



District of Lantzville Community Update

General Information

April 2009

Financial Plan & Corporate Strategic Plan

Residents are invited to attend Council's Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 14th, 2009, at which time Council will present the District's 5 Year Financial Plan and Council's Strategic Priorities for 2009-2011. While this meeting will facilitate the public consultation process regarding the District's finances, it will also be an opportunity for Council to share with the public their strategic priorities/objectives which were established by Council earlier this year. *The meeting will be held Tuesday, April 14th, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the District Office, 2nd Floor - 7192 Lantzville Road.* Some highlights of the proposed 5 Year Financial Plan are as follows:

- 4% tax increase (2009)
- Garbage parcel tax to increase by 6.73% (approx. \$7 per parcel)
- Water user rates to increase by 7.1% (approx. \$4 per parcel – minimum rate)
- Continuation of the Toilet Rebate Program
- Public Works Department to relocate to the industrial area (lease space)
- Upgrades to playground equipment in Copley, Huddleston and Rotary parks
- Purchase of a 'duty officer' vehicle (Protective Services)
- Interior building improvements at the Fire Hall (e.g., painting, window coverings, interior lighting, furnishings, etc.)
- Purchase of a new digital imager (Administration Department)

Strategic Priorities identified by Council include projects under the following headings -- Infrastructure, Service Delivery, Parks and Recreation, Communications, Planning, Finances and Corporate Maintenance.

A draft copy of the Financial Plan will be posted to the District's website www.lantzville.ca in late March.

While Council continues to contemplate its 5 Year Financial Plan, legislation does require that the Plan be adopted no later than May 15th, 2009. To learn more about Council's strategic direction and spending priorities, residents are encouraged to attend Council's Regular meeting on April 14th, and participate in the development of the District's plans.

Sanitary Sewer Collection System – Phase II – Information Update

The District of Lantzville would like to take this opportunity to provide the community with an update as it relates to Phase II of the District's proposed sanitary sewer collection system with a brief project update. Further to correspondence distributed to property owners within Phase II (dated January 20th, 2009), the District continues to make efforts to advance this project to a position whereby the District will schedule a variety of public information meetings. Efforts will be made to conduct these sessions the later part of April and again, correspondence will be sent directly to those property owners affected by this initiative. The District thanks you for your continued patience.

Watermain Flushing

Please note that Lantzville watermains and fire hydrants are being flushed between March 23rd and April 17th. Watermain flushing is part of the District's annual routine maintenance and is achieved by releasing water in the mains through fire hydrants and stand pipes. This causes a bubbling of air which may discolor the water. No chemicals are added to the system. Lantzville water users may experience some discoloration in their water and we recommend that you do laundry on weekends or evenings to avoid discoloration of clothes, etc. If you have any questions please call the District of Lantzville office at 250-390-4006 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

Reporting Streetlight Outages

If you notice a streetlight out in your neighbourhood, please contact the District Office and we will report it to BC Hydro. When you call please provide the closest street address to the light so that we can give BC Hydro accurate information.

Water Billing

Property owners are reminded that the due date for payment of your water bill without penalty is Thursday, April 16th, 2009. Payment can be made through the mail, telephone and internet banking or in person at the District Office.

Please Don't Feed the Rabbits!

As noted in a previous Community Update, the rabbit population in Lantzville continues to be an item of concern. A recent article in the *Nanaimo Daily News* reports that rabbits can carry diseases and that people should not approach them so as to avoid scratches and bites. While feeding the rabbits may seem harmless, the unnatural feeding zones are a breeding area for diseases that can be easily spread within the species. The District has also received calls from concerned residents who worry that the leftover food will not only attract rats but also bears. The BC Ministry of Environment also reports that feral rabbits are considered an invasive species that have caused irreparable damage to natural ecosystems and their functions.

The District would request that Lantzville residents not feed the rabbits.

Olympic Torch Relay

Did you know that the Olympic Torch Relay begins on October 30, 2009 when it travels from Sooke to Nanaimo? There are several host cities on the Island and the closest locations to Lantzville are Nanaimo, Parksville and Qualicum Beach. Although the Olympic Torch convoy of vehicles will be passing through Lantzville via Dickinson Road on their way to Parksville very early on Sunday, November 1st (@ 6:15 a.m.) there will be no one running with the torch until Parksville. If you are interested in carrying the torch, you can apply through the 2 official sponsors of the Olympic Games: Coca-Cola: www.icoke.ca or the Royal Bank of Canada: www.rbc.com/carrythetorch. Winners will be chosen from a random draw by July 15th. For more information: www.Vancouver2010.com/torchrelay.

District Office Closure – Easter Weekend

Please note the District Office will be closed on the statutory holidays of Good Friday (April 10th) and Easter Monday (April 13th). The office will re-open on Tuesday, April 14th at 8:30 am.

Mayor's Office Hours

Mayor Haime is available to meet with residents on Tuesday mornings between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. If you would like to schedule an appointment with the Mayor, please contact the District Office at 250-390-4006.

District Website

If you haven't done so already, you are invited to check out the District's website at www.lantzville.ca. The website is used as an information tool for the community and we would encourage residents to explore the wealth of information relating to current projects, various meetings and public notices of the District. Not finding what you need – don't hesitate to contact the District Office directly. Staff would be pleased to assist you with your needs.

Development Cost Charges

With the arrival of spring, construction activity tends to increase. The District would like to take this opportunity to remind the community that with construction, whether it be residential or commercial, there is the potential that Development Cost Charges (DCCs) may be applicable. DCCs are a means by which a local government can offset the costs associated with infrastructure and the expansion of existing local services through the creation and implementation of DCCs. Council of the District of Lantzville adopted "District of Lantzville Development Cost Charges for Water, Sewage, Drainage, Highway Facilities and Park Land Bylaw No. 52, 2006" on April 16th, 2007. As a result, the District of Lantzville is in a position to charge and collect DCCs as it relates to development and/or construction.

Individuals considering construction of single family residences, commercial buildings, etc., within the District of Lantzville are encouraged to contact the Chief Administrative Officer at the District Office to determine whether Development Cost Charges are applicable.