

Fire and Police Services – Work is underway on a number of 2015 projects including increased municipal emergency management capabilities and moving to Industry Canada’s dedicated public safety radio frequencies.



Effective use of social media and website technologies to engage the community and allow for sharing and dissemination of vital information in the face of a major emergency is a high priority. As part of this multi-year project, an Emergency Information Response Plan is under development.

Working in collaboration with Capital Region Emergency Services Telecom (CREST), a safe and effective transition to a Project 25 standard technology platform for emergency communications will support our Fire and Police services and all dispatch clients.

Providing Quality Drinking Water – The Rithet Reservoir supplies water to Broadmead, Blenkinsop Valley, Cordova Bay and part of Gordon Head and is one of the key elements of the Saanich water supply system. The new reservoir is designed to be integrated into the surrounding landscape, with features such as partial burial of the building, installation of green walls and the planting of native species.



For more information on these and other Saanich services, programs and projects go to saanich.ca.



A Message from Saanich Council

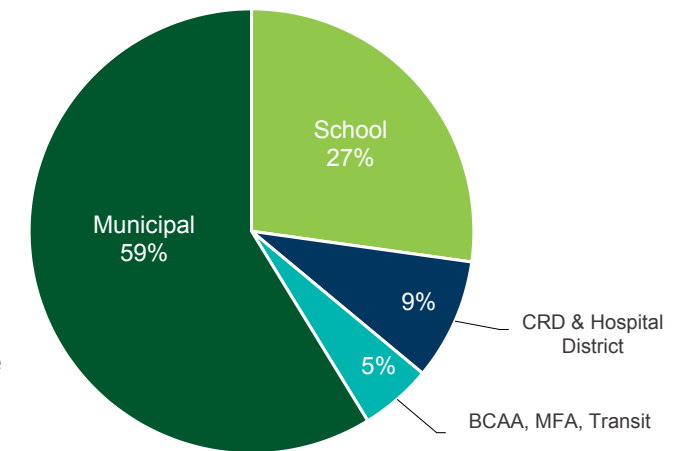


Mayor Richard Atwell

Greetings from Mayor Richard Atwell and Saanich Council. We are sending you this newsletter with your 2015 property tax notice to provide you some background information about your property taxes and how your tax dollars are being put to work in Saanich. Your ideas and feedback are important to us as we move the Municipality forward. We invite you to join us at Council meetings where decisions are made and to connect with us at mayor@saanich.ca and council@saanich.ca.

Your 2015 property tax notice is enclosed. Each homeowner’s change in taxation varies due to property tax assessments. If the change to the assessment of your home was the same as the average change for homes in Saanich, then your general municipal tax increase will be 2.21% for core operations, 0.58% for resource requests to maintain current service levels, 1.32% for capital replacement and 0.12% for new infrastructure maintenance and additional operating costs (\$93.57 for the average home assessed at \$592,500).

2015 Property Taxes by Agency



Property Taxes and Home Owner Grant Applications are due on **Thursday, July 2, 2015.**

Online services are described below, or go to saanich.ca/tax

Home owner grants:	Property tax payments:	Deferment application or renewals:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claim your home owner grant online at saanich.ca/grant – do not claim your grant at your financial institution. You will need your folio number and your access code from your tax notice to claim online. You must submit a grant application each year you are eligible and it must be submitted by July 2, 2015 to avoid penalty. Unclaimed grants constitute unpaid taxes and will be subject to a 10% penalty if not claimed by July 2, 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure when paying online or at your financial institution that you are familiar with their local transaction cut off time. Any payments with a payment date after July 2, 2015 will be considered late and will be subject to a 10% penalty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All deferment applications and renewals must be received at the District of Saanich by July 2, 2015. Applications and renewals received after July 2, 2015 are subject to a 10% penalty. You must submit a renewal application every year you intend to defer your property taxes. Applications that are not approved by the Provincial Deferment Office will be subject to a 10% penalty.

Pay your taxes with one of our 9 convenient options.
Details at saanich.ca/tax

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact Saanich tax at 250-475-5454 or go to saanich.ca/tax



In addition to municipal levies, taxes are collected on behalf of other taxing authorities, who generate their own calculations to determine taxes to be collected by Saanich. For 2015, taxes collected on behalf of these various authorities represent 41% of your total property tax amount. The chart above provides the details of amounts collected on behalf of each agency.

Standing left to right: Councillors Vicki Sanders, Vic Derman, Leif Wergeland, Dean Murdock, Judy Brownoff and Colin Plant
Seated: Councillor Fred Haynes, Mayor Richard Atwell and Councillor Susan Brice

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Achieving the Saanich Vision - Your Municipal Tax Dollars at Work



What You Told Us You Wanted – Projects to Watch in 2015

In January 2015, Saanich sought community feedback through citizen and business surveys. Top spending priorities for capital projects included water, sewer and drain infrastructure; environmental protection and enhancement; street, bike lane and sidewalk infrastructure. The highest rated municipal services included parks and recreation, fire and police services, and the provision of quality drinking water.

Integrating the Top Spending Priorities – Constructing Complete Streets

The use of the Complete Streets philosophy is an important milestone for Saanich in the evolution of design for major roads. The philosophy recognizes and accommodates all mobility options in a safe environment, seeks to include environmental enhancements, and acknowledges the importance of streets as a community space.

The Cook Street Project will be a wrap in 2015 and will meet the needs of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians of all ages for many years to come. The project will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance the urban forest, and improve stormwater quality.

The Tillicum Road Project is now underway, beginning with the installation of new underground utilities, and including new and upgraded sidewalks, buffered or separated bike lanes, storm water management, the planting of over 75 new trees, and numerous traffic safety improvements.



Highest Rated Municipal Services – Leading the Way

Parks and Recreation – The Older Adult and Youth Development Strategies, and protecting Panama Flats for future generations are three projects being undertaken in 2015.

The Older Adult Strategy will have an emphasis on healthy, active and engaged aging which strengthens the overall community, lowers health costs and supports older adults staying in their homes. The Youth Development Strategy will create and maintain connections with the youth community, strengthen ties with other service providers and set the stage for programs and services that will engage youth over the next five years.



With the Panama Flats concept plan approved in 2014, Saanich awaits the decision to include 14.5 hectares at Panama Flats in the Agricultural Land Reserve. Next steps include finalizing the drainage plan and seeking expressions of interest for agricultural uses of the land. Panama Flats will ultimately support local food production, better manage storm water in the area, maintain wildlife habitat, and improve recreational trail access.



Where Your Municipal Tax Dollars will be Spent in 2015

The municipal portion of your tax dollars ensures that Saanich is financially sustainable and has adequate resources to maintain the services and programs that meet community needs and move us further toward the Saanich Vision.

