

PRE-REFERENDUM OPEN HOUSE ON PROPOSED BOUNDARY EXTENSION

5 to 8 p.m. June 16
Ocean Grove Elementary
(3773 McLelan Road)

Learn about the June 28 referendum (and advance polls June 18 and 24) on the proposal to extend the city boundary and offer sewer service in the northernmost portion of Area D.

Information is also posted online at www.campbellriver.ca under Planning, Building and Development.

MORE PARKING DURING PROPERTY TAX TIME

If you are coming to City Hall to pay your taxes, we're making more room for you. From June 16 – July 2 (inclusive) additional public parking is being made available at City Hall.

Those coming in to City Hall to make property tax payments are encouraged to park in the larger City Hall parking lot with access off the Alder street hill leading into and out of downtown.

During this time, parking stalls numbered 1-38 and 41-47 will be available for public use.

The smaller parking lot at the top of St. Ann's remains available for public parking but is limited to only 11 stalls.

Property taxes and Home Owner Grants are due July 2, 2014.



The Golden Girls' Tea

**A Gift to Honour
Campbell River Ladies 72 Years +**

presented by



50+ Active Living

**Friday, June 20th
2:00 - 4:00pm**

**Campbell River Community Centre
401 - 11th Avenue**

RSVP by June 15. Limited seating of 200.

**Phone Sheila 250-923-3495
or Lynn Norton 250-287-7290**

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE BY JULY 2, 2014.

The City has posted more information about property taxation on its website (under What's New). Paper copies are available by contacting City Hall.

Property owners are reminded to **check tax notices and the water, sewer, and solid waste charges** to ensure active or de-activated secondary suites are correctly noted in the user fee calculation.

How does my property tax bill compare to the Council-approved rate?

Council approves the general levy for the entire City budget, but that doesn't mean you will see that same percentage change on your tax notice. Many factors influence the taxes on a given property making it different from the overall percentage approved by Council.

Each year, some property assessments increase while others decrease, so your property assessment change may or may not be close to the average BC Assessment reports – and your taxes may or may not increase to match exactly with the rate set by Council.

Another factor is that the City of Campbell River collects taxes on behalf of other groups (Schools, Hospital, Library, Strathcona Regional District, BC Assessment, and the Municipal Finance Authority). They develop their own budgets outside of the City's control.

The rate passed by Council is only for the levy included on the Municipal – City line that appears on your tax notice.

Other charges such as water, sewer, garbage and recycling also appear on your notice, but are not included in the general levy.

Things to remember about the Home Owner Grant

- Residential property owners can claim the Home Owner Grant without paying property taxes.
- Banks and financial institutions cannot claim the home owner grant for you.
- Unclaimed Home Owner Grants count as unpaid taxes, and are also subject to a 10% penalty if an application is not filed by the July due date.

How to apply for the Home Owner Grant

- Go online to www.campbellriver.ca and click on "Payments" under "Online Options" then launch the Home Owner Grant application from the link at the bottom of the screen. Use your access code (called "Access" on your tax notice, beside the folio number).
- Apply in person at City Hall 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, except statutory holidays

What is the amount of the grant available?

For 2014, the maximum:

BASIC Home Owner Grant is \$770

ADDITIONAL Home Owner Grant is \$1,045 (\$770 + \$275)

Note: The Home Owner Grant amount is reduced or eliminated based on property value and minimum property tax payable.

Where do I get a grant application?

The grant is located on the bottom of your tax notice that will be mailed out at the end of May. If you know your folio number and access code (located on your tax notice), you may claim your grant online through the City website (www.campbellriver.ca). Click on "Payments" under "Online Options".

What are my payment options?

Payment methods accepted by the City of Campbell River:

- Online banking through your bank
- Interac (ensure your daily and/or transaction limit will cover the amount of your payment)
- Cheque
- Cash

Can I pay by monthly installments?

Beginning in August 2014 the City will be able to accept payments made by monthly installment through a direct-debit to your bank account. This year's property tax notice will include an insert outlining the program and an application form for those who wish to make regular monthly payments towards their annual property taxes.

What happens if property taxes go unpaid?

The City of Campbell River is governed by the Community Charter which legislates a 10 per cent penalty be imposed on any property taxes that remain outstanding after the July 2, 2014 due date (including unclaimed Home Owner Grants). This legislation does not give authority to the City to waive late penalty charges and is applied consistently to all taxpayers. Your payment and Home Owner Grant application (if eligible) must be received by the City of Campbell River on or before the due date to avoid penalty charges. Grants not claimed or incomplete are considered unpaid taxes and will result in penalty charges.

Can I defer my property tax payment?

The Province of British Columbia has a tax deferral program, which is available to homeowners aged 55 and older, families with children, and persons with a disability.

The Property Tax Deferment Program is a loan program that allows you to defer your annual property taxes on your home.

To qualify, you must have and maintain a minimum equity of 25 per cent of the current BC Assessment property value, after deducting the UPPER limit of all outstanding mortgages, lines of credit and other charges on your home.

There is a one-time administration fee of \$60 for a new approved agreement and an annual \$10 renewal fee.

For more information, please visit www.sbr.gov.bc.ca (see individuals / property_taxes).

What do homeowners get for property taxes paid?

In 2014, the average* household in Campbell River will pay approximately \$188 per month in taxes, user fees and parcel taxes to pay for more than 100 services such as:

- Potable water, sanitary sewers and storm water services
- Police and fire protection
- Emergency response service
- Garbage, recycling and yard waste collection
- Road and sidewalk maintenance and repair
- Street lighting and traffic control
- Recreation facilities including the Sportsplex, Community Centre, Centennial Pool, city parks, tennis courts, ball fields, Discovery fishing pier and the new Splash Park
- Planning and building inspection services
- Bylaw enforcement
- Cultural facility grants for the Tidemark Theatre, Campbell River Museum, Maritime Heritage Centre, Haig-Brown House, Campbell River Art Gallery and the Sybil Andrews Cottage
- BC transit service
- Campbell River Airport services
- Environmental monitoring and management
- Economic development, tourism and the Visitor Information Centre

*Average residential property value is \$256,600.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every \$100 the average household pays in taxes is divided between the federal (\$50), provincial (\$42) and municipal (\$8) governments. The municipal property tax payment funds more than 100 different City services.