

Important Phone Numbers

BC Assessment Authority.....604-294-6441
 City of Port Coquitlam
 Tax Office.....604-927-5425
 Greater Vancouver
 Regional District.....604-432-6249
 Municipal Finance
 Authority.....1-250-383-1181
 School Taxes.....1-250-356-0907
 TransLink.....604-453-4500

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

You must be a member of a bank or credit union that offers pay-by-phone services. Call your branch for details.

3. Pay by mail*

Mail your payment (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 located to the right of the main entrance to City Hall.

5. Pay in person*

Bring your bill payment to the Tax Office on the main floor of City Hall between Monday and Friday (excluding Statutory Holidays) from 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Please be prepared to wait in line.

6. For next year

Consider joining our Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for property taxes and utilities. (Application form enclosed.)

* Cheques posted up to and received by July 4, 2005 will be accepted.

Credit Card Payments:

The City of Port Coquitlam does not accept credit cards as

Some changes to the look of the 2005 Tax Notices

You may have noticed that the layout of this year's tax notice is a little different from previous years. **These are not new or additional charges!** We have simply provided you with an expanded breakdown of your tax bill to provide you a better understanding of what services your tax dollars are funding, such as police and fire protection and parks and recreation.

Message from the Mayor

We are fond of saying that Port Coquitlam has the charm of a small town with all the amenities of a large urban centre. I can proudly say that we continue to endorse those ideals by pursuing the path we set as a community in our 2002 Strategic Plan.

Some of the more significant projects and initiatives planned for this year include: better support of crime prevention with the addition of five new RCMP Officers; \$19 million investment in roads upgrades and improvements to drainage, water and sewer works; updates to the City's Emergency Plan, including the development of an Emergency Preparedness Early Warning Detection System; and expansion of the Terry Fox Library.

City Council and staff are committed to the highest quality services possible, while keeping our taxes low. When comparing Port Coquitlam's tax and utility billings between 1996 and 2005 with those of neighbouring communities, we

noted that the average home in Port Coquitlam experienced a total increase of \$291 compared to \$487 in Coquitlam and \$452 in Port Moody.

Port Coquitlam has many positive attributes: an involved community, an accessible location, a thriving local economy and more than 259 hectares of parkland. City Council is dedicated to making Port Coquitlam a complete and prosperous community that retains its livable, caring and family-friendly nature.



Mayor Scott Young

PROPERTY TAXES DUE MONDAY, JULY 4th, 2005

- A 5% penalty will be added to 2005 current property taxes outstanding after July 4th, 2005.
- A further 5% penalty will be applied after August 15th, 2005.

Property owners whose property taxes are paid by a mortgage company:

- It is the sole responsibility of the property owner to complete the homeowner grant every year (if eligible). You must submit your application to the City Collector by the due date in order to avoid penalties.
- Your mortgage company is advised of property taxes payable ONLY and NOT ANY UNPAID water and sewer levies for the current year.

Tax Deferment Program:

The BC Property Tax Deferment Program allows you to apply to defer payment of annual property taxes on your home if you are:

- 60 years or older; or
- widowed; or
- a disabled person as defined by the Land Tax Deferment Regulations; and you are
- a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who has lived in British Columbia for at least one year immediately prior to applying for tax deferment benefits.

For more information on the Tax Deferment Program and an application form, contact:

- **City's Tax Office** at 604-927-5425 or via e-mail at taxes@portcoquitlam.ca
- **Provincial Tax Deferment Office** at 1-250-387-0555
- **Tax Deferment Program** website at www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/property_tax_deferment.htm

Home Owner Grant

To help us process your payment faster:

- Complete your Home Owner Grant application in full, if you are eligible. Missing information may delay processing and could result in late charges.
- If you are 65 years of age or older, please ensure your birth date is included in the space provided on the application.
- A new Home Owner Grant application must be completed each year.

EXPLANATORY NOTES – HOME OWNER GRANT

Applicant under 65 years of age: If the current year tax is less than \$820, the homeowner grant is the amount of the current year taxes less \$350. If the current year tax is \$820 or more, the homeowner grant is \$470. The minimum tax payment required from applicants under 65 is \$350.

Applicant 65 years of age or older or in receipt of an allowance under the War Veteran Act or Civilian War Related Benefits Act or disability assistance, hardship assistance or a supplement under the BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act or a person with disabilities under the regulations: if the current year tax is less than \$845, the home owner grant, inclusive of the additional grant, is the amount of the current year taxes less \$100. If the current year tax is \$845 or more, the homeowner grant, inclusive of the additional grant, is \$745. The Homeowner Grant is to be reduced by \$5, for every \$1,000 of residential assessed value in excess of \$685,000.

These notes are intended for general guidance only and are subject to the detailed provisions in the Home Owner Grant Act and regulations.

To obtain the grant, you must complete and submit an application form. If you qualify for the additional grant (see below) and wish to obtain it, you must complete the box on the application form that best describes your qualification and provide the required information and forms.

WHO MAY QUALIFY?

1. You may qualify for a Home Owner Grant if:
 - a) You are an owner (as defined in the Local Government Act and the Taxation [Rural Area] Act, which includes a lessee under a registered lease of 99 years or more who is required to pay the current year taxes); and
 - b) you are a permanent resident of British Columbia (either a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant); and
 - c) you occupy as your principal residence the dwelling described on your application form.
2. You and your spouse together may qualify for only one Home Owner Grant on one residence in British Columbia in any one calendar year even if you live in separate residences (unless you are legally separated).
3. If you are the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother or sister of a qualifying deceased owner, you may be eligible for the Home Owner Grant in the year of the owner's death if the residence was your principal residence at the time of death.
4. You may qualify for the additional grant if:
 - a) you are over 65 (please state your birth date on the application form); or
 - b) you have a permanent disability, or are the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, step parent or person standing in the place of a parent, grandparent, brother or sister of a person with a permanent disability who resides in your home (complete the required forms, which are available from the City Collector).
5. The City Collector or Grant Administrator may require any documentation considered necessary to confirm your eligibility.
6. Corporations are not eligible for a grant unless they qualify as owners of eligible buildings, land cooperatives or multi dwelling leased parcels, as defined in the Home Owner Grant Act. Such owners must use the prescribed Form A, which is available from the City Collector at City Hall, 2580 Shaughnessy Street or 604-927-5425.
7. If an owner is unable to apply in person, the owner's committee or a person appointed in writing as the owner's attorney (Power of Attorney) or authorized representative (Representation Agreement) may apply on behalf of the owner.
8. To avoid penalty for late payment of your taxes, you must apply for a grant on or before the tax due date of July 4th, 2005 (you may apply before the tax due date even if you are not paying your taxes before the due date).
9. A grant for the current tax year may not be allowed if an application for the grant is delivered to the City Collector later than December 31st of that year. Extensions of one year may be allowed. For more information, contact the City Collector at 604-927-5425 or taxes@portcoquitlam.ca, or www.rev.gov.bc.ca.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Experience it!

RailSide Outdoor Youth Park

At 40,000 sq ft, the RailSide is the largest outdoor youth park in the Province! This exciting new addition to the City's outdoor play areas features a multi-functional youth park featuring an advanced serpentine skate and BMX bowl, a street style skate/bike park, a beginner's Adventure Track and a basketball/hockey court that can dual as a performance stage.



Gates Park Baseball Field and Washroom/Changerooms

The newly-constructed Bantam "A" level baseball field is now complete and will be available for play in July of this year as the turf needs time to properly germinate. The City worked with the Port Coquitlam Minor Baseball Association on this project to ensure the facilities met the community's needs. Still to be completed are the associated facilities, including two new changerooms, public washrooms, concession space, a meeting room, and storage/maintenance areas along with an on-site caretaker residence to assist in the supervision and basic maintenance of the Gates Park Complex. The construction of these facilities is scheduled to be completed by December 2005.



Experience It Online! Internet Registration
The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing services that will continue to build on the healthy, vibrant and caring community we all value. To that end, ExperienceIt.ca, our on-line program registration, provides you with a convenient and easy way to register for leisure programs seven days a week. All you need is a family PIN (personal identification number) and a personal barcode number. To sign up call 604.927.7946 or 604.927.7970, email parksrec@portcoquitlam.ca or visit the Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex (2150 Wilson Avenue) or Hyde Creek Recreation (1379 Laurier Avenue).

Community Celebration

The City of Port Coquitlam is proud to host many community events. Please mark your calendar with these upcoming dates:

- **Canada Day – Castle Park – July 1st**
- **Music in the Park – Lions Park – Sundays (1-3pm) in July and August**
- **Terry Fox Hometown Run – Hyde Creek – September 18th**
- **Rivers & Trails Festival – Peace Park – September 25th**
- **Harvest Festival – Leigh Square – October 1st**
- **Salmon Festival – Hyde Creek – November 13th**
- **Christmas in Leigh Square – December 3rd**

Employment Opportunities

Interested in finding out what employment opportunities are available with the City of Port Coquitlam? Visit our website at www.portcoquitlam.ca/City_Hall/Employment_Opportunities.htm for a complete listing of positions currently available with the City. Alternately, call our recorded job line at 604-927-5459.

PoCo Pride Residential Garden Awards

We can all take pride in the fact that Port Coquitlam is such a beautiful City. Much of the credit goes to our residents who take great pride in creating beautiful gardens around their homes. This July, nominate those Port Coquitlam gardens that you find have a particularly striking floral display or landscaping design. Judging will be based on front yard street appeal. Effective use of colour, space, and maintenance of plant and landscape materials will also be considered by the judges. Awards will be presented in the following categories: single-family residence, multi-family residential development and balcony garden.



Prize-winning gardens will be photographed and may be featured on the City's website or in publications such as the City Calendar. Award winners receive a Certificate of Recognition, gifts from the City and a gift certificate for a local garden centre.

Nomination forms will be available on our website, at civic facilities and from local garden supply businesses. The nomination deadline is July 15th. For awards details visit our website or contact 604.927.5480.

BLOCK PARTIES

Block parties are a great way to get to know your neighbours. With the permission of the City's Engineering and Operations Department, you can close your neighbourhood road from 2pm to 11pm to enjoy your Block Park in safety. For \$25, the City will also provide barricades to further secure your road. For more information on planning a Block Party visit our website or contact Engineering and Operations at 604.927.5420.

For more information on property taxes and property assessment, consult the list of Frequently Asked Questions provided on our website at www.portcoquitlam.ca or visit the BC Assessment website at www.bcassessment.bc.ca.

What is the relationship between property assessment and municipal taxes?

Municipal governments use property assessments to determine what the tax rate they must set to raise the revenue they need to pay for public services, such as police and fire protection, parks and recreation, road improvements and new infrastructure. Property assessment and taxation is really a two-part process:

- First, BC Assessment determines the market value of properties and sends property owners a Property Assessment Notice. You should have received this notice earlier this year.
- Second, tax authorities, like municipal government, set tax rates that are applied to the assessed value of properties and send property owners a Tax Notice.

Given the relation between property assessment and municipal taxes, many property owners believe that a high property assessment means high increases in property taxes. This is not necessarily the case. If the City's operating budget is \$10 million, for example, it will be \$10 million whether the average residential property is worth \$200,000 or \$400,000. The value of the properties does not determine the costs of our services and programs. What does affect your tax rate, however, is your property's relation to the average assessed value. The average residential assessment in Port Coquitlam increased by 19.6% in 2005. If your assessment changed by more or less than the average assessed property value your property taxes will have changed proportionally. So for an assessment increase of 25% you would deduct the average residential property increase of 19.6%; this would result in a property tax increase of approximately 5% plus any general tax increases over and above the average tax increase of 2.8%

How is the West Nile Virus spread?

West Nile Virus will most likely enter B.C. by infected birds flying into the province. Mosquitoes become infected by biting infected birds.

What can I do if I spot a dead bird?

Fraser Health and B.C. Centre for Disease Control staff have a collection system in place to monitor and test **dead crows, ravens and jays**. These dead birds are tested because they are the birds most likely to die if infected with West Nile Virus.

To report a dead crow, raven, or jay, please call and leave a message on the Fraser Health West Nile Virus Toll Free Reporting Line at: 1-888-WNV-LINE (1-888-968-5463).



It's that time of year. . .

Nice weather in British Columbia also means the start of mosquito season. Mosquitoes are usually just considered a nuisance and bites are uncomfortable but, in areas with West Nile Virus, a small percentage of mosquito bites can cause West Nile Virus infection. Anyone can be affected by West Nile Virus, but older adults and people who have chronic illnesses are more likely to develop serious illness.

Protect yourself and your family by following the 4 Ds to reduce mosquito breeding sites and avoid mosquito bites:

- DRAIN** your property of standing water
- DUSK/DAWN** - take extra care
- DRESS** appropriately
- DEFEND** against mosquito bites by using mosquito repellents wisely



If you have a question about mosquito control, please call the City of Port Coquitlam Vector Control Division at 604-927-5447.

Signs and symptoms of West Nile Virus may include fever, severe headache, stiff neck, muscle weakness or paralysis, confusion, convulsions, or even coma. Severe infection may result in long-term disability or death. **Contact your physician if you suspect infection.** Advice about symptoms of West Nile Virus is available from BC NurseLine: 604-215-4700 (Toll Free 1-866-215-4700 or 1-866-TTY-4700 if hearing impaired).

Lawn Sprinkling Regulations

Effective June 1 to September 30

Sprinkling allowed
4 - 9 a.m. & 7 - 10 p.m.

Wednesday & Saturday:
EVEN numbered addresses

Thursday & Sunday:
ODD numbered addresses



For more information and tips on Water Conservation, visit the Greater Vancouver Regional District website at www.gvrd.bc.ca/water/conservation.htm.

Emergency Preparedness

Fortunately, Port Coquitlam has not yet had to face many of the natural disasters affecting other parts of the world. Still, it pays to be prepared! The City provides a number of free seminars on emergency preparedness, including courses on Personal Preparedness, First Aid Awareness and Basic Fire Suppression.

We are also proud to support a neighbourhood program that guides neighbourhoods on how to plan and train as a group to respond safely and effectively as an organized team during a disaster or major emergency.

To register for the free courses or to sign up for the Neighbourhood Preparedness Program, call 604.927.5466. Space is limited; register early to assure your spot!

Port Coquitlam's Emergency Preparedness Program also welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in becoming involved in our community's EP program, call 604.927.5466 or email fire@portcoquitlam.ca.

Watch for ads in the local newspapers, visit our website at www.portcoquitlam.ca or call 604.927.5466 for additional emergency preparedness information.

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT	604-543-6700
BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS	604-927-5444
24 Hour Request Line	604-927-5445
BUSINESS LICENCES	604-927-5238
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	604-927-5440
CEMETERY	604-927-5251
COMMUNITY POLICE STATIONS	
3312 Coast Meridian Road	604-927-5451
2581 Mary Hill Road	604-927-2383
DOG LICENCES	604-927-5425
EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES	604-927-5479
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	
COORDINATOR	604-927-5466
FACILITY BOOKINGS	604-927-7903
FIELDS CLOSURES	604-927-5455
FIRE DEPARTMENT	604-927-5466
Emergency Calls Only	911
GARBAGE/RECYCLING	
COLLECTION	604-927-5488
HYDE CREEK	
RECREATION CENTRE ..	604-927-7946
MAYOR & COUNCILLORS	604-927-5410
OPERATIONS	604-927-5488
<i>(Drainage & Flood Control, Roads & Lanes / Sanitary, Sewer / Sidewalks / Street Lightings & Traffic, Signal Outages/ Traffic Inquiries / Water System)</i>	
Emergency (After Hours)	604-543-6700
POLICE (RCMP)	604-945-1550
Emergency Calls Only	911
PORT COQUITLAM RECREATION	
COMPLEX	604-927-7970
PROPERTY TAXES &	
UTILITY PAYMENTS	604-927-5425
VECTOR CONTROL	
(Pest Control)	604-927-5447
WILSON CENTRE	
(Seniors Centre)	604-927-7970

CITY CONTACTS

SIX STEPS TO A HEALTHY LAWN

Naturally!

1. Mow high, mow often and leave the clippings on the lawn.
2. Fertilize moderately in September and May with a 'natural organic' or 'slow release' fertilizer.
3. Water thoroughly, but infrequently to encourage deeper roots.
4. Improve lawns with aeration and overseeding, or consider fixing the soil and replanting.
5. Think twice before using pesticides.
6. Consider alternatives to lawns for steep slopes, shady areas, or near streams and lakes.

Save time. Save money. Save the planet.

For more information, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca or www.gvrd.bc.ca.

www.portcoquitlam.ca

2580 Shaughnessy Street
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8
Tel: 604-927-5411 Fax: 604-927-5360
Email: info@portcoquitlam.ca

CITY OF
PORT
COQUITLAM