




MAY 2019

LADYSMITH PROPERTY TAXES

Enclosed with this newsletter is your Property Tax Notice for 2019. 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
-  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

SECOND: Pay your Property Taxes by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

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 Tuesday, July 2, 2019. 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 the Government of BC — **1.888.355.2700**, or go online at: www.gov.bc.ca (search “defer your taxes”).

LADYSMITH'S 2019 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, Ladysmith residents will experience a marginal increase in municipal property taxes as we continue to make significant, long-term investments that set a solid foundation for the future of our community.

This year, residential municipal taxes will rise to 3.4 per cent based on the assessed value of your property as determined by BC Assessment. For example, a single family residential property with an assessed value of \$426,000 in 2019, up approximately 11 per cent in market value over 2018, will pay \$56.53 more in municipal property taxes this year.

Ladysmith's total municipal taxation for 2019 is \$8.451 million. This helps to cover the ongoing costs of maintaining parks, roads and other infrastructure, keeping our community safe, running the Frank Jameson Community Centre, supporting many local community organizations through Grants-in-Aid, and more. There are a number of additional projects underway or planned for our community in 2019 including:

- Moving the Waterfront Area Plan forward
- Completing the Town's Water Filtration Plant
- Improvements to the water main on Baden Powell
- Replacement of the Rocky Creek culvert on 4th Ave
- Adding emergency backup generators for the Public Works building and our three lift stations
- Renovations and safety upgrades at the Machine Shop

The Town has additional operational costs for this year which also factor into the overall tax increase. These include the Employer Health Tax, introduced by the BC government on Jan. 1, 2019, as well as setting funds aside for an additional Ladysmith RCMP member - bringing the total for municipally-funded officers to eight.

Federal and provincial grants help to offset some of our capital costs and reduce the burden on our taxpayers and we will continue to apply for various opportunities. In 2018, we received \$1.8 million in grant funds to help upgrade the historic Machine Shop - a key piece of the Arts and Heritage Hub in our Waterfront Area Plan. These exciting improvements continue to move forward in 2019. Construction costs of the new Water Filtration plant are offset by an \$8.8 million grant we received in 2017.

Information about the budget is available on our website at www.ladysmith.ca, and at City Hall. We encourage you to review the details 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 variety of programs and services. These include:

- Maintaining 900,000 square metres of park land and 26 kilometres of trails
- Caring for 38 kilometres of Ladysmith sidewalks
- Filling 50-100 potholes per year
- Placing approximately 250-300 tons of salt and 200 tons of sand on roads each winter
- Cleaning and repairing 68 kilometres of sanitary sewer lines
- Maintaining a system that supplies 1,407,000,000 litres of clean, safe drinking water
- Maintaining 67.5 kilometres of roads and 17 municipally owned buildings

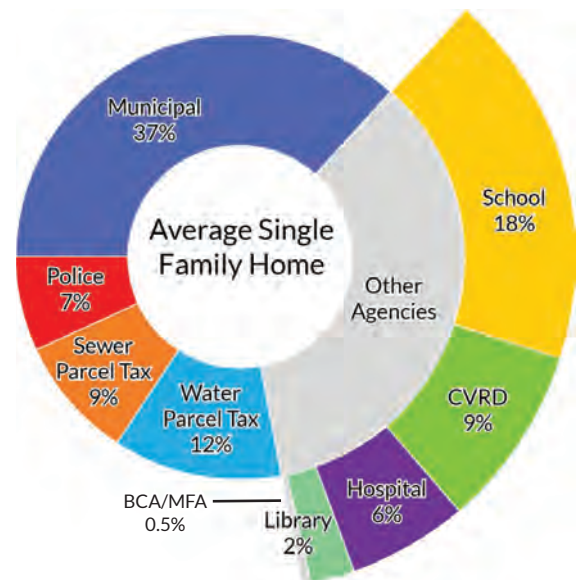
The chart below shows how one dollar of your property taxes is spent. In addition to the amounts we've listed, property owners also pay water and sewer parcel taxes to help fund upgrades to our water supply system, the award winning waste water treatment plant, the new bio-solids composting facility, and our soon-to-be constructed water filtration plant.

THE IMPACT OF A MUNICIPAL TAX DOLLAR



DID YOU KNOW?

The Town of Ladysmith is only responsible for determining a portion of your overall property taxes. Altogether, 41 per cent of your bill is set by 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 21 per cent of taxes we collect and help to ensure the Town's infrastructure is properly maintained.



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:

- ✉ Send an E-mail to info@ladysmith.ca
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