

## Financial Plan Finalized

*After three days of intense deliberation, Council balanced the 2007 budget for the City of Campbell River.*

### Who's paying, and how much?

- 2007 municipal taxes increased two per cent for residential property owners (2006 saw a 4.77 per cent increase)
- Business class taxes remain at 20 per cent of total taxation revenue
- Council's five-point industrial stabilization policy continues, with more than \$5.2 million in cumulative benefits to major industry since 2002

### Parks Parcel Tax: What is it? Am I paying more?

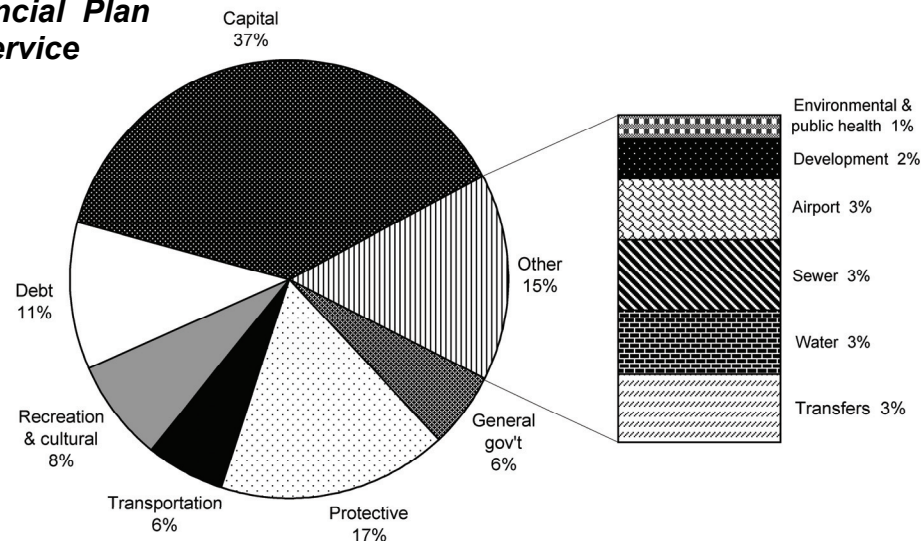
A \$50 flat rate Parkland Acquisition and Improvement Parcel Tax will be used exclusively for parks purposes. The Parks Parcel Tax is estimated to generate \$5.5 million over 10 years for parks and trails improvements.

With these funds, in 2007 Council expects to:

- establish a Maritime Centre Trail
- design the proposed Village Commons
- implement a program for construction of permanent washroom facilities
- re-establish Larwood Park and replace playground equipment at Ruby, Nunn's Creek, and Willow Point parks

The Parks Parcel Tax is an additional amount to total taxes paid. Council approved the parcel tax after a public survey of the local community showed 82 per cent of respondents supported additional investment in the parks system, with 63 per cent of people willing to pay more in taxes for an improved parks program.

### 2007 Financial Plan By Service



### RCMP and Fire Department funding boost

An additional RCMP officer will be hired in 2008 (an increase of three officers over three years). The Fire Department's 1987 pumper truck will be replaced.

### Getting the word out to tourists

The first cruise ships will arrive in Campbell River in June. A cruise ship marketing initiative and an interactive Internet map of the city are among the tourism initiatives for 2007.

### Improving infrastructure

On the list for 2007 are:

- a pilot project this fall as the first step toward enhanced community recycling and yard waste programs
- completion of Dick Murphy Park on the Tyee Spit
- enhanced infrastructure programs for increased street lighting along Dogwood Street, repair and renewal of City parking lots and additional sidewalk construction near Sandowne School
- improvements to pedestrian signals and crossings downtown and along major arterial roads
- complete reconstruction of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (from Dogwood Street to Highway 19A), Evergreen Road (from Dogwood Street to Birch Street) and Birch Street (from (Merecroft Road to Evergreen) including all underground utilities and an improved road complete with sidewalks
- reconstruction of sewer along Larwood Road (from Highway 19A to Harrogate) and Harrogate Road (from Larwood to Erickson)
- creek crossing upgrades (Larwood tributary across Erickson Road, Nunn's tributary across Petersen Road) and safety and diagnostic equipment for Campbell River's sanitary sewer and waterworks

### Water rates increase

Rising \$10 per month for each single family household and \$0.07 per cubic metre for commercial and other metered users, water rates in Campbell River are still among the lowest in the province – and the city's water quality rated fourth best in North America this year. A comprehensive rates review currently underway will guide future rate adjustments and keep city utilities self-sustaining over the long-term.

### Pay on time; avoid the penalty

By provincial law, the City of Campbell River must apply a **10 per cent penalty on taxes outstanding after July 3, 2007**. Avoid paying the penalty on the amount of the home owner grant by ensuring your grant application is received by the Finance Department before the July 3, 2007 deadline. (Documents with a Canada Post July 3, 2007 postmark will meet the deadline.)

Again this year, people can complete and submit the home owner grant application online. Look for the *Electronic Home Owner Grant* link at [www.campbellriver.ca](http://www.campbellriver.ca) after tax notices are mailed. A confirmation number is provided when the grant application is successfully submitted. This service complements the ability to pay online for other city services, including parking tickets, garbage tags, dog licenses and business licenses.

### Questions?

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