

# Colwood Connection

Involving you in decisions about our vibrant seaside community.

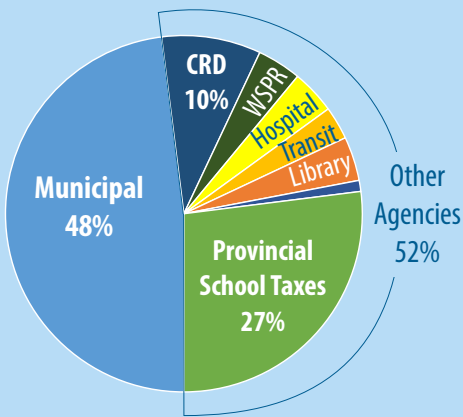


May 2021

City Hall is open BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Taxes are due July 2, 2021. Please pay online or by mail. Stay healthy Colwood!

## Less than half of your tax bill is municipal tax.

**52%** of the charges on your property tax bill are collected for **OTHER AGENCIES** over which the City has no direct control. It all goes on one tax notice so you don't have to deal with multiple bills.



Your property value as determined by BC Assessment is factored into your tax calculation. If your property's value increased more than the average for Colwood, the municipal portion of your tax bill may increase.

All BC municipalities are required to present a balanced budget every spring. Colwood's financial position is confirmed annually through an independent audit.

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

The goal is to deliver services to the community that strike a balance between household prosperity and city-building initiatives that will support quality of life while optimizing our tax base.

Learn more at [www.colwood.ca/Budget](http://www.colwood.ca/Budget)

## Will the average Colwood household pay more for property taxes in 2021?

The average household in Colwood will see an increase of approximately \$115 in municipal taxes over last year.

This 5% overall increase allows for the provision of current services including inflation, as well as the reinstatement of services that were deferred in 2020 to ease the tax burden at the outset of the pandemic.

It also provides for increases to meet the safety needs and maintenance expectations of our growing community. These include one additional RCMP officer and one support clerk so officers can focus on policing; two new firefighters; and increased parks & trails maintenance.

## What improvements are planned over the coming year? A few examples:

- **New sidewalks + cycling lanes** on Painter Road and Metchosin Road plus a 10-year ongoing program of new sidewalks throughout the City
- **Designs for a Waterfront Walkway** from Lagoon Beach to Royal Beach
- **Latoria Road Roundabout** at Veterans Memorial Parkway
- **Traffic Calming Pilot Projects** to improve neighbourhood safety
- **Park Improvement Plans** guided by the new Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- **Galloping Goose bridge** over Sooke Road to increase safety and ease for pedestrians + cyclists (grant dependant)
- **Transportation & Sewer Master Plan** updates to map ongoing upgrades

Flip for more details

# What services do your tax dollars pay for?

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



**Colwood Council Strategic Priorities**

## Mobility | Prosperity | Governance | Vibrance

These are areas where Council has created specific tactics to close the gap between where Colwood is and where it needs to be. Working toward these goals to leave a legacy for future generations is a responsibility Colwood Council and staff take to heart. [www.colwood.ca/StrategicPlan](http://www.colwood.ca/StrategicPlan)



## Colwood at a Glance

### LAND & FEATURES

- 17.67 square km total land area
- 60 parks featuring old growth forest
- 89 hectares of parkland
- 7.6 km of pristine ocean waterfront
- 3 National Historic Sites
- 1 National Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- 95 km of paved roads
- 50 km of sanitary sewer
- 35 km of storm sewer

### PEOPLE & BUSINESS

- 18,310 residents and growing
- 9.6% growth between 2011 and 2016
- Median age 41.6
- 17% Youth | 67% Adults | 16% Seniors
- 6,867 households
- \$4,753,586,000 in assessed value
- \$122,116,000 new construction value
- \$384,000 taxes from new growth
- 522 licensed businesses

## Enjoy your summer *Safely* at Colwood's parks, trails, beaches and businesses

### Colwood's beaches, parks

& trails provide healthy recreation & connections to nature. Find places to play, explore, relax and enjoy at

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

**Beach Food events** are back Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays + stats. Head to the beach for a bite to eat in the sunshine by the ocean. Together, but apart.

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

**Colwood eateries** have expanded take-out options + outdoor seating areas. Support local! You'll find a handy list of all Colwood restaurants at

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

## Property tax due July 2, 2021

### 1. Claim your Homeowner Grant:

Online at [Colwood.ca/PropertyTax](http://Colwood.ca/PropertyTax)

### 2. Pay one of several ways:

- Online banking bill payment
- In-person at your bank
- Mail to 3300 Wishart Rd. V9C 1R1
- In the 24-hour drop box at City Hall
- Through mortgage or tax deferral
- BY APPOINTMENT at City Hall: Call 250-478-5999 \*No Cash\*
- Set up prepayments for next year!

PLEASE PAY ONLINE or BY MAIL  
Stay Healthy Colwood!

## Connect with Colwood

We want to make it easy for you to have a say in decisions about our vibrant waterfront community.

Get in touch, share ideas, and get involved.

Phone: 250-478-5999

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

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

Requests: [colwood.ca/ActionRequest](http://colwood.ca/ActionRequest)

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

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

Social: @CityofColwood



## Keen to dive into the details?

The vision and direction for Colwood is laid out in the plans below. Take time to learn more, join the conversation and help shape the future of Colwood. Find them at [colwood.ca/Plans](http://colwood.ca/Plans).

- Official Community Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Financial Plan
- Transportation Master Plan
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Waterfront Improvement Plan
- COVID Economic Recovery Plan
- Economic Development Strategy

Share your thoughts about projects happening now.

Go to [www.LetsTalkColwood](http://www.LetsTalkColwood)

