

May 23, 2019

Property tax information published, notices in the mail

With property tax notices arriving in the mail soon, property owners will receive a brochure illustrating how tax dollars and user fees help fund more than 100 local government services.

“The brochure is complemented by an online Tax Facts document and animated videos to explain and connect City services, budgeting and property taxes,” says Alaina Maher, the City’s finance manager. *“Tax Facts explains the relationship between property assessments and taxation, and how the key factor in tax increases is how much the property assessment increased in comparison to the average Campbell River home. Tax Facts also highlights that Campbell River property taxes and user fees compare favourably to other B.C. communities with a similar population.”*

Maher adds, *“Also, people might not know that less than half of the City’s budget is funded through local property taxation. The majority is funded through user fees, sale of services and senior government grants. And approximately 35 per cent of the payment due on City property tax notices is collected to fund provincial and regional services such as the hospital, schools and library.”*

Find *Tax Facts* on the City website (campbellriver.ca) under City Services/Property taxes. Paper copies are available at City Hall. See the videos on the City’s YouTube channel (one click from the icon at the top of the website).

Also included in the mail is a list of payment options, and an application form for pre-authorized withdrawals for 2020 property taxes.

“Whichever payment method people select, we remind everyone that, to avoid a 10 per cent penalty, payment and completed home owner grant applications, which reduces the overall tax payment on eligible properties, must be received by July 2,” says Dennis Brodie, finance reporting supervisor. *“We also remind property owners to check tax notices and water and sewer charges to ensure active or de-activated secondary suites are correctly noted in the property tax calculation.”*

Property tax payments can be mailed or paid in person at City Hall. Pay by the July 2 due date to avoid penalty. Post-dated cheques and payments by debit card are accepted. Please ensure debit card transaction limits will cover the amount of taxes due. Tax payments cannot be paid by credit card.

Things to remember about the home owner grant:

- The provincial grant must be applied for each year for eligible properties.
- Residential property owners can claim the home owner grant without paying property taxes.
- Banks and financial institutions cannot claim the grant on behalf of property owners.
- How to apply for the home owner grant:
 - Go online to www.campbellriver.ca and click on Home Owner Grant under Online Payments. Launch the application from the link on the right hand side of the screen. Use the folio number and access code on the tax notice.
 - Apply in person at City Hall 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, except statutory holidays.

City of Campbell River property owners who have not received a tax notice by June 7 should contact the City’s Finance Department at 250-286-5715.

Services delivered by the City of Campbell River include building and maintaining critical infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer systems and essentials like emergency response and garbage, recycling and yard waste collection. The City also operates and takes care of parks, sports fields, trails and seawalk, as well as the outdoor pool and other recreation and cultural facilities.

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