

UPDATE FROM CITY COUNCIL

On behalf of Abbotsford City Council, I am pleased to share with you some of the City's highlights from last year as well as the initiatives that are underway right now.

Guiding all of our work at the City of Abbotsford is the **2019-2022 Strategic Plan**, envisioning Abbotsford as the Hub of the Fraser Valley. Every decision we make is guided by the four Cornerstones of this plan: vibrant economy, complete community, fiscal discipline and organizational alignment. Information about our strategic plan including our 2019 priorities, is available on our website at abbotsford.ca/strategic. We also report out on our yearly accomplishments in our Community Report which can be viewed online at abbotsford.ca/communityreport. I encourage you to have a look!

Council is very pleased that the **Plan for 200K** project, a planning update process that included 20 different Master Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Studies and Projects, is coming to completion after two years of solid work. In many ways, however, this is really just the beginning. Now we are looking forward to bringing the projects, detailed in the Plans, to life as we grow to a community of 200,000 residents.

Achieving our vision of being the Hub of the Fraser Valley is a community effort. Keeping the community informed about City initiatives and tapping into the knowledge and experience of our residents and businesses is extremely important to Council. We believe we can build a stronger, resilient community when everyone is engaged, which is why we are launching **"Let's Talk Abbotsford."** You can find out more about how to sign up in this newsletter or by visiting letstalkabbotsford.ca, and I encourage you to take these simple steps and be a part of shaping your City.

Finally, we are very excited to have had Abbotsford selected as a Top 7 Intelligent Community by the Intelligent Community Forum for the work our entire community is doing to respond to changes we are facing in a technological and digital age. Our community has always had a spirit of innovation and collaboration, and we look forward to continuing to meet these challenges head-on to ensure we are building a vibrant economy and improving our quality of life.

On behalf of City Council, we are honoured to serve our diverse and vibrant community a city on the move, filled with opportunity, hope and expectation.

Mayor Henry Braun

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed and adopted **9 City Master Plans and 1 Neighbourhood Plan** in 2018.
- Received a **Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers' award** for our Transportation and Transit Master Plan.
- Broke ground on the **new Provincial/Supreme Courthouse**.
- Began the **redevelopment of Jubilee Park**.
- Welcomed more than **1.2 million guests to our recreation centres**.
- Welcomed **840,000 passengers** through our International Airport - another record breaking year!
- Completed the **Salton Road Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge** project to improve mobility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists and enhance our active transportation networks.
- **Earned a coveted '5 Blooms'** in the provincial Communities in Bloom program.
- Responded to **8,700 fire rescue incidents** as well as deployed firefighters to the Burns Lake area to fight wildfires.

ABBOTSFORD CITY COUNCIL



MAYOR
HENRY BRAUN



COUNCILLOR
BRUCE BANMAN



COUNCILLOR
LES BARKMAN



COUNCILLOR
SANDY BLUE



COUNCILLOR
KELLY CHAHAL



COUNCILLOR
BRENDA FALK



COUNCILLOR
DAVE LOEWEN



COUNCILLOR
PATRICIA ROSS



COUNCILLOR
ROSS SIEMENS



How your tax dollars pay for City services.

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

Dollars are based on 2019 budgeted municipal taxes (city/police/library) for a typical single family residence with a property assessment of \$688,000. (Does not include taxes for schools, hospital and the FVRD.)

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

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

^ Waterworks & sanitary sewer based on the 2018 median single family water usage (214 m³).

• Includes bylaw enforcement, corporate & administrative services.



Taxes are due July 2, 2019.

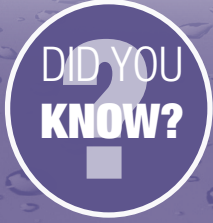
Credit Cards now accepted for ONLINE payments. You can collect credit card points this year by paying your taxes and utilities with your credit card online. Credit cards are only accepted for **online payments**. **Credit cards are not accepted in person at City Hall.** To pay online visit **abbotsford.ca**.

Online is easier!

Set-up the City of Abbotsford as a bill payee through your online banking system.

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

Note that financial institutions **DO NOT** accept Home Owner Grants.



The City's Waterwise Portal, available through MyCity online, allows residents to track and view their water usage! Its an invaluable tool to monitor your water usage through the summer months! Check it out for free through **abbotsford.ca/mycity**.

ਇਹ ਖਬਰਨਾਮਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਪੂੜਨ ਲਈ, ਵਿਜ਼ਿਟ ਕਰੋ **abbotsford.ca**.

To read this newsletter in Punjabi, visit **abbotsford.ca**.



We've got an app for that!

Our @abbotsford civic app helps you stay connected on your mobile device. Look up recreation schedules, report an issue, find your curbside collection schedule, park trails and a whole lot more! Download for **free** at the App Store or Google Play.

Your voice, your city

Let's Talk Abbotsford is our new online engagement portal where you can have your say and stay up-to-date on projects that the City is working on. Here is where you can share your opinions, ideas and give feedback on issues and projects that matter to you! Sign up and help us create the community that you want to live in. Find out more at **letstalkabbotsford.ca**



Cashiers Hours Extended

From **June 3 to July 2**, the Cashiers counter at City Hall will be open **8am to 5pm**, Monday to Friday.

Paying your taxes by cheque?

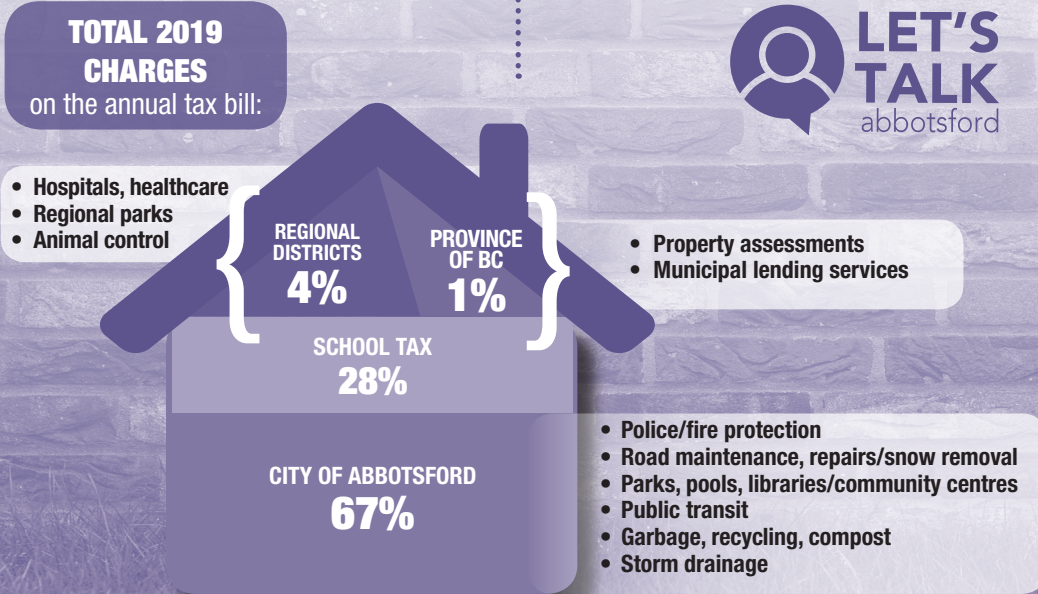
Canada Post postmarks are not accepted as the due date, so please allow for delivery time for your mailed cheque to arrive. City Hall also has drop boxes which are emptied every day. **Cheques only, please!**

Open air burning ban

A city-wide burning ban is in place from **June 1 to September 30**. Fines will be issued for all open air burning during this time. Find out more at **abbotsford.ca/fire**

Speculation & Vacancy Tax

The **BC Speculation & Vacancy Tax is due July 2**. This is a BC Government program and the payment has to be made directly to the province. For more information: **gov.bc.ca/spectaxinfo**



IRRIGATION & LANDSCAPE Water Efficiency Program

Abbotsford residents can take advantage of free irrigation and landscape assessments this summer in an effort to conserve water and help lower your water bill. During this session you will learn how to make your landscape more water efficient, how to amend your soil and receive recommendations on how to make your irrigation system more efficient. If you amend your soil, plant waterwise plants, or install a climate-based irrigation controller, you will be eligible for up to \$250 in rebates.

You need to sign up for an assessment before you apply for the rebates (funding limited). To apply or find out more visit **ourwatermatters.ca**



Water restrictions start May 1. Conserving early helps keep the lake level high, so we don't have to move to a higher stage as the weather gets warmer and drier.

Thanks for conserving and reserving!

For conservation information: **ourwatermatters.ca**

WATER RESTRICTIONS start 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: