



# Comox News

May 2008

*The Town of Comox Community Newsletter*

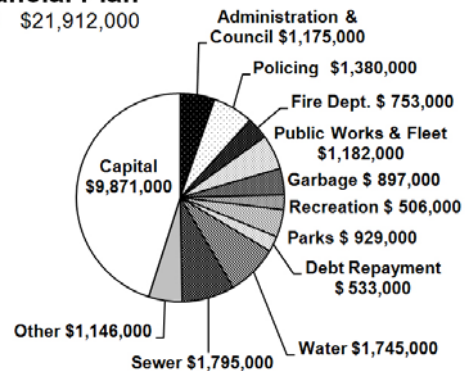
## Council adopts 2008-2012 Financial Plan

Council has adopted a new five-year Financial Plan, founded on its four strategic priorities: continuously renewing infrastructure, enhancing service levels, improving communications with the public and advancing sustainability initiatives.

Capital expenditures continue to dominate the Town's spending (45% of the total budget for 2008). 2008 projects will include finishing our new library, building a traffic circle at the intersection of Pritchard & Knight Roads, replacing sewer and storm drain mains on Comox Avenue (from Anderton to Ellis Streets), buying parkland, expanding the Comox Recreation Centre, building a new water line on Redwood, widening Noel Avenue (north of Condor Park), and partici-

### Expenditure Budget 2008 Financial Plan

Total Budget \$21,912,000



pating in the Regional District's water metering program. The Town will also spend at least \$250,000 per year through the five-year Financial Plan for repaving neighborhood roads, replacing storm drains and adding sidewalks.

Helping make these capital expenditures affordable for the Town are \$1.4 Million in funding from the Federal and Provincial Govern-

ments and ICBC for the traffic circle, \$330,000 in Provincial grants for the Recreation Centre Expansion, and \$1.4 Million in Federal Gas Tax distributions to the Town.

Starting this year Council will share the cost of a Crime Analyst and add a half-time court liaison clerk and a full time officer to the RCMP detachment. Council has also increased permanent *con't pg 2*

- Council adopts 2008-2012 Financial Plan
- Home Owner Grants, deadlines, penalties and prepayment
- Comox Fire Rescue looking for new members
- Brooklyn Creek Enhancement Project

## Home owner grants, deadlines, penalties and prepayments

Every year we have taxpayers who must pay a 10% penalty because they fail to claim their Provincial home Owner Grant on time. Don't let this happen to you! Failing to claim your Home Owner Grant before July 2<sup>nd</sup> is the same as failing to pay your taxes before July 2<sup>nd</sup> – it incurs a mandatory 10% penalty

under Provincial legislation. Send us or drop off your Home Owner Grant application today. We accept post-dated cheques for July 2<sup>nd</sup> if you prefer.

This year, some financial institutions may not accept your Home Owner Grant application. If this is the case, you must forward your application directly to

Town Hall by July 2<sup>nd</sup> in order to avoid the 10% penalty.

Did you know that you can enroll in our convenient prepayment plan, to pay next year's property taxes in ten automatic monthly installments? Please contact us at Town Hall for full details.

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Councillor

Paul Ives  
Councillor

John Marinus  
Councillor

Marcia Turner  
Councillor

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.comox.ca](http://www.comox.ca)

## Comox Fire Rescue looking for new members

Comox Fire Rescue is seeking a few new paid on call members.

The department is particularly interested in people who work close to the Comox Fire Station and are sometimes available to respond to emergencies during the daytime. Ideal applicants should be dedicated, hard working, team players who are willing to be challenged.

Applicants must be physically fit and available to attend Tuesday evening training sessions on a regular basis. Work conditions include unusual hours, bad weather, extreme temperatures and occasional high stress. Rewards include new skills, new friends, adventure, satisfaction, teamwork, confidence, pride, some pay and many other benefits. This opportunity



Benefits. This opportunity is open to both males and females between the ages of 18 and 50.

Chief Gord Schreiner states, "Using a system of volunteer, paid-on-call and career members the fire department provides a variety of important services at very reasonable costs to thousands of citizens. We are very fortunate to have a great group of paid-on-call firefighters who are very dedicated to this wonderful

community, however we do need new members from time to time."

Much of this training is done locally as the fire department has a great training site behind the fire station. Those interested in applying should drop by the fire station to pick up an application or contact Chief Gord Schreiner or Asst. Chief Rick Shelton at 339-2432.

## Brooklyn Creek Enhancement Project

The Town of Comox has a long history of fish habitat restoration in Brooklyn Creek dating back to the early 1980s when the Town, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Streamkeepers, and the Rotarians pooled their resources and restored 2.5

km of habitat upstream of Balmoral Avenue. This summer, representatives from these agencies will carry on with restoration works along Brooklyn Creek concentrating on salmon habitat and erosion control measures. A new boardwalk will also be

constructed. With Municipal funding in place and a sizeable grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the team of staff and volunteers are ready to move forward with their collaborative effort of improving this valuable community resource.

## 2008-2012 Financial Plan *(from pg 1)*

staffing at the Fire Department to improve our on-call response and volunteer training. This will also be our first full year having a bylaw enforcement officer.

Across the Financial Plan, Council has approved general tax increases of 4% annually from 2008 to 2012, plus an

additional increase in 2008 for debt on the new library, as authorized by voters in a 2005 referendum.

The increase in general taxes on an average single family home is \$54.49 plus a \$60 net increase in utilities. The total increase in property taxes and utilities for an

Average family home is \$134.24 including school, Regional District, Hospital District, and Vancouver Island Regional Library taxes, as well as BC Assessment and Municipal Finance Authority charges.

For more information on the 2008-2012 Financial Plan, see our website.

*This newsletter is a result of Council's initiative to increase communication with residents. If you have any comments or suggestions, or would like to see anything in particular in upcoming editions, please contact us.*