




MAY 2017

# LADYSMITH PROPERTY TAXES

Enclosed with this newsletter is your Property Tax Notice for 2017. We hope you find all the information you need right here. If you do need more information, we encourage you to get in touch:

-  Send an E-mail to [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca)
-  Mail a Note to Town of Ladysmith City Hall,  
410 Esplanade, Box 220, Ladysmith, B.C. V9G 1A2
-  Call 250.245.6400

## PAYING PROPERTY TAXES: TWO SIMPLE STEPS

**FIRST:** Claim your Homeowner Grant at City Hall or online by clicking the **Property Taxes** logo on our home page at [www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca)

**SECOND:** Pay your Property Taxes by 4:00 p.m. on July 4, 2017.

## YOU CHOOSE HOW TO PAY:

- In person at City Hall (cash, cheque or debit card)
- In the after-hours drop box at City Hall (beside the front doors)
- At your bank, with your tax notice
- Through online banking
- Through your mortgage lender
- By mail (must be received at City Hall by 4:00 p.m. on July 4. A postmark does not count)

## RESIDENTIAL TAX DEFERMENT

There are two different provincial government loan programs that allow eligible Home Owners to defer (postpone) payment of your property taxes:

- Property Tax Deferral Program
- Families with Dependent Children Under 18

For information and application forms, contact City Hall (250.245.6400 or [www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca)) or the Government of BC – 1.888.355.2700, or go online at: [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca) (search “property taxes”).

## LADYSMITH'S 2017 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, we have been able to hold the line on property tax increases while making significant investments in the future of our community, laying a foundation for sustainable growth.

In fact, this year there is a reduction of about 0.4 per cent in property taxes based on assessed values. For an average single family dwelling, the municipal share of property tax you pay will actually go down by \$5.30 compared to last year.

Ladysmith's total municipal taxation for 2017 is \$7.733 million. This helps pay for the ongoing costs of maintaining parks, roads and other infrastructure, keeping our community safe, running the Frank Jameson Community Centre, operating our sewer and water systems, supporting many local community organizations, and more.

There are a number of significant, generational projects underway or planned for our community in 2017. These include:

- Starting construction on the new Water Filtration Plant
- Building the new bio-solids composting facility
- Expanding the truck bays at the Fire Hall to accommodate a new fire rescue vehicle
- Expanding parking and improving the playground at Aggie Hall
- Finishing the Waterfront Area Plan Update
- Setting aside funds to build a reserve for the replacement of aging infrastructure, including City Hall and the Fire Hall

We are very fortunate to have received significant grants to help offset some of our capital costs and reduce the burden on our taxpayers. We continue to apply for every opportunity.

The full budget and related documents are available on our website at [www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca), and at City Hall. We encourage you to review them and direct comments or questions to Council or staff.





## WHAT SERVICES DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES PAY FOR?

Each dollar that you pay in property taxes funds a large number of programs and services -- to keep Ladysmith clean and safe, repair roads and sidewalks, maintain parks and trails, and support community groups and organizations. The chart below shows how one dollar of your property taxes is spent.

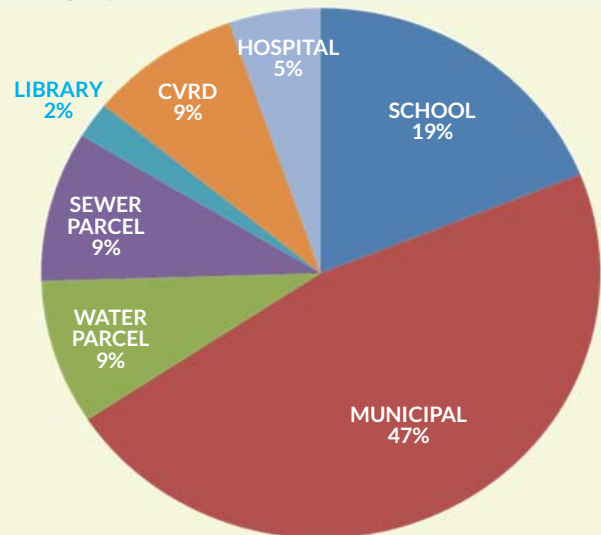
In addition to the amounts listed here, property owners also pay water and sewer parcel taxes to help fund our water supply system, the new water filtration plant, and our waste water treatment plant.

Our biggest capital expenditure in 2017 will be building a new water filtration plant. This is required by Island Health (VIHA) in order for our water to meet quality standards for drinking water and to remove chlorination byproducts from our water supply. The plant is estimated to cost \$14 million, with funds coming from water parcel taxes, borrowing and a federal/provincial grant of \$8.8 million. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for supporting this important initiative through the recent Alternative Approval Process.



## DID YOU KNOW?

35% of all property taxes collected by the Town of Ladysmith go directly to other agencies to pay for services like schools, the Vancouver Island Regional Library, the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Cowichan Regional Hospital fund. Sewer and water parcel taxes make up 18 per cent of taxes collected.



## WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

If you have comments, questions or suggestions, or you just want to know what's going on, there are many ways to get in touch.

### WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY. CONNECT WITH US:

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- Follow us on Twitter [@TownOfLadysmith](https://twitter.com/TownOfLadysmith)
- Follow us on Instagram [ladysmithbc](https://www.instagram.com/ladysmithbc)
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