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2022 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Saturday, October 15 marks General Election Day in the City of Nanaimo. Ahead of that, two advance polls will be open from 8 am to 8 pm in the Beban Park Auditorium (2300 Bowen Road) on **Wednesday, October 5 and 12**.

On General Election Day (October 15), voters can cast their ballots at one of 12 locations from 8 am to 8 pm with the exception of Protection Island Fire Hall, which is open from 10 am to 6 pm.

- Beban Park Auditorium, 2300 Bowen Road
- City of Nanaimo Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street
- Protection Island Fire Hall, 26 Pirates Lane (*open 10 am to 6 pm*)
- Salvation Army Church, 505 8th Street
- Chase River Elementary School, 1503 Cranberry Avenue
- Dover Bay Secondary School, 6135 McGirr Road
- Georgia Avenue Elementary School, 625 Georgia Avenue
- Nanaimo District Secondary School, 355 Wakesiah Avenue
- Randerson Ridge Elementary School, 6021 Nelson Road
- Uplands Park Elementary School, 3821 Stronach Drive
- Wellington Secondary School, 3135 Mexicana Road
- Woodlands Secondary School, 1270 Strathmore Street

Work the election!

Want to get involved in voting day activities? We are looking for election workers right now! Visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/jobs to learn more and apply. Applications close on June 29, 2022.

Interested in running for a seat on Council?

The nomination period is open from 9 am on Tuesday, August 30 to 4 pm on Friday, September 9. More information about candidate nominations will be available in August at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/elections.

Improving mobility and accessibility in Nanaimo

This year, you will see a number of small-scale mobility, accessibility and safety improvements taking place around Nanaimo. Some of the improvements you may see around include sidewalks, crosswalks, tactile warning surface indicators, flashing crosswalk lights, street lights and touch-free Guardian Wave technology at intersections.

Find a list of improvements at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/mobility.

Nanaimo ReImagined - forming a path forward

Two years, three phases and your participation in REIMAGINE NANAIMO has brought us the new draft City Plan - Nanaimo ReImagined. Thank you, Nanaimo for your input in this multi-year, multi-phase process to plan out what our community will look like in 10, 15 and even 25 years. With the final phase complete, we have used your feedback to guide the final draft of the City Plan. Up next, it will be taken to Council for their consideration then we will start putting it to action. The future is looking bright, Nanaimo!

Learn more at: www.getinvolvednanaimo.ca/reimagined-nanaimo.



Construction of the new Fire Station #1 has come a long way! It is nearing completion with an official opening expected to take place later this fall.

Investments in Public Safety

While Council advocates to the Provincial and Federal governments for support, the City has taken many steps to invest in public safety initiatives throughout Nanaimo, including:

- Another step in the landmark memorandum of understanding took place when BC Housing opened the new Samaritan House women's shelter on Nicol Street earlier this spring. In addition, construction is anticipated to begin on the 51-unit project at 285 Prideaux Street this year.
- A Downtown Safety Action Plan has been approved by Council. The plan lists actions the City and other downtown stakeholders can take to improve concerns around safety and security in the downtown core.
- Work has begun on the creation of a Systems Planning Organization to help implement the findings of the Health and Housing Task Force and provide coordination and better research into the City's vulnerable population.

Your tax bill: how your dollars are used

Each property tax bill helps pay for the important City services and initiatives that make Nanaimo a community that is livable, environmentally sustainable and full of opportunity for all generations and walks of life. Also, one per cent goes towards an increase in funding for the general asset management reserve. Together, your property taxes fund:

A GREEN, LIVABLE COMMUNITY



Supporting an inclusive, healthy, safe and desirable place to live by planning for Nanaimo's growth and focusing on community infrastructure. Protecting and enhancing Nanaimo's natural environment



by looking after the community's biological diversity and adapting the way we live, work, recreate and move.

- The new draft City Plan - Nanaimo ReImagined, sets a direction for sustainable growth in our community over the next 25 years and beyond.
- Amenity improvements in Westwood Lake, Neck Point and Bowen Park create places to recreate and connect with others.
- Complete Street projects such as the ones on Front Street, Metral Drive and Albert/Fourth Street help people of all ages and abilities move throughout the community using active transportation while reducing carbon emissions.

A TRANSPARENT AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Developing a culture of excellence around governance, management and cost-effective service delivery.

- Reviewing the City's Bylaws and Policies to update and modernize the City's official documents and repeal those that are no longer applicable.
- A Sustainable Procurement Policy to ensure the City's purchasing activities advance a range of environmental, social and ethical objectives.
- Getting the most out of every dollar through careful project planning such as the Bowen Trailway and Utility Upgrades Project. Both the Millstone Trunk Sanitary Sewer and the multi-use trail the sewer runs under had reached the end of their service life so were replaced all in one project.

AN ECONOMICALLY PROSPEROUS CITY



Creating a vibrant culture of innovation, stewardship and partnership to encourage a diverse and healthy economy now and into the future.

- A surge in housing starts last year and a projected shift to a younger population are strong indicators of economic strength now and in the future.
- The City's Economic Development section and the Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation will work to deliver priorities identified in the Economic Development Strategy.
- Projects such as Design Commercial will create a cohesive vision for a vibrant, thriving downtown through enhancements to public spaces and incorporating the needs of local businesses.

TIP: Help our water meter readers by clearing away any brush or vegetation from your water meter. It may also be tempting to cover your meter with landscaping, but like water, your meters are best if they are clear!

Your tax bill: how it is calculated

The City of Nanaimo tax rate is based on what we need to balance the budget for the year. Your tax bill is calculated based on your property's assessed value (determined by BC Assessment) and then by the tax rate plus the parcel tax for the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). An assessment increase does not necessarily mean there will be a significant increase in your property taxes. It's about how your assessed value changed relative to the average change for your property class.

- If your assessment is in line with the average, your tax notice will equal the increase this year.
- If your assessed value is higher than average, your tax increase will be higher than the increase.
- If your assessed value is less than average, your property tax increase will be lower than the increase.

We also collect taxes for other authorities (School District 68, BC Assessment, Municipal Finance Authority, RDN and Vancouver Island Regional Library). Learn more about the City's budget process at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/budget.

REDUCE OR DEFER YOUR TAXES

The **Home Owner Grant** is a great way to reduce your property tax bill. Eligible homeowners under the age of 65 can reduce their taxes by up to \$770 and seniors can save up to \$1,045. You must claim your grant every year. Apply through the Province of BC by visiting www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or calling **1-888-355-2700**.

If you are over the age of 55, widowed, a person with a disability or a family with children, you may qualify for **property tax payment deferral**. This Provincial program provides low-interest loans to qualified homeowners to pay their primary residence property taxes. Find more information and links to the online application system at: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/TaxDeferment.

A ONE-STOP SHOP TO YOUR CITY ACCOUNTS

Manage all your City of Nanaimo bills in one convenient place. With MyCity, your user rate and property tax bills can all be viewed and managed online. Visit mycity.nanaimo.ca to log in. Don't have an account yet? Learn how you can set up your MyCity account at: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/MyCity.



YOUR 2022 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE JULY 4, 2022

There are a number of ways you can pay:

Your bank: online, phone or in person. When paying this way for this first time, search "Nanaimo". The folio number on your notice is the account number.

Mail a cheque: 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5J6. Payment must be received by July 4, 2022.

At the Service and Resource Centre: 411 Dunsmuir St, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

Your mortgage company: Make sure their name is listed on the front of your tax notice. Don't forget to apply for the Home Owner Grant.

Pre-authorized payments: Visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/prepay for more information or give us a call at **250-755-4415**.

A late payment penalty of 2 per cent will be applied to payments received after July 4, 2022 and another 8 per cent will be applied for ones made after August 31, 2022.

Summer FUN in Nanaimo's Parks

There's a lot of FREE summer fun to be had in Nanaimo's parks! This year, some of our popular community events are back so let's get outside and reconnect in Nanaimo's parks.

- The popular **Concerts in the Park** series returns to Nanaimo's parks, but with a twist. This year, the concerts will travel around to the following locations:
 - Harewood Centennial Park on June 1
 - Diver Lake Park on June 14
 - Pipers Lagoon on July 5
 - Departure Bay on July 6
 - McGregor Park on July 13 & 20 and August 3 & 17
 - Neck Point Park on August 23
- Stay cool this summer! **Water parks** are open 9 am to 8 pm daily in Departure Bay Park, Deverill Square Park, Harewood Centennial Park and Mansfield Park.
- Our **Playground Program** features family activities including crafts, games, music and more from July 6 to August 31. Check recreation.nanaimo.ca for locations.
- Nanaimo's **Canada Day** festivities are back! Join our Parks, Recreation and Culture crew in Maffeo Sutton Park on Friday, July 1 from 11 am to 3:30 pm.
- Play in one of **Nanaimo's playgrounds**. In addition to neighbourhood playgrounds, destination playgrounds are located in Beban Park, Harewood Centennial Park, Maffeo Sutton Park and Oliver Woods Community Park.
- Explore **Nanaimo's parks and trails** this summer. Check out our Parks and Trails brochure on the City website to discover your next Nanaimo adventure.

For more details, please visit recreation.nanaimo.ca or call 250-756-5200.

Did you hear? The **Nanaimo Night Market** returns to Commercial Street on Thursday nights beginning June 23. Find more information on the Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce's website: nanaimochamber.bc.ca.



40 years of youth leadership

This year, Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture celebrates 40 years of the Leaders in Training (LIT) program. Over the years, thousands of future leaders aged 13-18 gained vital experience through mentorship, volunteering and building skills that helped them get jobs that many times led to successful life-long careers. Team building, resume writing, making new friends and hands-on learning in a variety of settings are just some of the benefits of this program. This summer, look for youth volunteers wearing yellow shirts at camps and community events!



Public art sightings in the city

Look for new additions to art along streets, parks and walkways. Several new projects commissioned through the Urban Design Roster will be installed over the summer, including manhole cover designs by Ay Lelum, a new mural for Maffeo Sutton Park by Curtis Van Charles Sorenson and a series of rainy day poems by Nanaimo's Poet Laureate, Kamal Parmar and design team Webb Creative to be featured along the active transportation network. New Temporary Public Art Projects by Jesse Gray and Curtis Grahauer will appear in fall 2022.

For more information visit: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/publicart.

STAGE 2 WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

Until September 30, even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered days and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days for up to 2 hours between 7 am - 10 am or 7 pm - 10 pm. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees can be watered any time – micro-drip encouraged. Find more information at: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/watering.

Have a FireSmart summer

The arrival of summer usually brings hot, dry weather. Follow these simple FireSmart steps and visit www.firesmartbc.ca to learn more:

- Clear dead brush, dry debris and other combustibles from within 10 metres around the outside of your home, clean your roof and gutters and keep your lawn short.
- Remove branches overhanging the roof of your house and keep all lower tree branches pruned up 2 metres.
- Clean and maintain your BBQ before using it and never leave it unattended while cooking.
- Properly extinguish and dispose of all smoking material. **NEVER** throw cigarette butts out the window of your car. Not only is it littering, it's also the cause of many wildfires.
- Be vigilant; call 911 to report all fires no matter the size

BE NOTIFIED DURING AN EMERGENCY

The City's Emergency Alert System, called Voyent Alert! allows residents to receive text, email and phone alerts in the event of an emergency. Download the "Voyent Alert" app on the App Store or GooglePlay, register online at www.voyent-alert.com/ca/community or call our Public Works staff to help you register at 250-758-5222.

CURBSIDE CHECK-IN

Curb it! - Curbside Contamination

Let's work together, Nanaimo, to reduce blue cart contamination! Recycle BC, the organization that oversees recycling across the province, requires collectors of recycling, such as the City of Nanaimo, to maintain contamination rates of less than three per cent to meet contract requirements. Currently, we have an average recycling contamination rate of 13 per cent!

Higher levels of cart contamination can lead to increased service fees for homeowners and recycling ending up in the landfill. It can also put workers at risk and damage equipment used in the recycling process. To help reduce contamination levels, we will be conducting curbside inspections of blue carts. Those who continue to contaminate their recycling will receive a sticker alerting them of the item(s) not accepted. The goal is to never leave a cart behind, but households that continue to contaminate could see their blue carts not being collected.

If you aren't sure if something is accepted in your blue cart, use the **What Goes Where Waste Wizard tool** found on the Recycling page on the City website at: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/recycling or download the free Nanaimo Recycles App. Don't have access to the internet? Give the **Recycling Hotline** a call at **1-800-732-9253**.

JOIN IN ON THE FUN AT OUR REDUCE & REUSE SPECIAL ANNUAL EVENTS!

Do you have a storage room full of household items that you haven't looked at, let alone used, in years? Nanaimo's Trunk Sale and Reuse Rendezvous annual events aim to give unwanted household items a longer lease on life and reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill.

TRUNK SALE

It's back! On **Saturday, July 16** from 9 am to 2 pm in the Country Club Mall parking lot, registered vendors can sell their unwanted items from the trunk of their car to bargain hunters. Registration is free and spots are limited.

REUSE RENDEZVOUS

Join in on the city-wide swap meet over the weekend of **August 13 & 14**. Stick a "FREE!" label on unwanted household goods and set them out on the curb for other community members to take and reuse. Please make sure to take any items left over back inside.

Visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NanaimoRecycles for full details and event updates, including registration information for the Trunk Sale and guidelines for Reuse Rendezvous.



Recycle Right! A guide to your blue cart

When recycling, make sure to **check before you chuck!**

Use this handy guide to make sure you are recycling right.



Keep items loose - do NOT bag or nest items of different materials inside one another.

Rinse, squish and flatten items before placing in cart.

Remove any string, ribbon, etc (staples & tape acceptable) from cardboard and make sure cardboard pieces are **60 cm x 60 cm (2 feet x 2 feet) or smaller**.

Take these items to a recycling depot:



Find a list of depot locations and what items they accept with the **What Goes Where** tool at www.nanaimo.ca or on the **Nanaimo Recycles App** - available for free from the AppStore and GooglePlay!



QUESTIONS ABOUT CURBSIDE COLLECTION?

Visit: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NanaimoRecycles

Call us: 250-756-5390

Email us: Zero.Waste@nanaimo.ca

