

# Financial Update

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## A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

In this year's Financial Update you will find detailed information about your 2013 tax bill and the many improvements happening in your City by the Sea.

White Rock's main industry has always been tourism, but moving forward, we plan on expanding that to include arts as an economic generator. Cultural tourism is a rapidly growing industry that we plan on being part of. In October we will host a weeklong celebration for International Artists' Day and will continue to investigate other opportunities to increase business in our community during the off season.

In 2013 and beyond, there will be a continued emphasis on improving infrastructure in White Rock. We live in a beautiful city and plan on keeping it that way. As such, we are investing in our parks and public places. We're beautifying the waterfront, upgrading our pier, and planning to expand the promenade.

Moving forward we will continue to host events that strengthen our community and attract tourists, such as the Tour de White Rock and Canada Day by the

Bay. This July, we are excited to host the RCMP Musical Ride. Nothing says Canada like a red-coated Mountie in a broad-brimmed Stetson hat on a horse! The RCMP Musical Ride is an excellent opportunity to experience part of our Canadian heritage and national identity.

The White Rock RCMP recently released their 2012 Annual Report, which can be found on our website. In it, they report a reduction in crime rates. In 2012, there were 53 reported break and enters to residences, down from 103 in 2011. We hope that this downward trend will continue.

As your City Council, we welcome your feedback at any time. To e-mail any member of Council directly, use their first initial and last name @whiterockcity.ca (for example, wbaldwin@whiterockcity.ca). You can also send an e-mail to whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca, which is automatically redirected to Administration staff to facilitate a timely response. Emails are provided to Council the week in which they are received.



Mayor  
Wayne Baldwin



Councillor  
Alan Campbell



Councillor  
Helen Fathers



Councillor  
Louise Hutchinson



Councillor  
Bill Lawrence



Councillor  
Grant Meyer



Councillor  
Larry Robinson

## **PAYING YOUR TAXES**

Property tax payments and Home Owner Grant applications are due July 2, 2013. A 5% late payment penalty will be added to current taxes and levies still owing after July 2. A further 5% late penalty will be applied to current taxes and levies outstanding after August 15, 2013.

You can make your property tax payment...

### **...at your bank.**

Payments can be made online, in-branch or by phone. Use your nine-digit property tax roll number as your account number. Be sure to save your receipt.

### **...by mail.**

Send a cheque to the City of White Rock. The envelope must be postmarked no later than July 2, 2013 to avoid penalty. Cheques may be postdated to July 2. Please include your nine-digit property tax roll number on your cheque.

### **...at City Hall.**

Pay with cash, cheque or debit card during regular office hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday), or use the convenient, secure mail drop at the front entrance. Please note that City Hall will be closed Monday July 1, 2013. Cheques may be post-dated to July 2, 2013. Please include your nine-digit property tax roll number on your cheque.

You can claim your 2013 Home Owner Grant...

### **...online** at the City of White Rock website.

Home Owner Grant applications can be completed online at [www.whiterockcity.ca](http://www.whiterockcity.ca)

### **...by completing the paper application.**

Fully complete the application found on the reverse side of the Property Tax Notice, and return the form to City Hall.

## **PREPAYMENT OF TAXES**

The City of White Rock has a property tax prepayment plan. Once your current taxes are fully paid, you can choose to make monthly payments to be applied to next year's property taxes. Terms and conditions of the Plan can be found on the enclosed application form.

If you wish to enroll in the Preauthorized Payment Plan, forward the signed application and Debit Agreement (enclosed) along with a cheque marked "VOID" to the Financial Services Department at City Hall prior to July 15, 2013.

For further information about the Preauthorized Payment Plan, Tax Deferment programs or Home Owner Grants, visit us at City Hall or telephone the Financial Services Department at 604.541.2100 or 604.541.2107.

## **SAVE TIME, CLAIM ONLINE**

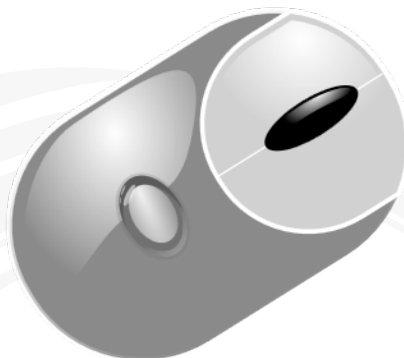
Save time this year and submit your Home Owner Grant electronically if you're eligible to reduce your property taxes with the provincial grant. All you need is your folio number and access code from your tax notice.

Home Owner Grants can be claimed online from the date the tax notices are mailed until the tax due date (July 2, 2013).

You do not need to make a property tax payment to apply for the grant, but make sure you meet the eligibility requirements. To avoid late penalty charges, pay your property taxes by the due date.

Once you have claimed the Home Owner Grant online, you don't need to submit the paper application form to the City of White Rock. Simply print out the screen confirmation of your grant application for your records.

For more information about Home Owner Grants and the eligibility criteria, please visit the Province of British Columbia's web site at: [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant)



## TAX DEFERMENT

Eligible homeowners may apply to have the Provincial Government pay the current year's residential property taxes for their principal residence. If you defer, the taxes paid on your behalf become a debt registered against your property's title and interest accrues annually.

The deferment application, payment for utility user fees, and the Home Owner Grant application should be received at City Hall by July 2, 2013. Late applications will be accepted until December 31 but late payment penalties apply.

For 2013, there are two property tax deferment programs available.

### Regular Property Tax Deferment Program

- must be at least 55 years old, disabled or widowed
- must have a minimum equity in the home of 25% of the assessed value
- interest rate is set twice a year, and is currently 1.00%

### Property Tax Deferment Program for Families with Children

- must be financially supporting a dependent child under age 18
- must have a minimum equity in their home of 15% of the assessed value
- interest rate is set twice a year, and is currently 3.00%

If you deferred your taxes in 2012, you should have recently received a renewal application from the Provincial Tax Deferment Office. If you wish to defer your 2013 taxes, bring your renewal form to the Financial Services Department along with your Home Owner Grant application and payment for your utility user fees prior to the July 2 due date to avoid penalties.

### Important Information on Tax Deferment

You can defer your taxes as long as you own and live in your home and continue to qualify for the program. If your home is sold, your account must be paid in full. If you refinance your home, your mortgage holder may require the full repayment of deferred taxes upon refinancing.

Additional information about tax deferment can be found on the Provincial Government website:

[http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property\\_Taxes/Property\\_Tax\\_Deferment/ptd.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferment/ptd.htm)

## YOUR 2013 TAX BILL

This year City Council approved a property tax increase of 3.38% but this does not mean every property owner in the City will pay 3.38% more compared to 2012.

How much will you pay?

A 3.38% tax increase equates to about \$93 on an average detached home and \$36 on an average strata property. However, the exact impact of the increase on an individual property depends on the assessed value of the property relative to other properties in the City. (To learn more, visit [www.bccassessment.bc.ca](http://www.bccassessment.bc.ca))

Owners of homes with secondary suites will now pay a secondary suite service fee of \$250. The revenue generated from the fee will assist in financing the costs of infrastructure improvements.

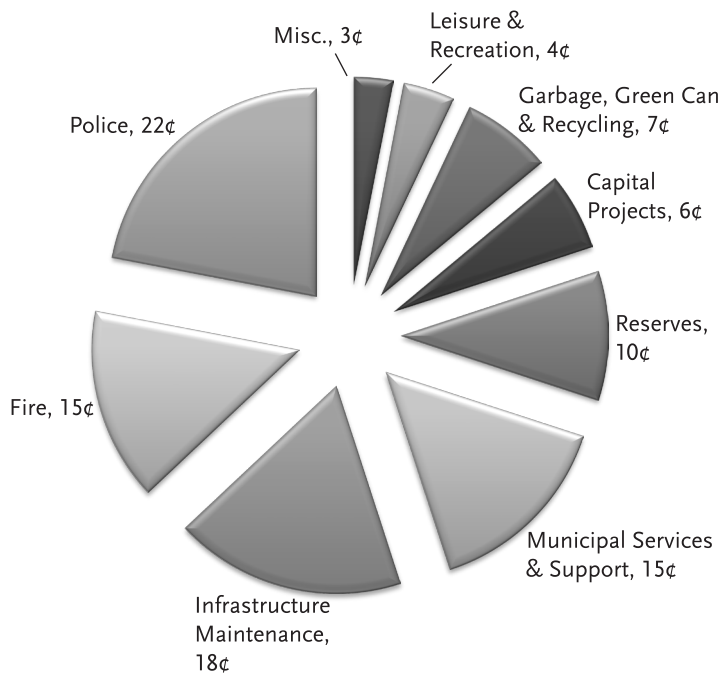
The sanitary sewer user fee increased \$5 this year. The sanitary sewer user fee is now \$247 for each detached home, apartment or condominium. An additional \$247 is charged for each self-contained secondary suite.

Overall, drainage fees have increased by 5%. The drainage fee for your property depends on the size, type of land use, and the average amount of impervious area for that land use. The amount charged varies for each property, but on average a typical detached home is charged about \$342 and a typical apartment or townhouse is charged about \$102.

A variety of other levies and fees also appear on your tax bill. Some, such as the Fraser Valley Regional Library levy, the Epcor White Rock Water Hydrant charge and the Business Improvement Association levy (certain commercial properties only) are included in the City's budget but set by outside organizations.

Others, such as school taxes and Translink levies, are not included in the City's budget but are collected by the City on behalf of other agencies and are remitted to them. Most of these amounts are affected by property values as well as the overall budget these organizations have set and are not determined by the City. Please contact these agencies directly if you have questions.

## WHERE EACH TAX DOLLAR GOES



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 TO 2017 PLANNED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Complete reconstruction of Victoria Avenue from Balsam Street to Fir Street, and Martin Street to Vidal Street.

Complete reconstruction of Marine Drive from High Street to Bishop Street.

Make vegetation improvements to the hump on Marine Drive.

Upgrade Johnston Road.

Make hillside walkway improvements.

Complete Bayview Park upgrades.

Complete an extension of the waterfront promenade.

Install underground wiring on Marine Drive.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 2013

July 1 - City Hall closed

July 2 - Due date for current taxes and levies, as well as Home Owner Grant applications. A 5% penalty will be applied to any current taxes and levies unpaid after this date.

July 15 - Deadline for new prepayment plan applications

August 1 - First prepayment installment

August 15 - Additional 5% penalty applied to unpaid 2013 taxes and levies.

September 30 - Tax sale on properties with unpaid 2011 taxes (delinquent)

December 25 - January 1 - City Hall closed

### 2014

January 1 - Interest begins to accrue on outstanding 2013 taxes and levies

## DON'T TRASH YOUR FOOD!

If you live in a detached dwelling that receives alternate week curbside garbage collection, please take advantage of our weekly recycling and green waste recycling programs! Include all food scraps and leftovers in the Green Can along with yard trimmings. Food soiled paper, such as pizza boxes, can also be included in the Green Can. Our blue box recycling program accepts a wide range of recyclables. Please remember to crush large containers, such as milk jugs, to make room in your box and in the collection vehicle.