

Beneath the Clocktower

YOUR INSIGHT INTO ISSUES AND EVENTS AT DUNCAN CITY HALL
May 2007

Check out our award winning website at www.duncan.ca



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

TAX DEFERMENT NOW AVAILABLE AT 55

For those taxpayers over the age of 55, the Province of BC offers a tax deferral program that allows you to defer your taxes. The taxes not paid now will be taken out of your future estate (at low interest rates – currently 4%). More information is available by calling 250-387-0555 or 1-800-663-7867 and request a transfer to 387-0555. or at

http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/property_tax_deferment.htm

Tax Prepayment Option for 2008

Many people have difficulty meeting annual expenses like property taxes. The City's monthly payment program will spread your 2008 taxes over a 10 month period. Interest will be paid on all payments from payment date to the Property Tax due date at an annualized rate of prime minus 3%. (Currently 6.00% minus 3% = 3.00%.)

Included with your tax notice is a form to authorize the automatic debit from your bank account. Your tax account must be paid in full at time of application and the application must be returned to the City on or before July 4, 2007.

Average Single Family Home Assessment increases 20%

The average single family home for 2006 was assessed at \$184,623. For 2007, the average home is \$221,669, an increase of 20%.

The average home above paid \$669 of municipal tax in 2006 and will pay \$703 in 2007 (an increase of \$34 or 5%). The total tax bill for the average home (before home owner grant) increased from \$1,562 to \$1,670.

The average business property increased from an assessed value of \$277,786 in 2006 to \$336,332 in 2007 (21%).

The average business above paid \$3,567 of municipal tax in 2006 and will pay \$3,660 in 2007. The total tax bill for the average business increased from \$7,384 to \$7,879.

Major Projects planned for 2007

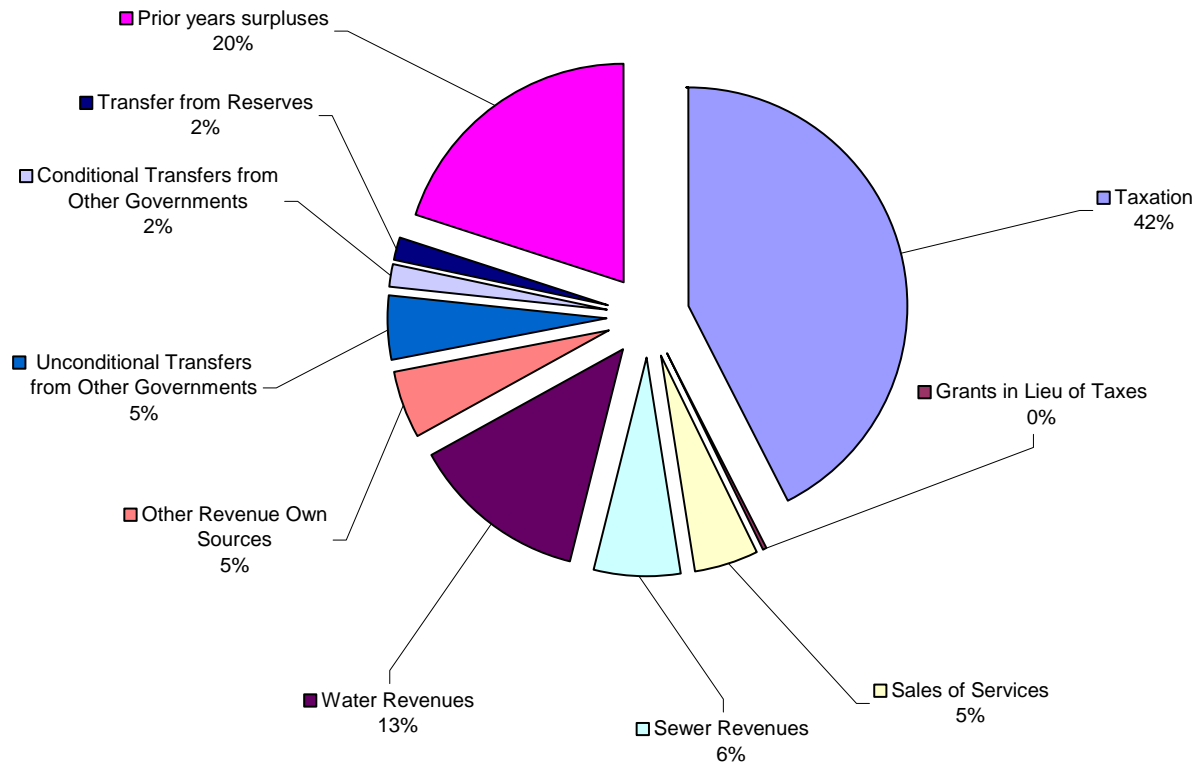
- Refurbishing of TCH totem poles to be relocated elsewhere
- Seismic upgrade to Fire Hall
- 33% increase in road rehabilitation
- Revitalization of Craig Street
- Chesterfield St. upgrades
- Government Street Crosswalk redesign
- TCH Boulevard replanting
- Allenby/Canada Ave/Cowichan Way intersection upgrades
- New Ball Fields on Somenos Rd.
- Centennial Park upgrades
- Increased sidewalk and road maintenance
- Increased maintenance of Centennial Park

New policing tax initiated by Province

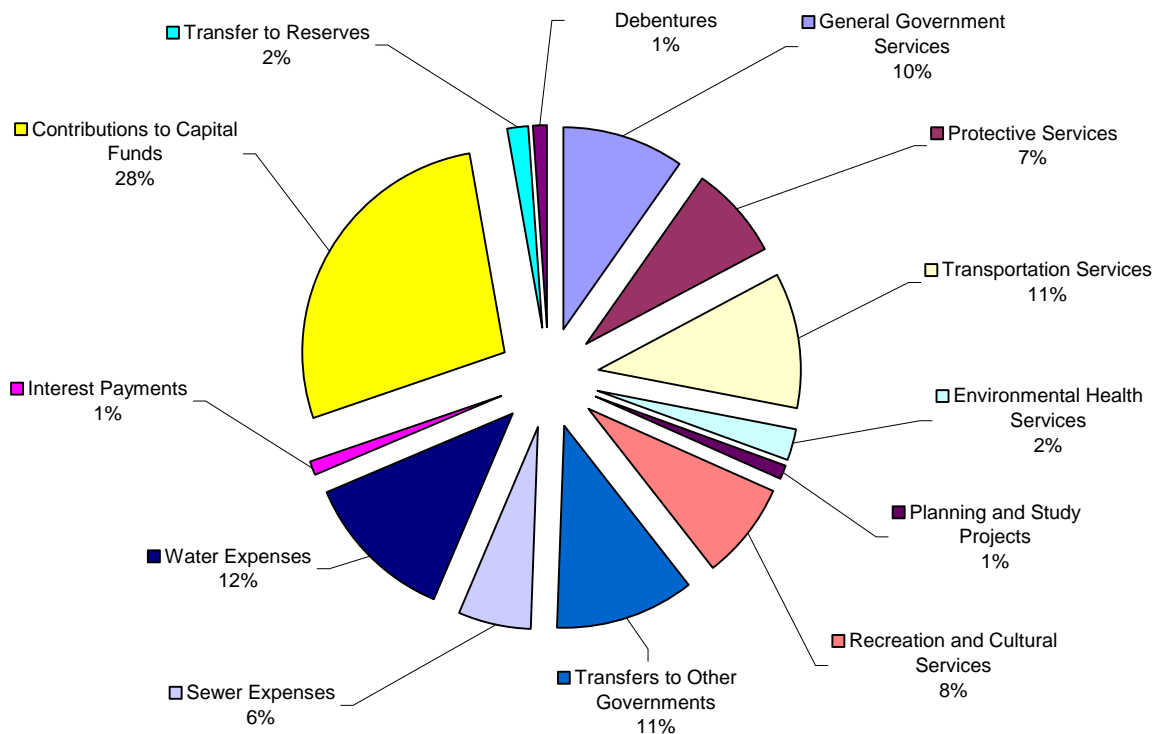
You may have noticed the new line on your tax bill for a Policing Levy. Similar to the School tax amount, the rate for this new levy is set by the province. This levy was created to level the playing field for communities with fewer than 5,000 in population who were previously not paying any amount towards the policing services they received.

The amount being collected by the City is \$186,207 which gets passed on to the province to help fund policing initiatives. This amount will not result in any direct increase in funding for the local detachment. This amount is far less than what the City would have paid if its population had crossed the 5,000 threshold in the 2006 Census. The City will not begin paying the higher amount of policing costs (est. >\$1,000,000) until after the next Census in 2010, even if a boundary restructure takes place.

Budgeted Operating Revenues



Budgeted Operating Expenditures



Above is a snapshot of how the annual spending of the City breaks down by major category and how that spending is funded. Note that in 2007 the City is utilizing a large amount of prior years' surpluses to undertake some major capital projects listed on the front page.