

## O Canada!



B. NICKASON PHOTO

Port Coquitlam is once again celebrating Canada Day in a big way. On Saturday, July 1, head to Lions Park and Castle Park for fun activities and entertainment for the whole family. The fun at Lions Park begins at 8 a.m. with a pancake breakfast and fishing derby until 11:30 a.m. Then make your way to Castle Park for a community celebration that kicks off with cake at noon and ends with fireworks at 10 p.m. The event will include a community showcase, multicultural bazaar, food concessions, a salmon barbecue, children's activities and live entertainment.

There will be some parking restrictions around Castle Park from 4 p.m. to midnight, so consider hopping aboard the free shuttle bus running every half hour from the West Coast Express station from 11:30 a.m. to midnight. More information and the complete schedule of this year's Canada Day events is available from City Hall, civic recreation facilities and Terry Fox Library, as well as from the City's website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca).

## Message from the Mayor

Summer has officially arrived, and with it the many visitors to our beautiful local trails and parks. We're certainly blessed to live in such a scenic and natural setting. It's an important attribute of our community – one that's worth protecting.

In planning for our future, your City has always placed the environment high on our list of priorities. We're committed to preserving our natural legacy with sustainable development practices and new green initiatives. We know how important the environment is to our residents, and we're doing more than just paying lip service to the need to protect it.

As you travel around our community this summer, you might notice some of our new transportation improvements. We've completed a number of capital projects in the past year, and you can expect to see more as we move forward with our strategy to improve mobility and access for our residents (see the article in this edition of *Update* for more details). For example, you'll soon be hearing more about our progress on the long-awaited Coast Meridian Overpass project, an integral part of that strategy.



We need to be able to move people and goods more efficiently in order for Port Coquitlam to be the safe, healthy and livable community our citizens have said they want.

Another critical part of making our community more livable is protecting our citizens from crime. To that end, we've dedicated \$8,716,200 in our 2006 budget – 6% of our budget – to policing services. That represents an 8.7% increase in police spending from 2005 to 2006, and includes three new officers for our community and the City's participation in the new integrated Emergency Response Team.

These increases are part of our policing strategic plan, which calls for a 23% increase in the per-capita ratio of officers, from one officer per 1,100 citizens to one officer per 850. We're dedicated to staying on track with this plan to ensure the safety of our citizens, now and in the future.

With our days getting hotter, I'd also like to urge everyone in Port Coquitlam to help preserve our water supply. The first step is abiding by the lawn sprinkling regulations that came into effect June 1 (see the article in this edition of *Update* for details).

Then, look for other ways you and your family can save water every day. It can be as simple as changing to a low-flow showerhead or turning off the tap while you brush your teeth.

If we all do our part, we will make a difference.

Mayor Scott Young

## Get out this summer and experience your community!

Summer is a terrific time to explore Port Coquitlam. Take the family to one of the many outdoor community events or check out the City's abundant parks and recreation amenities.

Here's a list of coming events to get you started:

- **EPCOM Field Day:** 11 a.m. June 24 to 11 a.m. June 25, Castle Park – learn about ham radios and get on the air with the City's Emergency Preparedness Communications Group.
- **Canada Day:** July 1 – see above for picture and details.
- **Music in the Park:** July 9 to Aug. 27, Sundays, 2-4 p.m. at Lions Park – a free weekly outdoor concert series featuring talented musicians performing in various genres.
- **Live @ Leigh Square:** July 8 to Aug. 26, Saturdays, 1:30 p.m. at Leigh Square – a free weekly outdoor concert series featuring a variety of local musical talent.
- **Terry Fox Hometown Run:** Sept. 17, Hyde Creek Rec Ctr
- **Rivers & Trails Festival:** Sept. 24, Peace Park
- **Trail River Run - Half Marathon:** Sept. 24, Hyde Creek Rec Ctr

Visit the online community calendar at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/Discover\\_Port\\_Coquitlam/Community\\_Calendar.htm](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/Discover_Port_Coquitlam/Community_Calendar.htm) for information about these and other events.

Port Coquitlam's parks and amenities are also popular summer destinations.

The outdoor pools, open this year from July 1 to September 1, offer swimming lessons, public swimming and special theme swims. Season's passes are available for the two outdoor pools: Centennial Outdoor Pool (Aggie Park – corner of Shaughnessy Street and Lougheed Highway) and Robert Hope Outdoor Pool (corner of Western Drive and Lamprey Street).

There are also two wading pools with free admission: Sun Valley Wading Pool (on Hamilton Street off Lincoln Avenue) and Routley Wading Pool (off Western Drive).

Enjoy eating outdoors? Covered picnic shelters are available to rent at Lions Park, Settlers Park and Peace Park for \$28 per day by calling 604.927.7903.



A. EDWARDS PHOTO

Port Coquitlam has two outdoor pools to enjoy.

For more information about the City's parks and recreation facilities and amenities, visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca) (Citizen Services>Parks and Recreation>Facilities & Amenities) or call 604.927.7900.

# Keeping us safe: RCMP and crime prevention programs

In a recent survey, 87% of Port Coquitlam residents felt their City's community safety met or exceeded their expectations, and a significant majority identified the community's police services as being "just right."

The general feeling of safety felt by local citizens can, in part, be attributed to the wide variety of RCMP and community-based crime prevention programs operating in Port Coquitlam.

These programs run year-round and do not take a break during the summer months. Programs that will be operating locally this summer include:

- Vandal Watch: providing security patrols at set locations seven days a week, 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. until September 11;
- RCMP Youth Liaison Bike Patrols: patrolling about three days a week, focusing on identified youth hot spots;
- Community Police Station volunteer bike patrols:

providing Friday and Saturday evening patrols at identified community hot spots; and

- Crime Watch van patrols.

In the survey, Port Coquitlam residents listed community safety as being among their top three factors in choosing a place to live, along with affordability and transportation.

Port Coquitlam's City Council also places a high priority on community safety, and this is reflected in both its day-to-day operations and plans for the future.

For example, the City's 2006 budget increased police spending by 8.7% over 2005, and the 2006-2010 Financial Plan identifies police services as one of Council's three strategic priorities for the next five years. That includes the introduction of 14 new RCMP members over the next five years, as well as other initiatives.

In addition to the RCMP Crime Prevention Strategy, the City of Port Coquitlam will continue to support and participate

in several RCMP and community-based crime prevention programs, including:

- Citizens Crime Watch
- Vandal Watch
- Crime Free Multihousing
- Speed Watch
- Block Watch
- Auxiliary Policing Program
- Marijuana Enforcement Team
- Coordinated Enforcement Team
- Community Police Stations (including Bike Patrols, Business Watch, Meth Watch and Graffiti Removal Task Force)

For more information on community-based programs, visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca) (Citizens Services>Community Safety), or call the Community Police Stations at 604.927.2383 (downtown) or 604.927.5451 (north side).

## Read all about us in our Annual Report

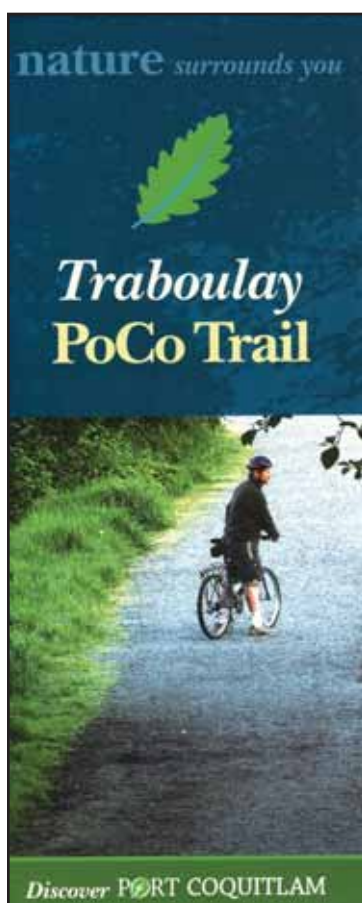
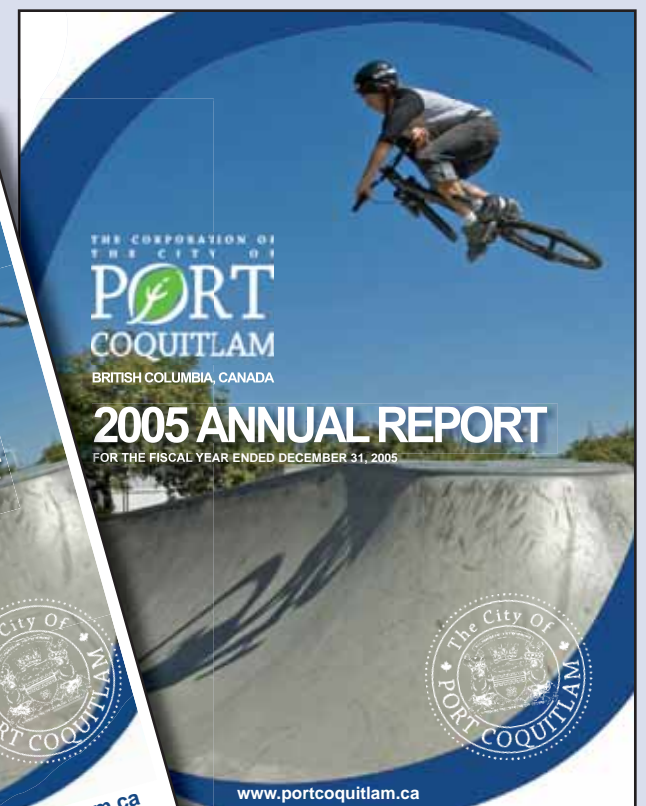
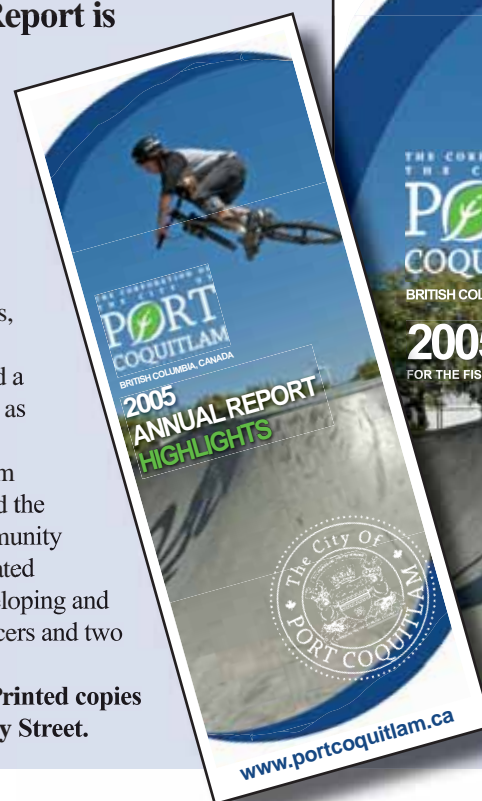
Looking for information about Port Coquitlam? Our 2005 Annual Report is a snapshot of the City, outlining its accomplishments, activities and financial results for 2005, as well as its plans for 2006 and beyond.

The 2005 Annual Report was adopted by City Council on June 12. In addition to financial data and descriptions about various aspects of the City – including Council, departments and the community it serves – the report highlights the Strategic Plan. This important planning document, developed by the community, guides City Council's decisions as it pursues a course of managed growth and responds to community priorities.

The annual report outlines the eight objectives of the Strategic Plan: Improve Mobility and Access, Maintain and Improve Infrastructure Assets, Build a Complete Community, Enhance Community Safety, Enhance Customer Service, Build Strategic Alliances, Maintain Financial Stability and Build a Strong Organization. It also describes activities aimed at achieving those objectives in 2005, as well as goals for 2006 and 2007.

For example, activities to improve mobility and access in 2005 included securing \$60 million from TransLink for the Coast Meridian Overpass Project. Efforts to build a complete community included the opening of the Railside Outdoor Youth Park and the start of construction on the Leigh Square Community Arts Village. Activities to enhance community safety included establishing a multi-agency Coordinated Enforcement Team to address health and safety issues related to run-down or vacant buildings, developing and implementing a revised grow operation bylaw and providing joint funding for nine new RCMP officers and two additional officers dedicated to Port Coquitlam.

The complete 2005 Annual Report is available for download from [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca). Printed copies of the full report, as well as a highlights brochure, are available at City Hall, 2580 Shaughnessy Street.



## Hit the trails with our new brochure

The City is pleased to introduce the Traboulay PoCo Trail Guide, a comprehensive guide to the 25-kilometre trail that encircles Port Coquitlam.

Now available for free at City facilities, this printed brochure includes a comprehensive trail map complete with distance markers, viewpoints, locations of parking and other amenities, and descriptions of the flora and fauna found along different sections of the trail.

The flat walking and cycling trail is suitable for exploring at any time of the year. In the summer months, the cool shade from the tall trees along the Coquitlam River and Hyde Creek sections is especially refreshing. The trail traverses a varied landscape that includes forest and creek, meadow and marsh, riverfront and urban development.

The Traboulay PoCo Trail started out as the PoCo Trail, which began to take shape in the 1970s, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers called the PoCo Trail Blazers. Sections were added and improved over the years, connecting more and more residents with community amenities and the area's natural wonders. In 2001, the trail was renamed in honour of Port Coquitlam's 13th mayor, Len Traboulay, who served as mayor for 19 years.

## Why aren't you booking on-line?

More and more people are taking advantage of the convenience of on-line booking to register for Port Coquitlam's many Parks and Recreation programs.

After a quick one-time sign-up for your free family PIN (personal identification number) and personal barcode number, you'll be able to book any Parks and Recreation program through the City's [www.ExperienceIt.ca](http://www.ExperienceIt.ca) website at your convenience.

At the click of a mouse, you can register for any program listed in each season's Leisure Guide, including fitness classes, seniors' programs, children's activities, summer day camps and many other leisure programs. Copies of the Leisure Guide can be downloaded from [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca) or picked up at City Hall or the facilities below.

To sign up for your ExperienceIt.ca PIN and barcode number, send an e-mail to [parksrec@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:parksrec@portcoquitlam.ca) with your name, full address and home telephone number, or call or visit your nearest recreation facility:

- Hyde Creek Recreation Centre: 1379 Laurier Avenue, 604.927.7946
- Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex: 2150 Wilson Avenue, 604.927.7970
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office: #200 – 2564 Shaughnessy Street, 604.927.7900



# Property taxes are due on Tuesday, July 4, 2006

To avoid penalties, Port Coquitlam property owners must ensure their property taxes are paid by July 4 - even if they have not received a tax notice.

- A 5% penalty will be added to 2006 current property taxes outstanding after July 4, 2006.
- A further 5% penalty will be applied after August 15, 2006.

## Six ways to pay your property taxes in Port Coquitlam

### 1. PAY AT YOUR BANK

Save time. Pay your tax notice and other bills while banking.

### 2. PAY BY PHONE/INTERNET

Check with your bank or credit union to see if it offers this service. You can also claim your Home Owner Grant online at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog).

### 3. \*PAY BY MAIL

Mail your cheque or money order to City of Port Coquitlam, 2580 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam BC V3C 2A8.

### 4. \*24-HOUR DROP-OFF

Drop your payment in the mail slot to the right of the main entrance to City Hall.

### 5. \*PAY IN PERSON

Bring your payment to the Tax Office on the main floor of City Hall from Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays), 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. *Extended tax office hours from June 19 to July 4: 8 am to 5 pm.* Please be prepared to wait in line.

### 6. FOR NEXT YEAR

Consider joining our Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for property taxes and utilities. More information is available from the Tax Office (604.927.5425) or [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca).

*\* Cheques post-dated up to July 4, 2006 accepted.*

**Credit Card Payments:** The City of Port Coquitlam does not accept credit card payments for property taxes or utilities.

**EXTENDED HOURS AT THE CITY TAX OFFICE:  
JUNE 19 TO JULY 4: 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.**

## Save time, save a stamp

Your Home Owner Grant is just a click away with Port Coquitlam's new on-line application service. So far, more than 2,200 local homeowners have taken advantage of this service, launched May 23 through [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca).

Dubbed E-HOG, the service allows eligible taxpayers to apply for their basic or additional Home Owner Grant on-line in a minute or two, rather than having to drop off or mail their applications to City Hall.

The application procedure is fast and easy. All you need is the Folio Number and Access Code listed on your tax notice. Then, simply access E-HOG directly through [www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog), or go to the City website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca), click on Online Payments and Services and follow the prompts. You'll find additional E-HOG information and FAQs there as well.

For more information, contact the City Tax Office at 604.927.5425 or [taxes@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:taxes@portcoquitlam.ca), or visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog).



KARI MEDIG/THE TRI-CITY NEWS

Phase one of the Leigh Square Community Arts Village wraps up this year. The Gathering Place, above, will include gathering and display space, a production studio, multi-purpose space, change rooms and offices.

## BUDGET 2006: Where did your taxes go?

In 2006, the average Port Coquitlam single family home assessed at \$346,000 paid \$2,088.27 in taxes and levies, an increase of 3.5% from 2005. Port Coquitlam still has the lowest tax rate in the Tri-Cities.

### REVENUE: 2006

Source	Amount	Percentage
External capital funding	\$55,408,050	40
Property taxes	\$35,801,864	26
Savings - withdrawals for projects	\$19,039,869	14
Sewer user fees	\$5,690,274	4
Water user fees	\$5,671,100	4
Land sales	\$4,742,122	3
Recreational user fees	\$3,189,700	2
Investment income	\$3,135,000	2
Public Works fees	\$2,173,160	2
Garbage collection fees	\$1,973,120	1
Protective service fees	\$1,661,175	1
Development services	\$846,500	1
Other	\$774,030	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$140,105,964</b>	<b>100</b>

### EXPENDITURES: 2006

Use	Amount	Percentage
Capital: construction, equipment	\$77,596,850	55
Public Works	\$12,012,615	9
Parks and recreation	\$10,887,650	8
Police protection	\$8,716,200	6
Transfer to savings for future projects	\$8,472,967	6
Fire protection	\$6,685,400	5
Regional district charges: water/sewer	\$6,622,428	5
Administration	\$5,627,749	4
Development services	\$1,780,755	1
Other protective services	\$944,450	1
Fiscal services	\$758,900	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$140,105,964</b>	<b>100</b>

## Your City's capital projects for 2006

The City's 2006 budget includes \$77.6 million in capital projects – part of \$151 million in capital expenditures Port Coquitlam has planned for 2006-2010.

This year's expenditures make up 55% of the City's budget, but only \$3.8 million will be funded by property taxes – less than 5%.

Road works feature prominently on this year's list. The biggest transportation project for 2006 is the Coast Meridian Overpass, at \$39 million. Improvements to Broadway Avenue (\$4.6 million) and Dominion Avenue (\$7.5 million) are also planned.

Other road projects for 2006 include the de-icing of the Shaughnessy pedestrian overpass and the 2006 Road Rehabilitation Program: Pooley Avenue-Pitt River Road to Eastern; Sefton Street-Kent Avenue to Greenmount Avenue; Prairie Avenue-Wellington Street to Sefton Street; Prairie Avenue-Flint Street to York Street; Langan Avenue-Pitt River Road to Eastern Drive; Pitt River Road east of CPR tracks (Lougheed



Paving work on Coast Meridian Road near Apel Drive.

Highway); and Lougheed Highway-westbound Dominion Avenue to Ottawa Street.

The capital budget also covers purchases, construction or upgrades of City equipment and facilities.

Construction projects on the books for this year include the City Hall Annex, renovations to Terry Fox Library and completion of phase one of the Leigh Square Community Arts Village.

Development of the arts village will reshape Port Coquitlam's

downtown area by introducing a range of arts and cultural facilities, including studio and display spaces, rehearsal space, public archives, a ticket and information centre, retail space, office and meeting space, and an outdoor performance venue.

Other capital expenditures will include work on drainage systems and sanitary sewer systems.

As well, equipment purchases are pegged at \$2.1 million, and \$1.6 million will be spent on parks facilities.



R. LONG PHOTO

Leaving your clippings on the lawn after mowing saves you time and gives your lawn nutrients.

## Grasscycling produces a healthier lawn

Grasscycling is the easy way to a healthy lawn. It's a great way to recycle nutrient-rich grass back into the soil to fertilize your lawn and save you time, money and effort.

Grasscycling involves the natural practice of leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. The clippings left on your lawn will form organic matter, help hold water and keep the soil aerated.

### Why grasscycle?

Grasscycling saves time, money and effort, and reduces our impact on the environment. You could save several hours over the growing season from raking and collecting clippings for your composter or Green Waste curbside collection, and at the same time, provide your lawn with 25% more nutrients and help the environment.

About 10% of the total volume of municipal waste is grass. By grasscycling, you will mow more frequently, but you will spend less time and energy on lawn care and have a healthier lawn.

### Can grass clippings be placed in my backyard composter?

Yes. Backyard composting is an excellent way to dispose of any excess clippings you may collect. It also allows you to create your own fertilizer. Excess grass clippings should be mixed with other yard material such as leaves, hedge and tree trimmings and spent plants.

Kitchen material such as fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds can be added in alternating layers with your yard and garden waste.

### Grasscycling tips

- Mow your lawn frequently to ensure clippings are short and can fall easily to the soil surface.
- Set your mower blade high, two to 2.5 inches from the ground, and remove no more than one-third of the total grass length at each cutting.
- Keep your mower blades sharp and use a mulching blade or mulching mower for finer clippings.
- Avoid excess watering and fertilizing. This can actually be destructive to the lawn.
- In the fall, mulch your leaves into the lawn. They are an excellent source of nutrients.

Join the 41% of GVRD residents who already grasscycle.

For more information on grasscycling and other natural lawn care tips, visit <http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/recycling-and-garbage/composting.htm>

## Working for the City: Employment opportunities

The City of Port Coquitlam offers a variety of job opportunities with competitive salaries and comprehensive benefit packages. The City accepts applications for available positions, as well as general applications that are kept on file for four months.

Employment opportunities are listed on the City website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/City\\_Hall/Employment\\_Opportunities.htm](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/City_Hall/Employment_Opportunities.htm). As well, the City's 24-hour access job-line at 604.927.5479 is updated as new positions become available.

## Annual lawn sprinkling restrictions are now in effect

The following lawn sprinkling regulations are in effect from June 1 to September 30:

- Sprinkling is only allowed from 4 - 9 a.m. and 7 - 10 p.m.
- Wednesday & Saturday: EVEN numbered houses
- Thursday & Sunday: ODD numbered houses

For more information and tips on water conservation, visit the Greater Vancouver Regional District website at [www.gvrd.bc.ca/water/conservation.htm](http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/water/conservation.htm)

## How to build a stronger community

Want to get more involved in your neighbourhood and meet other local residents? Here are some ideas.

### Block Parties

Block parties are a terrific way to meet your neighbours, build a sense of neighbourhood and have some fun. Some block parties are organized around a particular holiday weekend or because of an issue. Whatever the reason, they often lead to further gatherings of neighbours and may lead to improvement projects.

With permission from the City's Engineering and Operations Department, you can close your neighbourhood road from 2 to 11 p.m. to enjoy your block party in safety. For \$25, the City will also provide barricades.

But you don't have to live in a house to hold a block party. Block parties can take place in common spaces in townhouse complexes, in front of apartment buildings or at a nearby park.

For information about planning your block party, visit the City's website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca) (Engineering and Operations Department) or contact Engineering and Operations at 604.927.5420.

### Hot Summer Nights

Over the summer months, Port Coquitlam's fire crews visit neighbourhoods and talk to youth about bike and skateboard helmet safety. They also provide information to homeowners about home fire safety, including the correct use of fire extinguishers and smoke alarms. If you're planning a summer block party or neighbourhood gathering, think about inviting the fire crews to stop by.

For more information on the Hot Summer Nights program or to sign up for a visit, contact the Fire Department at 604.927.5466 or [fire@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:fire@portcoquitlam.ca).

Information about this program can also be found on the City's website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca) (Fire/Rescue Department>Public Education Services).

### Neighbourhood Preparedness

How prepared is your neighbourhood for a disaster? While nothing can prevent a disaster such as an earthquake or flood, people who are prepared are more likely to cope effectively during the event and recover more quickly afterwards.

The City's Neighbourhood Program teaches individuals and families how to become personally sufficient for a minimum of 72 hours. It teaches neighbourhoods how to plan and train as a group to respond safely and effectively as an organized team during a disaster or major emergency. The preparedness skills can be put to use in your home, neighbourhood, workplace, school and community.

The training is free, but participants are responsible for purchasing their own emergency supplies.

The program can be adapted to any neighbourhood, whether you live in a house, apartment, townhouse or rural area. For more details, visit the City's website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca) (Fire/Rescue Department>Emergency Preparedness) or call the Emergency Preparedness Office at 604.927.5466.

## CITY CONTACTS

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT	604.543.6700	FIRE DEPARTMENT	604.927.5466
BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS	604.927.5444	<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	911
24 Hour Request Line	604.927.5445	GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION	604.927.5488
BUSINESS LICENCES	604.927.5238	HYDE CREEK RECREATION CENTRE	604.927.7946
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	604.927.5440	MAYOR & COUNCILLORS	604.927.5410
CEMETERY	604.927.5251	OPERATIONS (Drainage/flood control; roads & lanes; sanitary, sewer; sidewalks, street lighting & traffic; signal outages, traffic inquiries, water system)	604.927.5488
COMMUNITY POLICE STATIONS		<i>Emergency - After Hours</i>	604.543.6700
3312 Coast Meridian	604.927.5451	POLICE (RCMP)	604.945.1550
2581 Mary Hill Road	604.927.2383	<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	911
DOG LICENCES	604.927.5425	PORT COQUITLAM RECREATION COMPLEX	604.927.7970
EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES	604.927.5479	PROPERTY TAXES & UTILITY PAYMENTS	604.927.5425
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR	604.927.5466	VECTOR CONTROL (Pest Control)	604.927.5447
FACILITY BOOKINGS	604.927.7903	WILSON CENTRE (Seniors Centre)	604.927.7970
FIELDS CLOSURES	604.927.5455		