

# Colwood Connection

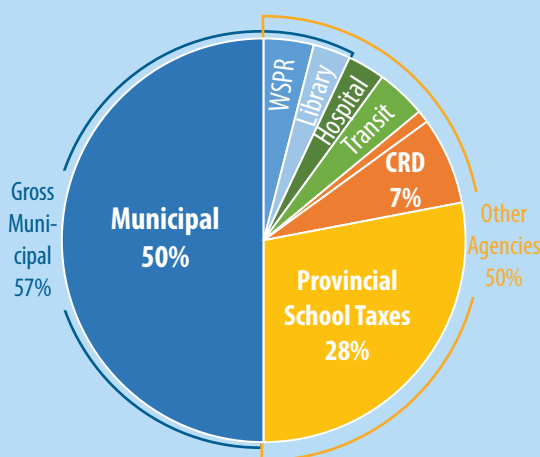
Involving you in decisions about our vibrant seaside community.

May 2023

Fishing at Lookout Lake - Jesse Holland Photography

## DYK? Only half of your tax bill is municipal tax.

**50%** is collected for **OTHER AGENCIES**. It all goes on one tax notice so you don't have to pay multiple bills.



## BUDGET 2023

Rate of Inflation\*

**6.7%**

\*BC Stats Victoria CPI, Nov '22

Budget Increase for CITY SERVICES

**2.8%**

ADD: Policing

**2.9%**

ADD: Sustainable Infrastructure Reserve

**1.0%**

## Supporting community safety & infrastructure

As a rapidly growing community, Colwood faces increasing operational and capital demands. In addition to building new infrastructure, the City must keep pace with maintenance and repair of infrastructure such as roads, parks, storm and sewer systems, as well as the safety of a growing number of citizens. **Municipal services represent a 2.8% property tax increase.**

Another significant factor affecting the 2023 budget is planning ahead to support the safety of a growing

population with **expanded police facilities which represents a 2.9% increase.**

The City works to ensure funds are set aside for repair and replacement of aging infrastructure: sewer and storm systems, roads, bridges and other critical assets. **Future infrastructure replacement represents a 1% increase.**

The average single family residential property in Colwood has a 2023 assessed value of \$1.05M. This property will pay an additional \$132 in gross municipal taxes.

## Shouldn't new development reduce tax increases?

New tax revenue primarily funds the increased services needed to meet the public safety, service and infrastructure needs of a growing

population. An expanded network of roads, storm systems, sidewalks, parks and trails requires funding and labour for ongoing maintenance and repair.

## The right mix of new homes & businesses

Colwood has become a destination of choice for builders and businesses. Council is working to guide development that will provide housing for every age and stage, strengthen our economy, and enhance quality of life while protecting community values: family friendly neighbourhoods, access to nature, and initiatives that support a healthy, active lifestyle.

## Preserving nature & climate action

- Urban Forest Strategy
- Climate Action Plan
- Energy Step Code implementation
- Waterfront Stewardship Plan
- Active Transportation Plan
- Improving transit service through development and BC Transit
- Shifting to electric fleet vehicles
- Value natural assets for stormwater management, shade, air quality, etc

## Keeping traffic and people moving

- A traffic model to understand the impact of proposed development
- Ongoing program of new sidewalks
- Galloping Goose trail bridge
- Waterfront Multi-Use Pathway
- Intersection upgrades: Wale at Wilfert, Veterans at Cairndale, Sooke at Mt. View and at Metchosin
- Latoria Road plan for improved walking, cycling and car capacity

## Enhancing parks and quality of life

Colwood's Parks & Recreation Master Plan and specific park management plans will guide improvements to enhance enjoyment of parks, including working with local Nations and Parks Canada on emerging opportunities. New parks, trails, amenities and signage will promote active transportation and a healthy lifestyle. Plans are supported by a program of engaging arts & cultural events and activities.

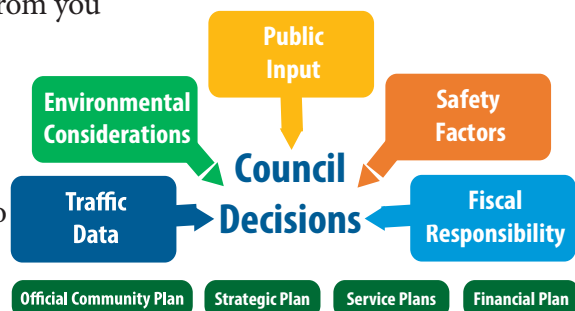
Flip for more



# Involving you in how Colwood grows

Colwood Council is eager to hear from you and is working to find new ways to make information available and invite you into conversations.

Providing details about the many complex considerations that go into each decision enables residents to offer informed and valuable input.



**Ideas Fair:** A first invitation to share ideas with Council. Input was provided by 400+ participants about Traffic, Sewers, Health, Seniors, Youth, Arts & Culture.

**Citizen Satisfaction Survey:** 361 detailed responses provides scientific data to better understand residents perceptions and expectations of City services.

**Household Prosperity Report:** data about how well residents are able to meet their needs, maintain health, enjoy life, invest in the future, and achieve their goals.

**Community Assessment Survey:** an opportunity for residents to comment on the data in the Prosperity Report, identify gaps and suggest improvements.

**New citizen committees:** a citizen viewpoint along with staff recommendations that come to Council on land use, transportation, waterfront and other topics.

**Web Site Upgrade:** a redesign to make the site more engaging, make information easier to find, and improve accessibility for all users on all devices.

**Improved access to development information:** New online tools for timely and complete information about what's being proposed in your neighbourhood.



## Recent Grant Success: \$16,465,891

Delivering on major projects while minimizing impact on property tax

**Canada Community Building Fund**  
\$6,642,000

**Waterfront Pathway**  
\$6,000,000

**Galloping Goose Bridge over Sooke Road**  
\$3,661,366

**Neighbourhood Wayfinding Signs**  
\$162,525

**TOTAL \$16,465,891**  
which equates to about  
**\$789 per resident**

## Funding improvements through new development

New development pays for many of the roads, sidewalks, parks and trails we enjoy. The flip side is that maintenance & repair becomes the responsibility of the City and the required labour, equipment and supplies must be budgeted for in the City's Financial Plan.

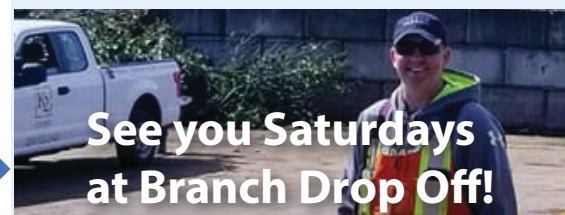
### 2023 Community Amenity Fund Projections

for things like Park Improvements, the Waterfront Pathway and Recreation Centre Feasibility



### 2023 Road Development Cost Charge Projections

for things like Sidewalks, Roundabouts and Intersections



## See you Saturdays at Branch Drop Off!

Colwood staff are ready to assist with yard waste at City Hall every Saturday. Thanks for helping keep Colwood looking great!

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

## PROPERTY TAX DUE Jul 4, 2023

### 1. Claim your homeowner grant:

Online only at [etax.gov.bc.ca/btp/HOG](http://etax.gov.bc.ca/btp/HOG)

### 2. Pay one of several ways:

- Through online or phone banking
- 24 hour drop box at City Hall
- Mail to 3300 Wishart Rd. V9C 1R1
- Through your mortgage lender
- At your banking institution
- Tax deferral program
- At City Hall

What's the fastest way to pay?  
Through your Online Banking!

## CONNECT WITH COLWOOD

We want to make it easy for you to have a say in decisions about Your 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](https://www.facebook.com/CityofColwood)

## JOIN US AT SUMMER EVENTS!

Friday Music in the Park 6-8pm

Saturday Music at the Beach 5-7pm

Beach Food every weekend 12-7pm

Eat & Beats Beach Party July 29

Visit [www.colwood.ca/Events](http://www.colwood.ca/Events)

Let's Talk, Colwood



We need your input to help guide improvements. Please share your thoughts at [www.LetsTalkColwood](http://www.LetsTalkColwood)