

May 22, 2013

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**City budget adopted, tax notices coming end of this month**

Council adopted the 2013 Tax Rates Bylaw at its May 7 meeting, and tax notices will be mailed at the end of the month. Property tax payments are due by July 2, 2013.

*“Property tax payments collect fees for a number of regional services, including hospital, school, regional district and library services,”* says Laura Ciarniello, the City’s general manager of corporate services. *“The portion of taxation, parcel taxes and user fees related to City services has increased on average 3.91 per cent.”*

Water and sewer fees and parcel taxes charged by the City are outside the property tax rate, and property tax rates are calculated according to the values and assessment provided by the British Columbia Assessment authority on individual homes.

*“The average residential home assessment in Campbell River (valued at \$253,000) is down nearly two per cent (-1.9%) this year over last,”* Ciarniello says. *“The tax increase equates to an additional \$52.30 per year for the average home, and the average monthly cost to fund more than 100 services is approximately \$187.”*

**Highlights of the City’s \$76 million 2013 budget**

- Funded by property taxes, water and sewer fees, and funding grants
- Approximately \$32.2 million funds general operating costs
- Approximately \$20.1 million funds water, sewer and airport (\$12.7 million for infrastructure upgrades)
- Increased water and sewer fees to fund new and replacement infrastructure
- Parks Parcel tax remains unchanged at \$25
- Enhanced services to note: a statistically-valid community survey, Downtown design charrette, improved horticulture services, seasonal lighting at Spirit Square, funding for increased signage and Airport business opportunities
- A zero per cent business tax increase
- Less than one per cent of the City’s property tax revenue in 2013 will come from major industry
- New debt for 2013 in the amount of \$600,000
- Allocation of one per cent of tax revenue (\$150,000) to begin replacement of aging infrastructure
- Capital projects in 2013 continue to be funded by water and sewer user fees, borrowing, grants and reserves rather than through property taxation

Property owners are reminded to check tax notices and user fees to ensure charges related to secondary suites reflect activated or de-activated status.

Property tax payments can be mailed or paid in person at City Hall. Post-dated cheques are accepted. The City will also accept payment by debit card. Property owners must pay transaction fees and ensure that any debit card transaction limits will cover the amount of taxes due. The City cannot accept payment by credit card.

**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.
- How to apply for the Home Owner Grant
  - Go online to [www.campbellriver.ca](http://www.campbellriver.ca) and click on “Home Owner Grant” 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

Questions about property tax payments should be directed to the City’s Finance Department at 250-286-5715.

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Contact: Laura Ciarniello, General Manager Corporate Services

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