



Duncan City Hall - Watercolour by Robert Amos, reproduced by permission of the Heritage Society of BC.

# Beneath the Clocktower

Your Insight into Issues and Events at Duncan City Hall  
November 2011

## 2011 CITY OF DUNCAN MUNICIPAL ELECTION WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS

**V**oting is the way you choose someone to represent your opinions and views in policies and laws that govern how the City of Duncan operates. By voting you are participating in democracy. The democratic right to vote is key to our system of government, a system that generations of Canadians have fought to build.

The last City of Duncan election had 35% of the voter base at the polls actively participating by voting. That means that 65% or 2,273 eligible voters in the City of Duncan did not have their opinion heard on who they wanted to represent their views.

This is your chance to make your opinions matter in shaping the next City Council. Ask questions that are important to you and your neighbourhood and listen to what your candidates have to say. Be the voice for the youth that cannot vote and encourage those who can to get out and have a say in shaping the future for your City.

General Voting Day for local government elections in the province of British Columbia is the third Saturday in November.

### When is General Voting Day and where do I vote?

- **Date: Saturday, November 19, 2011**
- **Place: Duncan Volunteer Fire Hall, 468 Duncan Street** is the Voting Place for the City of Duncan and will be open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

### Advance Voting: Duncan City Hall, 200 Craig Street on

- Wednesday, November 9, 2011 (8:00 am to 8:00 pm) and
- Tuesday, November 15, 2011 (8:00 am to 8:00 pm)

For more information please contact City Hall at 250-746-6126 or check the City's webpage at [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca).

### Elector Registration

There is no need to pre-register to vote. To register as a resident elector, you will be required to make a declaration that you meet the following requirements:

- You are 18 years of age or older,
- You are a Canadian citizen,
- You have been a resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately preceding the day of registration,
- You have been a resident of (or purchased property in) the City of Duncan at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of registration, and
- You are not otherwise disqualified by law from voting.

Resident electors will be required to produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity.

Non-resident property electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identity, proof that they are entitled to register in relation to the property, and, if applicable, written consent from the other property owners.

### Acceptable Identification Documents

For identification purposes on general voting and advance voting days, the following documents will be accepted as proof of identity and residency:

- BC Driver's licence
- BC Motor Vehicle Branch Identification Card
- ICBC owner's certificate of insurance and vehicle licence
- BC CareCard or BC Gold CareCard
- Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security Form
- Human Resources Canada Social Insurance Card
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada Citizenship Card
- City of Duncan Property Tax Notice
- Bank Debit Card or Credit Card
- Utility Bill (e.g. hydro, natural gas, water, telephone, cable).

For general information about voting in municipal elections:  
[http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm)

## Snow Removal

**J**ust a reminder that snow clearing on sidewalks is the responsibility of the adjoining business or residence.

The City has snow clearing priorities for the roads starting with the busiest streets, then downtown, and getting to the residential streets when able.



## Pruning Hedges And Shrubs

**H**edges, trees, shrubs, and all other vegetation overhanging the roads and sidewalks cause potential danger to users, in particular:

- Visually impaired
- Elderly people
- People with disabilities
- Bike riders
- Children in strollers
- Vehicle operators at intersections

Please keep your hedges, trees and shrubs trimmed to allow for safe passage for users of the roads and sidewalks.



## New Playground Equipment Installed at Centennial Park



New playground equipment at Centennial Park includes traditional swings and a 12.5 foot tall climbing tower pictured below.



## Report Issues On The Web

You can now report issues such as graffiti, potholes, sidewalk obstructions and streetlight outages on our Issue Reporting Form at [www.duncan.ca/citizens](http://www.duncan.ca/citizens).

Using the website ensures your concern is routed quickly to the appropriate person and its status is tracked. We will attempt to attend to the problem as soon as practical.

The purpose of this form is to capture and record comments, complaints and compliments pertinent to the City's aims and goals. The information collected through this web interface will be kept confidential according to the City's existing privacy policy.

**Note:** If the situation is an emergency, please contact the office at 250-746-6126 or at the after hours number 250-746-7192.

## Name the Trail Contest Winner Announced

The City of Duncan, North Cowichan, and Cowichan Tribes are happy to announce that the new trail linking the City of Duncan to Cowichan Commons will be named the Friendship (siiye`yu) Trail.

Peggy L. Smith submitted the winning trail name, the Friendship (siiye`yu) Trail in the "Name the Trail" contest.

The trail runs alongside the E & N Railway, offering a pedestrian, stroller and bicycle link with multiple access points. It will eventually connect the Cowichan Tribes from the south, to the City of Duncan downtown, and on to North Cowichan and the Cowichan Valley Trail.

For more information, please see the City's website at [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca) under Press Releases.

## Agreement to Address South End Diking Network

The City of Duncan, North Cowichan, and Cowichan Tribes have agreed to a perpetual Dike Permit to upgrade and maintain the portion of the South End Diking Network on Cowichan Tribes lands that protect some of their lands, and the urban core of the City of Duncan, and part of the south end of North Cowichan.

Under the terms of the \$2.7 million EMBC grant (for Phase 1), funding for upgrades to the diking around the JUB facility, and dike improvements between Somenos Creek and Lakes Road, was conditional upon the parties coming to this agreement.

This project is part of an overall plan to build an upgraded dike network connecting the City Dike, JUB Dike, Lakes Road Dike and Beverly Street Dike system.

An EMBC Flood Protection (Phase 2) grant application has also been submitted to undertake upgrades of the Lakes Road and Beverly Street Dike system, as well as river works near Somenos Creek, to protect against the impacts experienced during the 2009 flood event.

For more information, please see the City's website at [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca) under Press Releases.

## Low Flush Toilet Rebates

City Council has amended the City's Low Flush Toilet Rebate Policy. The rebate is now \$100 for replacements with either Dual Flush Toilets or 4.8L High Efficiency Toilets (HET).

For new construction, the rebate is now \$50 for installations of HET or Dual Flush Toilets. The 6L low flush toilet rebate was eliminated as of January 1, 2011.

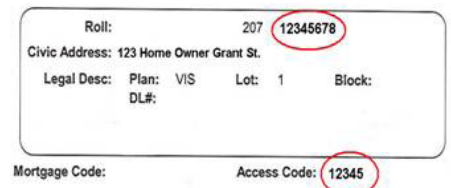
The City has offered a low flush toilet rebate to its residents since June of 2005. The rebate was designed as an incentive for residents to replace lower efficiency (13 or 20 litre) toilets with new higher efficiency toilets.

Times have changed, and the 6 litre toilet model is now the least efficient model being manufactured.

## Access Tax Account Online

You can now check your tax account balance and history at [www.duncan.ca/citizens](http://www.duncan.ca/citizens).

You just need your 8 digit Roll Number and 5 digit Access code off of your tax notice.



If you have any questions, please call 250-746-6126.

## Woodstove Changeout Program Now Offered Through CVRD

Exchange your old, uncertified woodstove (pre-1994) for a new EPA-certified wood, pellet or gas heating appliance.

Receive a \$300 rebate plus a \$50 retailer discount at participating retailers.

**Applications may be mailed or dropped off to:**

Woodstove Changeout Program  
Engineering &  
Environmental Services  
Cowichan Valley Regional District  
175 Ingram Street  
Duncan BC V9L 1N8

**For further information, please contact:**

Kathleen Milward  
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