

What's **NEW** @the **City** 2016

www.abbotsford.ca

MAY



Update from City Council

Our first full year as a City Council saw many challenges and many successes and I'm pleased to be able share some of our key achievements over the past year.

Guiding all of the successes you see reflected here is Council's vision for the community – that Abbotsford is the Hub of the Fraser Valley. This vision sees Abbotsford as a preferred destination for residents and businesses alike, and provides the foundation for our service delivery to the community.

As the Hub City, Abbotsford will become the regional centre of the communities of the Fraser Valley. The City of Abbotsford will be home to regionally centralized services and agencies including health care, courts, transportation, the university, airport, provincial and federal government services, entertainment and cultural facilities, and commerce.

To achieve this vision, Council created four Cornerstones to support and focus the work of Council and the City:

1. Vibrant Economy
2. Complete Community
3. Fiscal Discipline
4. Organizational Alignment

You'll see the principles behind these four Cornerstones reflected in every decision we make, from municipal planning decisions for the growth of our community through to departmental business planning and budgeting efforts.

Every day I am humbled and proud to be serving this wonderful community and the amazing people who work and call Abbotsford home. Thank you for allowing me to represent you and put our best foot forward in one of the best places to be in BC!

Please feel free to provide me with your thoughts at any time.

Mayor Henry Braun

Contact Council:

www.abbotsford.ca/emailcouncil

2015 Highlights

- In 2015, Council endorsed the new **2015-2018 Strategic Plan**, establishing an exciting vision for the City and providing direction and guidance as our City develops.
- Made further headway on the goals of our **Homelessness Action Plan** by hiring a Homelessness Coordinator, approving the development of a **30 bed** low-barrier shelter and opening a **40 bed** temporary winter shelter through local partnerships.
- Development activity saw an **increase of 60%** in total construction value over 2014; an **increase of 22%** in land development applications received; and an **increase of 27%** in new commercial floor space from 2014.
- Initiated the **U-District Neighbourhood Plan**.
- Launched a new program and website for the City **Economic Development** department.
- Won an **Open for Business Award** from the BC Small Business Roundtable. Maintained high quality **water service** to the community throughout the **drought** conditions in summer 2015.
- Constructed the new Matsqui Recreation Centre **Turf Fields**, which adds **64 hours per week** of community field time.
- Became the **first community in BC** to introduce a GIS site selector online that offers property search, demographic analysis and interactive mapping.
- Introduced **e-Billing** for tax and utility bills.

ABBOTSFORD CITY COUNCIL



MAYOR
HENRY BRAUN



COUNCILLOR
LES BARKMAN



COUNCILLOR
SANDY BLUE



COUNCILLOR
KELLY CHAHAL



COUNCILLOR
BRENDA FALK



COUNCILLOR
MOE GILL



COUNCILLOR
DAVE LOEWEN



COUNCILLOR
PATRICIA ROSS



COUNCILLOR
ROSS SIEMENS

Where your tax dollars are going in 2016



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
\$219

DRAINAGE*
\$92

WATERWORKS**
\$229

POLICE
\$757

SANITARY SEWER**
\$174

SOLID WASTE*
\$220

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
\$32

Fiscal Discipline at City Hall

Over the last four years, the City of Abbotsford's annual tax increase has averaged less than 1% per year.

This illustration gives a snapshot of how your money is divided up to support services and amenities across our community.

Sewer and water charges are billed bi-monthly directly to residents that use these services and are not billed on the annual tax notice.

Dollars are based on 2016 budgeted municipal taxes (city/police/library) for a typical single family residence with a property assessment of \$406,000. (Does not include taxes for schools, hospital and the FVRD).

Original graphic courtesy of: City of Pitt Meadows & Farnsworth Designs.

* Utility user fees includes operations and maintenance, current & future infrastructure replacement and debt servicing.

**Waterworks & sanitary sewer based on the 2014 median single family water usage (210 m³).

*Includes bylaw enforcement, corporate & administrative services and municipal buildings.



Taxes are due July 4, 2016.

Postmarks are not accepted as the due date, so please allow enough time to mail!

Online is Easier!

Set-up the City as a bill payer through your online banking system.

You can also claim your **Home Owner Grant** online at www.abbotsford.ca/hog.

Note that this year financial institutions will **NOT** accept your Home Owner grant.



The total value of building permits in 2015 was **\$296,704,729**, up **60%** from 2014.

Abbotsford parks crews maintains **157 parks** consisting of over **2,584 acres of parkland** and **98 kilometres of trails**.

Multilingual Services

If you would like to request City information in a different language, please contact the City at communications-info@abbotsford.ca and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

70% less in the landfill



Residents diverted 70% of their garbage from the landfill this year by taking part in the City's curbside recycling and compostable waste programs.

ਇਹ ਖਬਰਨਾਮਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਲਈ, ਵਿਜ਼ਿਟ ਕਰੋ www.abbotsford.ca.

To read this newsletter in Punjabi, please visit www.abbotsford.ca.



Moving Forward

Over the last 2 years, the City completed the most significant city-shaping process ever undertaken with Abbotsforward; the Official Community Plan (OCP) project. A draft OCP is ready for viewing at www.abbotsforward.ca.

Let us know what you think! [@Abbotsforward](https://twitter.com/Abbotsforward)

We still need volunteers for **Canada Day** fun! www.abbotsford.ca/canaday



In 2015 the Building Department issued **6,462** business licences, including intermunicipal business licences, where businesses can get one licence to operate in **11** local communities.



Get the App! Never miss a garbage day again. Download our CurbCollect app and get notification about your pick up day and use the online search feature to find out what trash goes where! Download for free at the Apple Appstore or Google Play.

Go paperless!

eBilling delivers your tax and utility bill right to your email box. Visit www.abbotsford.ca/mycity and sign up today!

Abbotsford hosted over **160 community events** in 2015 including runs, walks, festivals, fundraisers, park concerts and cycling races. Check out the great things happening in the city: www.abbotsford.ca/events

OPEN AIR

BURNING BAN

City-wide from

June 1 – September 30

This includes all rural areas.

Burning is not permitted in urban areas at any time.

Fines will be issued to people burning during the ban.

www.abbotsford.ca/fire

Avid gardeners can sign-up now for **FREE** landscape and irrigation programs and save money on their water utility bill! Log on to ourwatermatters.ca or call 604-864-5514 for more information.



The Conference Board of Canada named Abbotsford-Mission as one of the **fastest growing economies** in Canada in 2015.



In 2015, the Abbotsford Centre ranked in the **top 200** of entertainment venues worldwide and was the **second busiest in BC**.

In 2015, the Airport welcomed **over half a million passengers**, a new WestJet service to Las Vegas, and Air Canada rouge service to Toronto.



Receive up to a \$200 rebate on a new high-efficiency washing machine between May 1 and June 30.

www.powersmart.ca/appliances or www.ourwatermatters.ca.

WATER RESTRICTIONS began May 1

LAWNS: 2 DAYS ONLY

Even Addresses Wed & Sat • Odd Addresses Thurs & Sun

MORNINGS BETWEEN 6am – 8am ONLY

GARDENS: AS NEEDED

Flowers • Vegetables • Trees • Shrubs

Keep up to date with your City:

