

# Beneath the Clocktower

YOUR INSIGHT INTO ISSUES AND EVENTS AT DUNCAN CITY HALL

July 2008

Check out our award winning website at [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca)



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

## Fire Chief Retires

After 45 years of service to our community, Chief Glenn Mackie retired on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 and will be sorely missed.

After joining the department in 1963, Glenn became Chief in 1974, and was instrumental in developing the department; with a new fire hall, expanded training, and improved apparatus, including a ladder truck to better serve the City.

During his tenure, Chief Mackie became an invaluable resource to the other valley fire departments and served on the executive of the Fire Chief's Association of BC.

## Thank you Chief Mackie !

New Fire Chief, Mike McKinlay started with the department 20 years ago and became an officer after 10 years. The City congratulates and salutes Chief McKinlay!



**COWICHAN  
2008™**  
THE JOURNEY OF  
A GENERATION™  
LE PARCOURS  
D'UNE GÉNÉRATION™

## Graffiti Removal Program

D-Tag day was a great success! A very large amount of graffiti was removed. In order for success to continue in the battle to rid Duncan of graffiti, the on-going program is extremely important. Graffiti must be removed as soon as possible after it is discovered.

Other ways to detract potential taggers is to ensure your property always looks occupied. Lock all doors and exterior gates and ensure good lighting in and around the property. Participate in a block or business watch program. Do not glorify graffiti by using graffiti images in advertising. Remove objects that can be used to gain access to roofs, eliminate target areas such as walls and fences by planting shrubs. Landscape walls, fences and storefronts with flowers, shrubs, ivy or other plants and climbing vines.



### Please Report New Graffiti

Always call the police to report any new graffiti. This helps the police build a case against the vandals, even if they are not seen in the act. Contact the North Cowichan Duncan RCMP at 250-748-5522 or Community Policing at 250-701-9145.

The City has also provided an easy reporting tool on our website for reporting new incidences of Graffiti, Potholes, and Streetlight Outages. Please report graffiti as soon as you see it so we can notify the property owners to have it removed ASAP.

Bylaw officers will then contact the property owner to ensure they are aware that the property has been tagged, inform property owners of ongoing strategies to combat graffiti, and to reinforce why graffiti needs to be removed as soon as possible. Sadly, if the property owners do not remove the graffiti on-their-own and within a reasonable amount of time, it will be necessary for the City to arrange graffiti removal at a cost to be borne by the property owner.

The City is arranging preferred pricing for graffiti removal through an island contractor.

## Let the Games Begin

The North American Indigenous Games are about to begin. August 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the Opening Ceremonies - Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> is Closing Ceremonies. There are 16 sporting events taking place from Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Events will include: archery, athletics (track & field), badminton, baseball, basketball, canoeing, golf, lacrosse, rifle shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball, and wrestling. There's something for every interest and age group including an extensive amount of cultural events. Details of dates, times, and event locations are easily located at: [www.cowichan2008.com](http://www.cowichan2008.com).

**Attendance is FREE** at all sporting events.

As part of Tribal Journeys, over 100 traditional ocean-going canoes, from a variety of canoe cultures and nations will arrive in Cowichan Bay on July 28<sup>th</sup>, after making a two-week journey to Cowichan, travelling from as far north as the Alaskan border (Tlinget) and the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida) and as far south as Oregon State.

**Come out and welcome the NAIG parade of athletes to our community, make some noise and have some fun on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 in Charles Hoey Park, next to the Train Station.** We will have music and entertainment for all, including Penny the Owl from Island Savings, Cowichan Pipe and Drum Band, Cowichan Valley Concert Band, and more.

## Centennial Park Revitalization Plan

The vision for Centennial Park is that the park will become a welcoming, well used, and safe city park with opportunities to play, socialize, exercise and participate in community events. The ground conditions of the park have delayed the detailed design work, but this is nearing completion and will be coming to Council for review in the near future.

Many of these improvements will happen over the next few years. If grant funding is secured, the timelines will shorten. Most importantly, we want a City park that is a beautiful jewel in our downtown where people feel safe and welcome.

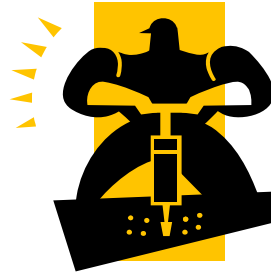
Larger versions of these plans can be viewed at City Hall and on our website at: [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca)



## Public Works Upgrades

A big thank you goes out to the Public Works Department for their progress on the 2008 Capital projects:

- Street paving and sidewalk panel replacements are progressing well.
- Chesterfield Street's water, sewer, and pavement replacement has been completed and looks great.
- The Canada Avenue/Sherman Road water main replacement, completed by the City's own crews, went very well.



## Mosquito Season is Upon Us!



City Council would like to remind everyone that mosquito season is here and along with it, the growing threat of West Nile Virus eventually arriving in the Valley. Everyone should take part in limiting the opportunities for mosquitoes to grow and spread by eliminating possible breeding grounds in their own yards and then simply follow "The 4 D's" approach to combating these pests:

- **DRAIN** anything that holds water, drill holes to let the water out as any amount of standing stagnant water can support larvae.
- **DRESS** in light, loose fitting, long sleeved clothing when outside during mosquito season.
- **DAWN and DUSK** activities should be limited (mosquitoes prefer these times of the day).
- **DEET** is the most effective repellent.

For more information on mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus visit either: [www.viha.ca/mho/disease/west\\_nile\\_virus.html](http://www.viha.ca/mho/disease/west_nile_virus.html) or [www.bccdc.org](http://www.bccdc.org)

## Cowichan Place Project reaches milestone

The City of Duncan and Municipality of North Cowichan are pleased to have reached an agreement with the School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) Board of Education to sell approximately 13 acres of land immediately north of the Cowichan Aquatic Centre for the future development of new facilities to replace Cowichan Secondary School.

Previous milestones include the land purchase from Cowichan Exhibition Society, sale to Vancouver Island University (formerly Malaspina), and purchase of a new location for the ball fields on Somenos Road. We are very excited by the opportunities that Cowichan Place presents for this community – an opportunity for Cowichan students to learn and thrive in a new and modern campus setting, and the opportunities for synergies in education, culture, and recreation for the community.

## Toilet Rebate Program

The City currently offers a rebate to City of Duncan property owners who are connected to the City water and sewer system who replace their old toilets with new low flush models. There is a lifetime limit of 2 toilet rebates per residential or commercial unit.

The rebate is \$100 for dual flush (3/6 litre) models and \$60 for low flush (6 litre) models. You must provide a receipt as proof of installation of a low flush or dual flush toilet and proof that the old toilet has been removed and destroyed. This is achieved by providing 3 photographs:

1. of the old toilet in place.
2. of the old toilet removed with the tank broken.
3. of the new toilet in place.

New construction - Low flush (6 litre) toilets are mandatory in new construction. However, the City is providing a \$40 rebate for those property owners who install Dual Flush toilets (3/6 litre) instead of the mandatory low flush models. There is no maximum number of toilets for this incentive.



## Watering Restrictions:

**Odd** numbered buildings water on odd calendar days (1, 3, 5, 7 etc.)  
Time of day from 6am to 9am **OR** from 7pm to 10pm.



**Even** numbered buildings water on even calendar days (2, 4, 6, 8 etc.)  
Time of day from 6am to 9am **OR** from 7pm to 10pm.

## New Web Reporting

You are now able to report incidences such as Graffiti, Potholes, and Streetlight outages on our website at [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca). We will attempt to attend to the problem as soon as practical. If an emergency situation, continue to contact the office or after hours number.

