Island Highway, 250-478-8384

### Juan de Fuca Public Library

1759 Island Highway, 250-940-4875

### West Shore Child, Youth & Family Centre

345 Wale Road, 250-391-4320

### Pacific Centre Family Services Association

324 Goldstream Avenue, 250-478-8357

### Juan de Fuca Seniors (55+) Association

1767 Island Highway, 250-474-8618

### Arts & Culture Colwood

170 Goldfinch Ave, artsandculturecolwood.ca

### Citizen's Environment Network in Colwood

ColwoodCENiC@gmail.com

## Branch Drop-Off

**PUBLIC WORKS 8:30am - 4:00pm**

Every Saturday March thru November

First & Third Saturday December thru February

[www.Colwood.ca/BranchDrop](http://www.Colwood.ca/BranchDrop)

## City Meeting Information

[www.Colwood.ca/Meetings](http://www.Colwood.ca/Meetings)

## Action Requests

Streetlight out? Mess in a park? Issue on the roads?

Reach the team that is best able to take action

[www.Colwood.ca/ActionRequest](http://www.Colwood.ca/ActionRequest)

## Let's Talk Colwood

The online place to share your thoughts about many

initiatives that will shape our community. Let's Talk!

[LetsTalkColwood.ca](http://LetsTalkColwood.ca)

## City Hall Closures

Easter - Mar 29 to Apr 1

Victoria Day - May 20

Canada Day - July 1

BC Day - Aug 5

*Dates may be subject to change after publication.*

*Please confirm all dates at Colwood.ca*

## So many ways to connect with neighbours!

Get involved, learn something new, get creative, play a game, listen to some great tunes – events in Colwood are a fantastic way to meet or reconnect with neighbours. Keep an eye out for upcoming events over the spring and summer months throughout Colwood neighbourhoods.

### Ideas Fair

Don't miss the chance to engage in conversations and share ideas with Council, staff, and each other on important Colwood topics this Spring.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Be there March 30 for the annual Easter Egg hunt and family fun at Meadow Park in Royal Bay.

### Youth Week

May 1 to 7 we're offering free, fun activities to promote the health, safety and success of youth.

### Music in the Park

Kicking off on May 24, weekly music will once again be rotating through Colwood parks on Friday evenings starting at 6:00pm.

### Neighbourhood Pop Ups

Council is keen to hear what you love about your neighbourhood and what could be improved. Watch for pop up dates this spring.

### National Indigenous Peoples Day

Join us at Royal Roads University on June 21, for a day of celebration and community relations on the ancestral lands of the Lekwungen People.

### Canada Day

Join Canada Day celebrations in Colwood July 1.

### Eats & Beats Beach Party

The biggest event of the summer will be back at The Beachlands with music, food and fun in July.

[www.Colwood.ca/Events](http://www.Colwood.ca/Events)

*Volunteer* Looking for an impactful volunteer opportunity? If a fire, flood or other emergency forces people out of their home with no place to stay, the Emergency Support Services Team is there to help. Want to join the team? Contact [EmergencyProgram@colwood.ca](mailto:EmergencyProgram@colwood.ca) or 250-478-8321.

*What type of volunteering interests you?*

Have you downloaded the free GOCO ridesharing app?

GOCO makes it easy to connect with neighbours going your way, while helping to reduce the number of cars on the road, ease traffic congestion, reduce parking woes, and lower our community's greenhouse gas emissions.

**It's not only for drivers! Connect with walking and cycling buddies along your route.**

[www.Colwood.ca/GOCO](http://www.Colwood.ca/GOCO)



## Branch Drop Off Every Sat

The Public Works team is ready to receive your yard waste at City Hall. We are back to EVERY SATURDAY service for March through November. Thanks for helping divert waste from the landfill and keeping our neighbourhoods looking great!

[www.Colwood.ca/BranchDropOff](http://www.Colwood.ca/BranchDropOff)



## We love to hear from you.

Subscribe at [Colwood.ca/Subscribe](http://Colwood.ca/Subscribe) and follow @CityofColwood on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

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