

Property Taxes are due July 2.

A 10% penalty will be applied to unpaid balances as of September 30. See your tax notice for details

LADYSMITH PROPERTY TAXES

MAY 2020

Enclosed with this newsletter is your Property Tax Notice for 2020. We hope you find all the information you need right here. If you 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 YOUR PROPERTY TAXES DURING COVID-19

During COVID-19, we encourage you to make your tax payments and claim your homeowner grant online for your own health and that of our staff. Visit www.ladysmith.ca or see the enclosed tip sheet for details.

Two simple steps for online payments

FIRST: Claim your Homeowner Grant online at www.ladysmith.ca/HOG.

SECOND: Pay your Property Taxes by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2020.

If you can't pay online, here are other options:

- 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 your mortgage lender
- By mail (must be received at City Hall by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2020.)

RESIDENTIAL TAX DEFERMENT

Tax deferment is a low interest loan program that helps qualified B.C. homeowners pay the annual property taxes on their principal residence.

To find out if you are eligible to defer your property taxes, please visit the Province of BC Property Tax Deferment Program <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes> or call 1.888.355.2700.

2020 Budget Highlights

In 2020, Ladysmith residents will see a slight increase in municipal property taxes as we balance a significant loss of revenue due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with capital projects and operating expenditures that position the community for a strong economic recovery in the coming months.

We understand that many residents have experienced sudden financial hardship in recent months. For this reason, the due date for payments remains at July 2, 2020, however, penalties on unpaid property taxes will be applied on balances remaining as of 4:00 p.m. on September 30, 2020.

This year, residential municipal taxes will rise 1.92 per cent based on the assessed value of your property as determined by BC Assessment. The Town does not have control over tax rates set by other jurisdictions such as Vancouver Island Regional Library, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Cowichan Valley Regional Hospital.

Residents are still encouraged to try and pay their property taxes by the previous July 2 due date, if they can, to help with the Town's cash flow as we continue delivering services to the community. Please note that a penalty of 10 per cent will be applied to unpaid property taxes and/or unclaimed Homeowner Grant at 4:00 on September 30.

Your property taxes help to cover the ongoing costs of roadwork, water and sewer projects, other infrastructure improvements, maintaining parks, keeping our community safe, supporting many local community organizations through Grants-in-Aid, and much more.

There are a number of projects already underway and steadily moving towards completion, or planned for our community in 2020, including:

- Commissioning the Town's Water Filtration Plant
- Moving Waterfront Area Plan initiatives forward such as the Arts & Heritage Hub
- Sidewalk upgrades on Buller Street
- Upgrades at our recreational facilities, including FJCC and Forrest Field
- 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.

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.

The Town also received over \$875,000 in grant funds earlier this year from the Union of BC Municipalities as part of a joint effort with the Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island.

You may also have noticed the new crosswalk reflective strips that were largely funded by a community grant from ICBC, helping to improve pedestrian safety at street crossings all over town and around our schools.

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.

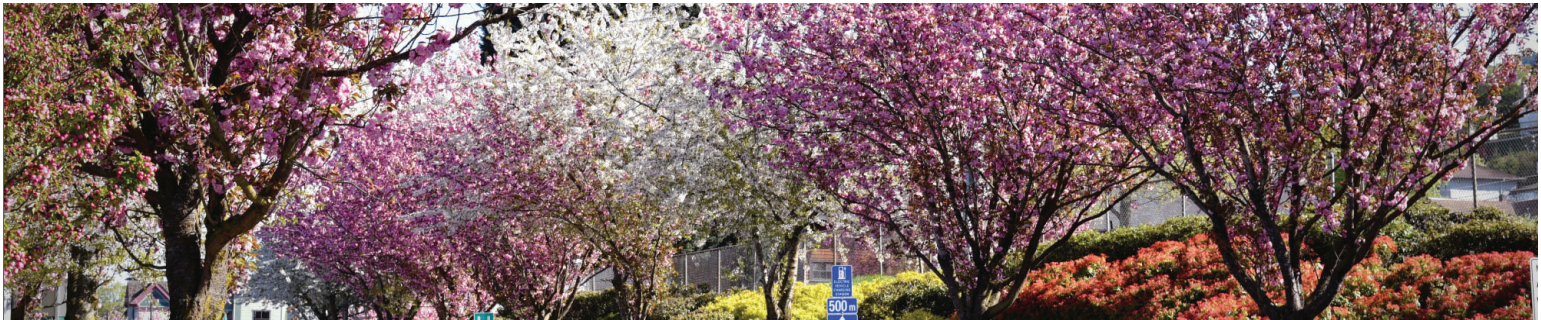
CONTACT US 250.245.6400 / info@ladysmith.ca

410 Esplanade MAIL PO Box 220 . Ladysmith . BC . V9G 1A2

www.ladysmith.ca

GET CONNECTED   





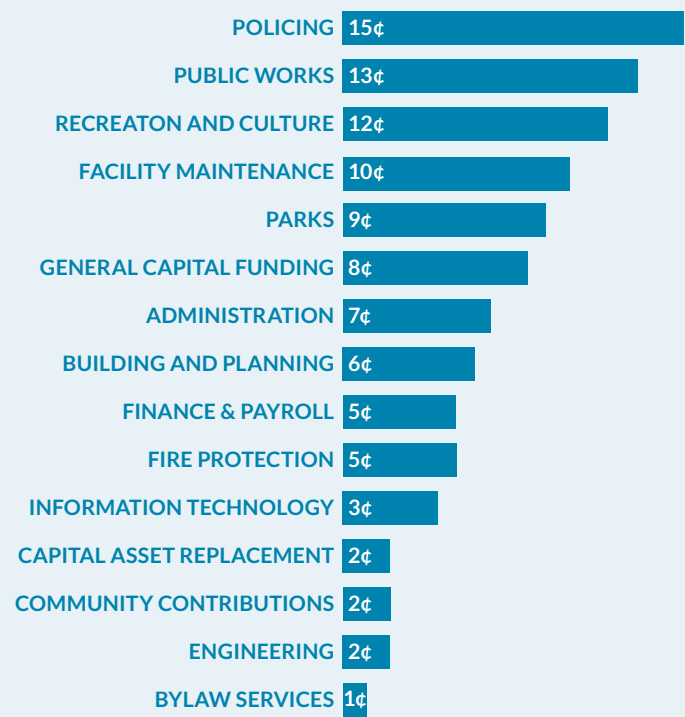
WHAT SERVICES DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES PAY FOR?

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

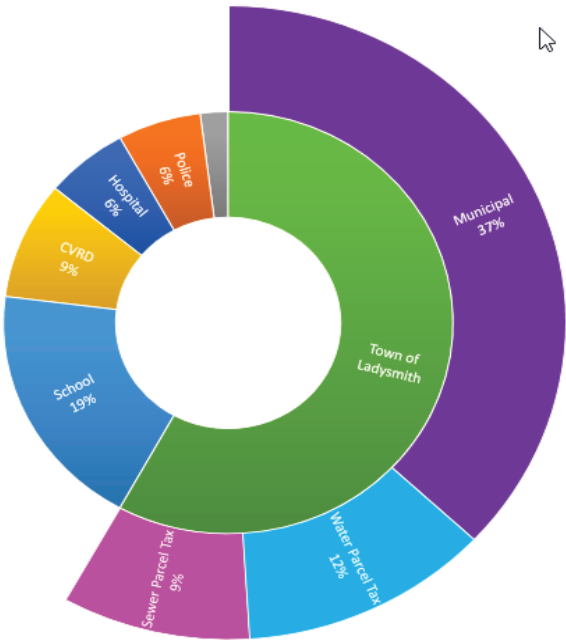
The chart below shows how one dollar of your property taxes is spent. In addition to the amounts we’ve listed, property owners also pay water and sewer parcel taxes to help fund upgrades to our water supply system, the award winning waste water treatment plant, the new bio-solids composting facility, 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, 42.23 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 20.74 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:

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- 📘 Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/LadysmithBC
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