



City of Revelstoke

P.O. Box 170, Revelstoke, British Columbia V0E 2S0
revelstoke.ca

June 4, 2020

Mayors Address to the Community

Good Morning Everyone,

I am pleased to announce that the re-opening of most City facilities and amenities occurred this week without a hitch! Many of our doors were opened on Monday with robust safety plans to help protect citizens and staff. COVID-19 procedures have been implemented at all facilities following the guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer.

At this time the **Recreation and Aquatic Centre** remains closed to the public. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department would like to get your feedback on plans to re-open facilities as we go through the COVID-19 pandemic. A survey link will be posted on the City's website and social media platforms by the end of the week. Thank you for taking the time to help us understand your needs and interests.

Earlier this week, the public health authorities released operating guidelines for splash parks. Staff are coordinating opening plans for the splash pad and hope to have the facility open for the week of June 15th. In addition, the Skatemonitor program is working well. Monitors are tracking numbers and everyone is cooperating.

I would like to remind those who choose to enjoy our green spaces, playgrounds and skatepark of the requirements to maintain a safe physical distance from other users. Please wash or sanitize your hands prior to, while and after using these amenities for the safety of our whole community.

Property owners can expect to receive property tax notices via the mail starting this week, if you have not received them already. Property taxes are normally due July 2nd, but Council extended the deadline to

DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES

(250) 837-3637
development@revelstoke.ca

PUBLIC WORKS

(250) 837-2001
works@revelstoke.ca

FINANCE

(250) 837-2161
finance@revelstoke.ca

FIRE RESCUE
SERVICES

(250) 837-2884
fire@revelstoke.ca

PARKS, RECREATION
& CULTURE

(250) 837-9351
prc@revelstoke.ca

CORPORATE
ADMINISTRATION

(250) 837-2911
admin@revelstoke.ca

COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(250) 837-5345
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provide residents additional time in light of current events. The new deadline is Sept 2, 2020. Payments can be made via online banking through TD, Scotiabank, RBC, CIBC and Revelstoke Credit Union. Property taxes and other payments can also be made in-person, please check the City's website for updated times and accepted methods of payment. A new secure drop box outside the Finance Department at City Hall has been installed to deposit cheques (no cash, please) or they can be mailed to: City Hall at PO. Box 170, Revelstoke, BC, V0E 2S0.

The Home Owner Grant can now be claimed online – visit revelstoke.ca then choose Claim the Provincial Home Owner Grant under the “I'd like to” section or you can email ehog@revelstoke.ca with a photo of your completed grant application.

While total taxes for the average home, assessed at \$450,000 in 2019, are up \$242.00 per year; Council controls only \$103.00 through an approved 6% municipal tax increase, and other taxing authorities including the Health District, Regional District and Okanagan Regional Library taxes control the remaining \$140.00. For more information on the services these entities provide you, please check out their webpages.

Help shape the final concept design for new affordable housing for families, seniors and youth working in Revelstoke. BC Housing has scheduled a second community engagement session entitled “Revelstoke: Let's Talk Affordable Housing” at 420 Downie Street, a live online presentation on Wednesday June 10, 2020 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Join BC Housing and the City of Revelstoke explore three different site concepts. Check out the site <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/420-Downie>, your questions are welcomed. The link will be included with this video.

Just a reminder that under the City's policy – “Encroachment on City Sidewalks” allows retail stores to apply for an encroachment agreement with Development Services to permit sandwich board signs, display tables and racks, this is not just for liquor

establishments, this is not just for liquor establishments. If you have any questions please contact development@revelstoke.ca

Please respect all markers and signage at City facilities regarding physical distancing and best practices for reducing the spread of COVID-19. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to follow the Provincial Health Officer's directives to keep safe and healthy, remember to physical distance and again, please remember to kind!

Today, I understand that a peaceful protest is planned for Revelstoke in support of the horrific events perpetrated in the United States this past week. Indeed, Black Lives Matter and I cannot imagine the racism placed against people of color. Public demonstrations and protests are in themselves legal here in Canada, as long as you don't break any laws while you're at it. Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees your right to protest.

Our provincial health officer says that anyone who attends protests against racism and police violence needs to do their part to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19.

I repeat the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry and "I encourage anyone who might be demonstrating to also please continue to keep that safe distance, to recognize the importance of making sure that we are not allowing this virus a chance to spread."

"Your message can still be heard, no matter how far apart you stand."

Our Health Minister Adrian Dix said that public protest is a vital part of life in a democracy but suggested that organizers should consider virtual demonstrations or other alternatives in the future.

During these difficult times locally and globally, it is important to remember that we should always extend kindness to our friends, neighbours and visitors – please be kind, ALWAYS.