

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015 - 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Add two new railway pedestrian crossings on the waterfront- Anderson Street and Oxford Street

Enhance railway pedestrian crossings at Finlay, Bay and Balsam Streets

Plan and initiate erosion control improvements on East Beach

Extend promenade to Coldicutt Ravine (subject to BNSF Railway Co. approval)

Renovate public washrooms at the Pier

Upgrade Johnston Road from Roper Avenue to North Bluff Road, including sewers

Begin implementation of the Strategic Transportation Plan

Enhance technology to improve customer service and offer more online options

Complete renovations at City Hall

DATES TO REMEMBER 2015 / 2016

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 17	Additional 5% penalty applied to 2015 taxes and levies unpaid after this date.
September 28	Tax sale on properties with unpaid 2013 taxes (delinquent).
December 25 - January 3	City Hall closed.
January 1	Interest begins to accrue on outstanding 2015 taxes and levies.

IMAGINE WHITE ROCK 2045

HOW WILL WHITE ROCK GROW AND DEVELOP AS A COMMUNITY?

The City kicked off Imagine White Rock 2045, the City's updated Official Community Plan Process in May 2015. The plan will guide the growth of our community and provide a policy framework and implementation strategy for Council by addressing critical issues such as housing, transportation, parks, economic development, the natural and social environment, and infrastructure.

The Official Community Plan will also include a land use designation map, which will indicate the future land uses that would be supported by Council. The land use designations will determine future development and redevelopment potential of property within the city. The policies and map, together with tools and actions for implementation, will help to shape the future growth of White Rock.

Residents will have opportunities over the next 18 months to give direct input on how White Rock will grow and develop as a community in the coming years. Remember to join the City's new community engagement platform, talkwhiterock.ca, to give feedback, answer surveys and get updates a range of topics.

Financial Update

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

In this year's Financial Update you will find detailed information about your 2015 tax bill and the many improvements happening in your City by the Sea.

In early 2015, the 2014- 2018 Council set out the strategic plan for the City of White Rock. It sets out Council's specific goals that guide the planning activities within the organization. This working document is available and will be continually updated on our website.

The promotion of the arts is progressing and strong partnerships have been formed with the arts and business community. Cultural tourism is a rapidly growing industry. The City unveiled two new public murals and a new bronze statue in front of the museum. Last autumn, we supported our Fall Festival of the Arts, Moon Festival and a new Diwali Festival.

Moving forward, we will continue to host events that strengthen our community and attract tourists, such as the aforementioned festivals along with an updated Tour de White Rock and Canada Day by the Bay.

In 2014, the City also saw a reinvigorated Spirit of the Sea Festival and a return of the Snowbirds with an awe-inspiring performance that showcased the skill of serving members of the Canadian Forces.

We recognize the discontinuation of City collection of solid waste for multi-family complexes and businesses will be a significant change this year. With that in mind, the City is offering assistance to commercial and multi-family residents to support the transition from a public to private solid waste collection. Single family and some multi-family complexes still eligible to receive City collection will see a change in their tax notice. Your notice will include a new solid waste utility fee charge and removal of solid waste from the general municipal tax levy.

Many municipalities already offer private service for the garbage, recycling and organics pick up. Based on Metro Vancouver targets and other variables, it was not feasible for the City to continue operating our commercial and multifamily side of the service.

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 (ex. 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.

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Mayor
Wayne Baldwin



Councillor
David Chesney



Councillor
Helen Fathers



Councillor
Grant Meyer



Councillor
Megan Knight



Councillor
Bill Lawrence



Councillor
Lynne Sinclair

PAYING YOUR TAXES

Property tax payments and Home Owner Grant applications are due July 2, 2015. 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 17, 2015. You can make your property tax payment...

...AT YOUR BANK

Payments can be made online, in-branch or by phone. If you pay online or by phone, we recommend that you pay at least three business days before the due date to allow processing time. The City is not responsible for payments through your bank that were not received by the tax due date.

Use your nine-digit folio number, excluding the decimal point, as the account number. Be sure to save your receipt.

For example:
Folio Number: 001234.999 Account Number: 001234999

Make sure your folio number is the same as the account number set up with your bank. Update your banking records with the correct folio if you've recently sold or purchased a property.

Remember to check your bank account balance to make sure the payment was successful. If your payment is not out of your account by July 2, contact your bank.

... BY MAIL

Send a cheque to the City of White Rock. The envelope must be postmarked no later than July 2, 2015 to avoid penalty. Cheques may be postdated to July 2. Please include your nine-digit folio 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 July 1, 2015. Cheques may be postdated to July 2, 2015. Please include your nine-digit folio number on your cheque.

As this is a busy time for us, you may encounter a line-up at City Hall. For faster service, please prepare your cheque and complete your Home Owner grant application (if eligible) before you arrive. Or, you may wish to consider one of the more convenient options of payment offered by your financial institution.

PAYMENTS through your MORTGAGE COMPANY

If you're paying through your mortgage company, you are responsible to submit the Home Owner Grant application by July 2, 2015 to avoid penalty.

HOME OWNER GRANT APPLICATION

Eligible home owners MUST complete a grant application each year and deliver it to the City before the due date of July 2, 2015 to avoid penalty. **Remember, you may claim a grant without making a payment.**


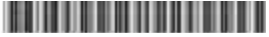
FILING OPTIONS

...online on the City of White Rock website. Complete your Home Owner Grant application online at www.whiterockcity.ca/payonline.

---or complete the paper application. Fully complete the application found at the bottom of the Property Tax Notice and return the application to City Hall.

SAVE TIME, CLAIM ONLINE

Save time and submit your Home Owner Grant Application 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.

	2015 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE DUE DATE: JULY 2, 2015				
					
5% PENALTY IF NOT PAID OR GRANT NOT CLAIMED BY JULY 2, 2015 ADDITIONAL 5% PENALTY ADDED TO ANY CURRENT TAXES OUTSTANDING AFTER AUGUST 17, 2015					
ADDRESS	LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
<table border="1"><tr><td>FOLIO NUMBER</td><td>001234.999</td><td>ACCESS</td><td>001234999</td></tr></table>		FOLIO NUMBER	001234.999	ACCESS	001234999
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2015 Home Owner Grants can be claimed online, by mail or in person up to December 31, 2015. However, penalties will apply if claimed after July 2, 2015.

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 website at 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 and other user fees, and the Home Owner Grant application should be received at City Hall by July 2, 2015. Late applications will be accepted until December 31, but late payment penalties apply.

You may qualify to defer your property taxes if you are age 55 or older; a widow or widower; in receipt of a disability allowance under the Disability Benefits Program Act; or have children under 18 residing in your home.

Please note 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.

Additional information about tax deferment can be found on the Provincial Government website, www2.gov.bc.ca. Search 'Deferring Property Taxes' in their search engine or contact us for more information at: 604.541.2100 or 604.541.2107.

PRE-PAY YOUR TAXES FOR NEXT YEAR

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, 2015.

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

YOUR 2015 TAX BILL

This year City Council approved a decrease in the municipal tax levy of 2.89% but this does not mean every property owner in the City will pay 2.89% less compared to 2014.

HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY?

A 2.89 % tax decrease equates to about \$89 on an average detached home and \$32 on an average strata property. However, the exact impact on an individual property depends on the assessed value of the property relative to others in the City. To learn more, visit www.bcassessment.ca

As the City will not be collecting garbage, organics and/or recycling from commercial and most multi-family properties from July 1, 2015 onwards, there are no charges to these properties for solid waste collection after June 30. Detached single family homes and some multi-family complexes still receiving City solid waste collection after June 30, 2015 are now charged a user fee of \$175 for this service for the period of July 1 to December 31, 2015.

The sanitary sewer user fee increased by 1% or \$3 this year. The sanitary sewer user fee is now \$256 for each detached home, apartment or condominium. An additional \$256 is charged for each self-contained secondary suite.

Overall, drainage fees 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 \$376 and a typical apartment or townhouse is charged about \$108.

The secondary suite service fee, which is charged to home owners with secondary suites, is \$260. This is \$10 more than 2014. The revenue generated from this fee assists in financing the costs of infrastructure improvements.

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 collected by the City on behalf of other agencies. Most of these amounts are affected by property values and the overall budget of the organizations and are not determined by the City. Please contact these agencies directly if you have questions.