

## SIX WAYS TO PAY YOUR PROPERTY TAXES IN PORT COQUITLAM

### 1. PAY AT YOUR BANK

Save time. Pay your taxes and other bills while banking.

### 2. PAY BY PHONE OR INTERNET

Check with your bank or credit union to see if it offers this service. You can also claim your Home Owner Grant 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 hours from June 26 to July 2: 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 2, 2009 accepted.

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



Your grant is just a click away

Claim your Home Owner Grant online:  
[www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog)

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

BC Assessment Authority: 604.294.6441  
City of Port Coquitlam Tax Office: 604.927.5425  
Metro Vancouver (regional district): 604.432.6249  
Municipal Finance Authority: 1.250.383.1181  
School Taxes: 1.250.356.0907  
TransLink: 604.453.4500

## Message from the Mayor

After some hard work and difficult decisions, Council recently agreed on a five-year Financial Plan that meets our commitments with the least possible effect on our taxpayers.

In particular, we worked hard to address our citizens' two top priorities – safety and transportation – by:

- funding our share of nine new Coquitlam RCMP officers, and
- following through on our commitment to the Coast Meridian Overpass project.



The City was not immune to the effects of the global financial crisis, and that is reflected in this year's tax increase of 6.9%. The economic downturn certainly added an extra challenge to the process, and I am proud of how Council came together as a team to make the tough decisions that needed to be made for the 2009-2013 Financial Plan.

Another big success was an online financial planning survey that collected input from more than 200 residents. We'll build on that success in the months to come as we continue to look for new ways to reach out the community for your input on important City decisions.

I'm happy to note that even with this year's increase, residential levies in our City are still less than the average across Metro Vancouver. But even so, we will soon be launching a core service review of all City departments and functions, to make sure we're giving our citizens the best possible value for their tax dollars.

Greg Moore  
Mayor

## Take our survey – and win!

Complete the survey below to enter a draw for a \$150 gift certificate to **ticketmaster** TicketMaster – redeemable at our local branch at the Outlet in Leigh Square or at any branch! **Entry deadline is June 1, 2009.**

Please select **all** that apply:

*I prefer to get my City news and information through:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brochures            | <input type="checkbox"/> City calendar             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-Update             | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure Guide        | <input type="checkbox"/> Local newspaper           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter              | <input type="checkbox"/> Update newsletter (print) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> www.portcoquitlam.ca | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____              |

Fax this form to 604.927.5331, drop it off at any City facility, or simply take the survey online at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/survey](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/survey).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_



## The BEAR facts...

- **Nine bears were killed** in Port Coquitlam last year after they became habituated to human food sources, such as garbage.
- There were more than **800 bear sightings** in Port Coquitlam last year – up from 224 in 2006.

### It's everyone's responsibility to be Bear Aware

Urban bear activity is increasing because of encroachment of their natural habitat and the availability of garbage and other unnatural food sources.



Help stop bears from developing a taste for human food sources, which puts both the bears and our community at risk.

- Keep your garbage, fruit trees, bird feeders and other attractants out of the reach of bears, especially during the summer.
- Call Port Coquitlam's Bear Aware hotline at **778-822-BEAR** to report sightings, get information or arrange a free presentation to your group.
- Find out more: [www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears).

## HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

Invite the Port Coquitlam fire crews out to

your neighbourhood or block party this summer, though the Hot Summer Nights program. For information or to sign up for a visit, contact Fire & Emergency Services at [fire@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:fire@portcoquitlam.ca) or 604.927.5466, or visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire).



Making greener choices  
This newsletter was printed on  
100% recycled Save a Tree paper.

## About the 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 on the application.
- You must complete a new Home Owner Grant application each year.

### Explanatory notes – Home Owner Grant

**BASIC GRANT: For applicants under 65 years of age.** If the current year tax is less than \$920, the Home Owner Grant is the amount of the current year taxes less \$350. If the current year tax is \$920 or more, the Home Owner Grant is \$570. The minimum tax payment required from applicants under 65 is \$350.

**ADDITIONAL GRANT: For applicants 65 years of age or older, or in receipt of an allowance under the War Veteran Act or Civilian War Related Benefits Act, 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 \$945, 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 \$945 or more, the Home Owner Grant, inclusive of the additional grant, is \$845. The Home Owner Grant is reduced by \$5 for every \$1,000 of residential assessed value in excess of \$1,050,000.

*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, 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:
  - 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
  - you are a permanent resident of B.C. or a Canadian citizen; and
  - you occupy, as your principal residence, the dwelling described on your application form.
2. You and your spouse together may qualify for only one 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 grant in the year of the owner's death if the home is currently your principal residence, and was your principal residence prior to and at the time of the death.
4. You may qualify for the Additional Grant if:
  - you are over 65 (please state your birth date on the application form); or
  - 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, 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 2, 2009 (you may apply before the tax due date even if you are not paying your taxes before the due date).

*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 31 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](mailto:taxes@portcoquitlam.ca), or visit [www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog).*

# CITY OF PORT COQUITLAM PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE ON THURSDAY, JULY 2nd, 2009

Please note: a 5% penalty will be added to 2009 property taxes outstanding after **July 2nd, 2009**. A further 5% penalty will be applied after **August 17, 2009**.

**EXTENDED HOURS AT  
CITY TAX OFFICE  
JUNE 26th TO JULY 2nd:  
8 AM – 5 PM**

## Understanding your property tax notice

Taxes collected on behalf of:

- the Provincial Government
- for schools
- BC Assessment
- Metro Vancouver (GVRD) regional district
- TransLink
- Municipal Finance Authority

The City of Port Coquitlam transfers all funds collected to these external agencies.

Use **COLUMN A** if:

- You do not qualify for a grant.
- You are a registered owner who does not live in the home.

Submit a Grant Application and use **COLUMN B** if:

- You are under age 65 and live in your home.
- There is a grant available on your property.

Submit a Grant Application and use **COLUMN C** if:

- You are at least age 65 or over and live in your home.
- Or if you:
  - Receive a Disability, War Veterans or Civilian War allowance.
  - Meet the qualifications noted on the back of your notice.

**2009 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE**  
DUE DATE: Thursday, July 2, 2009

AVERAGE, JOE  
AVERAGE, IMA  
123 ANY STREET  
PORT COQUITLAM BC V3C 2A8

5% PENALTY IF NOT PAID OR GRANT NOT CLAIMED BY JULY 2, 2009  
ADDITIONAL 5% PENALTY ADDED TO ANY CURRENT TAXES  
OUTSTANDING AFTER AUGUST 17, 2009

Your grant is just a click away  
Claim your Home Owner Grant online:  
[www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog)

TOTAL NET ASSESSED VALUES FOR TAXATION PURPOSES			
CLASS	GENERAL	SCHOOL	HOSPITAL
1 - Res	493,887	493,887	493,887

FOLIO NUMBER	ACCESS	RATES	COLUMN A NO GRANT	COLUMN B BASIC GRANT	COLUMN C ADDITIONAL GRANT
SCHOOL LEVY	999999-999	910064	1.85960	918.43	918.43
Less: Home Owner Grant					-845.00
<b>NET BASIC SCHOOL TAXES</b>			<b>918.43</b>	<b>348.43</b>	<b>73.43</b>
BC ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY LEVY			0.06410	31.66	31.66
GVRD LEVY			0.06370	31.66	31.66
GVRD TRANSIT LEVY			0.34940	172.56	172.56
TRANS LINK REPLACEMENT TAX LEVY			0.01830	9.04	9.04
MUNICIPAL FINANCE AUTHORITY LEVY			0.00020	0.10	0.10
<b>NET OTHER GOVERNMENT TAXES</b>			<b>244.82</b>	<b>244.82</b>	<b>244.82</b>
POLICE SERVICES			0.76610	378.37	378.37
FIRE SERVICES			0.54500	269.17	269.17
CAPITAL			0.39520	195.18	195.18
PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES			0.27990	286.41	286.41
ROADS, DRAINAGE AND ENGINEERING SERVICES			0.44840	221.46	221.46
COAST MERIDIAN OVERPASS			0.18210	89.94	89.94
TERRY FOX LIBRARY			0.10240	50.57	50.57
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES			0.06880	33.98	33.98
OTHER CITY SERVICES			0.37210	183.78	183.78
LOCAL SERVICES - GARBAGE FEE			176.30000	176.30	176.30
LOCAL SERVICES - GARB SEC SUITE			0.00	0.00	0.00
LOCAL SERVICES - 2009 SEC SUITE EXEMPT			0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>NET MUNICIPAL TAXES</b>			<b>1,885.16</b>	<b>1,885.16</b>	<b>1,885.16</b>
<b>TOTAL NEW TAXES LEVIES</b>			<b>3,048.41</b>	<b>2,478.41</b>	<b>2,203.41</b>
Tax Prepayments/Adjustments			0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING TAXES</b>			<b>3,048.41</b>	<b>2,478.41</b>	<b>2,203.41</b>



**DON'T FORGET TO  
CLAIM YOUR HOME  
OWNER GRANT ONLINE!**

Skip the lineups and save a stamp!

City of Port Coquitlam residents who are eligible for Home Owner Grants can claim them through the City's website.

All you need is the Folio Number and Access Code on your tax notice.

Simply:

1. Go to:  
[www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/e-hog)
2. Click on *Online Payments and Services* and follow the prompts.

### If your 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 to avoid penalties.
- At their request, your mortgage company is advised of property taxes payable ONLY, and NOT ANY UNPAID water and sewer levies for the current year.

### Tax Deferment Programs

#### Property Tax Deferment Program

You can apply to the BC Property Tax Deferment Program to defer payment of your home's annual property taxes if you are:

- 55 years or older; or
- widowed; or
- a disabled person as defined by Land Tax Deferment Regulations;

and you are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who has lived in British Columbia for at least one year immediately prior to applying for tax deferment benefits.

#### Financial Hardship Deferment Program

A new provincial program allows eligible homeowners facing financial hardship, who have at least 15% equity in their homes, to defer their 2009 and 2010 property taxes. The program is available to Canadian citizens and permanent residents who have lived in British Columbia for at least a year before applying for the program. Taxes may only be deferred on the principal residence.

For information about these programs or an application form, contact the City's Tax Office ([taxes@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:taxes@portcoquitlam.ca) or 604.927.5425) or the Provincial Tax Deferment Office (1.250.387.0555), or visit [www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/rpt](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/rpt).

# Don't waste a **DROP!**

## What are you doing to conserve water this summer?

Saving water not only safeguards the environment, but it also protects your pocketbook from rising utility bills. Here are some ways you can help protect this precious resource:

### Follow the sprinkling regulations from June 1 to September 30:

Sprinkling is only allowed from 4-9 am and 7-10 pm.

- Wednesday & Saturday: EVEN-numbered houses
- Thursday & Sunday: ODD-numbered houses

### Be water-friendly outdoors:

- If washing your car, use a bucket to wash and a spray nozzle to rinse.
- Sweep sidewalks and patios rather than hosing them off.

### Be water-friendly indoors:

- Do only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
- Turn off the tap when not in use, and install low-flow plumbing fixtures (find out about our rebate program at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/green](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/green)).

## ONE CART, TWO USES:

### Fill your green waste cart with both yard and kitchen waste

Are you getting the most use of your green waste cart? Since July 2008, Port Coquitlam residents have been able to put compostable kitchen waste – such as vegetable/fruit scraps and coffee grounds – into their green waste carts for year-round pickup.

Benefits include less garbage going to the landfill and lower disposal costs. Just collect kitchen waste in a lidded pail under the sink and empty it in your green waste cart when full. For details, visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/greenwaste](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/greenwaste).

## FIND US ONLINE!

The City of Port Coquitlam is easy to find online.

Simply go to: [www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca), Facebook or Twitter.

You can also sign up for digital E-Updates on the City website!



## Hit the trails this June



Bike Month is a great time to hit the local trails or bike to work. And local cyclists will have even more options in 2010, when the Coast Meridian Overpass opens with two bicycle lanes, thanks to a \$2 million grant from the Province of BC.

Find out about the Traboulay Poco Trail and other trails at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/parks](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/parks). For more about Bike Month, visit [www.best.bc.ca](http://www.best.bc.ca).

## 2009 Residential Garden Awards

Do you have a favourite local garden? Make sure to nominate it for the 2009 PoCo Pride Residential Garden Awards before the deadline on July 16th!

Conducted by the City of Port Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam Garden Club, the annual awards celebrate the efforts of our urban gardeners, build PoCo Pride and promote the beautification of our community. Any resident of Port Coquitlam is eligible for nomination, and winners take home prizes from local gardening retailers, Art Knapp Plantland & Florist and Meadows Landscape Supply, or Certificates of Appreciation.

Nomination forms are at local garden supply businesses, civic buildings, recreational facilities, and [www.portcoquitlam.ca/gardenawards](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/gardenawards).

To make a nomination, call 604.927.5480, fax nomination forms to 604.927.5408, mail nominations to City Hall at 2580 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8, or email nominations to [millerd@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:millerd@portcoquitlam.ca).



## CITY CONTACTS

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT	604.543.6700	FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	604.927.5466
BEAR AWARE HOTLINE	778.822.BEAR	<i>Emergency Calls Only</i>	911
BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS	604.927.5444	GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION	604.927.5488
24 Hour Request Line	604.927.5445	HYDE CREEK RECREATION CENTRE	604.927.7946
BUSINESS LICENCES	604.927.5238	MAYOR & COUNCILLORS	604.927.5410
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	604.927.5440	OPERATIONS	604.927.5488
CEMETERY	604.927.5251	(Drainage & flood control; roads & lanes; sanitary, sewer; sidewalks, street lighting & traffic; signal outages, traffic inquiries; water system)	
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		



2580 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8

Tel: 604.927.5411 • Fax: 604.927.5360 • Email: [info@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:info@portcoquitlam.ca)

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