



Spring 2020 Municipal Newsletter—Volume 11/ Issue 2

COVID-19 is a Health Emergency

The District of Peachland is monitoring this pandemic closely and is working with Interior Health to ensure that our preparedness and response measures are appropriate and adaptable, based on the latest science in this evolving situation. We are following recommended protocols from the BC Ministry of Health and the Centre for Disease Control to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The District of Peachland is planning for the continued delivery of essential municipal services as well as collaborating with regional municipalities and government agencies to ensure consistent communications, operations and service delivery.

The District has closed playgrounds, skateparks and sport courts and residents are also asked to stay off public benches and picnic tables.

Also, keep yourself and your loved ones healthy and safe by:

- Maintaining social distancing – 2m separation with others outside of your household
- Do Not gather in groups outside of your household members
- Washing/disinfecting your hands frequently
- Limiting “touch” activities like Frisbee or ball
- Staying home if you are sick



For business with the District, the public is asked to perform business electronically or by appointment only:

- General Inquiries (250) 767-2647 info@peachland.ca
- Public Works/Parks (250) 767-2108 operations@peachland.ca
- Fire Department (250) 767-2841 fireclerk@peachland.ca
- Planning/Development (250) 767-3707 planning@peachland.ca
- Recreation/Facilities (250) 767-2133 rec-clerk@peachland.ca

Those seeking information on the spread and risk of COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to learn the facts from official Canadian health authorities. The District of Peachland website is updated regularly and includes links to the health authorities and information specific to Peachland including facility closures and contact information.

For more information, visit www.peachland.ca/covid-19-information or call 250.767.2647.



2020 PROPERTY TAXES ...are due JULY 2nd, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Your 2020 Property Tax Notice will be mailed out by the end of May. If you have not received yours by the middle of June, please call the Finance Department at 250-767-2647. New property owners are responsible for payment of their annual property taxes by the due date to avoid penalty, whether or not they receive a Property Tax Notice.

PROPERTY TAXES & UTILITY BILLING ONLINE SERVICES

Did you know that you can view your property tax and utility bill details online at anytime? You will need to register for an online account by visiting our website, www.peachland.ca and clicking on Online Services. For a step-by-step guide on how to complete the registration please call the office at 250-767-2647 and we will email you a copy of the guide. Once registered online, you can choose to have your property tax notice emailed to you instead of the standard paper copy mailed through Canada Post. You will be able to review all details of both your tax and utility bills including transactions, consumption, account balances and statements.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS

To pay your taxes or utilities online, simply visit your bank's website and set up the following Bill Payees:

- 1) Peachland Taxes – your account number will be the last 8 digits of your roll number. Do not enter any spaces, dots or dashes.
- 2) Peachland Utilities – your account number for banking purposes is the 11 digit utility bill account number. Do not enter any spaces, dots or dashes.

Also available is a preauthorized payment plan. Applications are available at the District Office or on our website www.peachland.ca

PENALTY RELIEF

This is a difficult time for all Canadians and you may be facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to look for ways to help you manage while adhering to legislation under the Community Charter and Local Government Act. While the tax due date will remain at July 2nd 2020, the tax penalty deadline has been pushed back to November 2nd 2020. We are also waiving the utility bill penalty for the first two quarters of 2020. The District Office remains closed to public traffic but we still have staff working to answer your questions. Please call 250-767-2647 or email finance@peachland.ca and we would be happy to assist you.

Yes, you CAN view your monthly water usage!

This is the time of year that the flowers are starting to show up and many folks are starting to think about setting up their irrigation system for the year.

The District would like to remind residents that they are able to track their water usage online.



This is a great idea to ensure water usage is consistent with previous years, and there are no surprises when the quarterly utility bills are mailed out. The District does monthly water meter reads and typically by the 9th day of the month this information is available for online viewing. For access to online meter readings, please follow the instructions at www.peachland.ca by selecting the "On-line Services" tile on the left side of the screen. If there are any concerns, or if you do not have access to the internet, you can always call Municipal Hall (250-767-2647).

NEW ADDITIONAL SCHOOL TAX

Beginning with the 2019 tax year, an additional school tax applies to most high-valued residential properties in BC, including detached homes, stratified condominium or townhouse units and most vacant land. BC Assessment determines if additional school tax applies. The additional school tax does not apply to non-stratified rental buildings with four or more housing units. For mixed-use properties, only the residential portion of the property's assessed value above \$3 million will be taxable. The additional tax rate is:

- 0.2 % on the residential portion assessed between \$3 million and \$4 million
- 0.4% tax rate on the residential portion assessed over \$4 million

For more information, visit the Ministry's website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/school-tax>

PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Starting May 1, 2020 eligible BC residents will be required to apply for property tax deferment on their principle residence online. Also for the first time, owners will be able to auto-renew their existing application. The online application is part of the BC government's work to improve the services that British Columbians rely on. The paper-based system lead to process delays and resulted in some property owners facing fees and penalties.

Municipalities will no longer be responsible for accepting applications. To apply, and for more information, visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes>

or call 1-888-355-2700.

For additional assistance in understanding the requirements and eligibility of the property tax deferment program, contact any of the over 60 Service BC Centres throughout the province.

In the Okanagan, the nearest Service BC Centre is located at:
Kelowna: #305 – 478 Bernard Avenue
Penticton: 40 Calgary Avenue

Responsible Dog Bylaw and Dog Parks

"If your dog poops and nobody is watching, it is still your job to pick it up". Peachland is covered by the Regional District Responsible Dog Owner Bylaw and it is important for all dog owners to be aware of their responsibilities including the responsibility for picking up dog waste.

As the parks staff have been busy working on getting parks and gardens ready for spring,



we have found more and more dog poop. We encourage all dog owners to be considerate of park staff and their work space. If you see workers in the gardens, please steer your dog to other areas to do their business and please always pick up dog poop.