

Beneath the Clocktower

YOUR INSIGHT INTO ISSUES AND EVENTS AT DUNCAN CITY HALL

May 2008

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

Caboose Needs Volunteers

The Caboose at the Train Station has been slated for restoration starting June 16th. The project will begin with the arrival of the crane to lift the caboose to its temporary base on the lawn. The present base will be excavated and rebuilt. In order to assure an authentic restoration, Public Works Operations Manager, Len Thew has researched the history of this particular caboose. Its heyday was in the post-war years when Vancouver Island logging was at its peak and it was operated out of Deerholme.

"Local train buff, Michael Jansson went to Wainwright, Alberta and obtained copies of the original stencils and colour swatches to ensure period correctness," he said, "This theme will be presented to Council shortly for approval. "

Our budget is limited, so we could do with volunteers! Talented, skilled or willing labour is needed, along with others to take care of the myriad of little "gofer" tasks that are generally required. If you are interested, then we are interested in hearing from you. To save a number of phone calls to Public Works, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/3le6tv> and fill in the request form.

Someone will contact you in the near future. There could even be an appreciation barbeque in your future!



NAIG is Just Around the Corner

Mark your calendars: Aug. 3 for Opening Ceremonies and Aug. 10 for Closing Ceremonies. There are 16 sporting events taking place from Aug. 4 to 10, archery, athletics (track & field), badminton, baseball, basketball, boxing, canoeing, golf, lacrosse, rifle shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, tae kwon do, volleyball, and wrestling. There will be something for every interest. For specific details on dates, times, and event locations go to www.cowichan2008.com. Attendance is **FREE** at all sporting events. Oh yes, remember to sign up to be a NAIG VOLUNTEER. You may register today on line, or by visiting the Volunteer Centre at the Quw'utsun' Cultural Centre.

Wheels in Motion & Bike To Work

Bike to Work Week, starts June 2 and runs to Sunday June 8. The idea is to promote riding a bicycle to work. City Council has a few riders primed to go and has issued a challenge to the other local governments to join in. The second important event is the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event to be held in Duncan City Square Sunday June 8. The highlight of the day will be the walk around town, the 3 streets of wheelchair rugby games and a kids slalom course. The event continues to grow every year and this year promises to be the most successful yet. This year's donations will help research spinal cord injuries as well as help buy wheelchairs to create and support a wheelchair sports league locally.



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

TOTEM PROJECT

The Totem Committee has re-installed 7 of the refurbished totems from the highway into the city core. We have 3 new poles on Station Street, an extra pole in the China Gardens Park, and 2 new ones added to the original site in the planted area outside of the old Baljet property. One has been added to Kenneth Street to bring a greater totem presence to Kenneth Street. A totem will soon be placed in the planter in Lois Lane, on the bump-out near Artist's Alley on Station Street and on the triangular corner at Station and Government.



The Rick Hansen pole, previously under the old Red Oak in Charles Hoey Park is being repaired and will be moved to a new home in Centennial Park to celebrate the \$3,000 donation from the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event towards building the new Centennial Park Walking Trail.

The Totem Committee is also developing plans to upgrade the totems that have not seen a paintbrush recently. We are deep into the copyright issue where we are exploring areas of law that have been previously unexplored.

Message from Mayor and Council

We can now safely proclaim that spring is finally here. Staff and Council have been busy over the past few months preparing the 2008 annual budget and five-year financial plan. We have worked hard to ensure that we balance this year's budget and taxes with the priorities and projects that ensure better services and city infrastructure, and ultimately lead to a high quality of life as stated in the vision of our Official Community Plan.

We look forward to the opening of the New Cowichan Aquatic Centre in September, and hope you and your family get an opportunity to experience the vastly improved facilities. We feel very positive about the progress at "Cowichan Place". The newly named "University of Vancouver Island" will launch plans for their new campus at the site later this year. We are also in the process of receiving tenders for improvements to Centennial Park and work will likely begin in early summer. Many other projects are underway and I encourage you to contact staff or council members if you have any concerns or questions.

Council is pleased to welcome two new staff members to the City this spring. Abbas Farahbakhsh has been appointed Director of Public Works and David Hewetson is the new Building Inspector/LAFC. Council also welcomes back Lynn Ketch as the Director of Corporate Services.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer season.

Average SFH Assessment Increases 16%

The average single family home for 2007 was assessed at \$221,669. For 2008, the average home is \$258,237, an increase of 16%. This home paid \$703 of municipal tax in 2007 and will pay \$752 in 2008 (an increase of \$49). The total tax bill for the average home (incl. CVRD and School taxes, but before home owner grant) increased from \$1,670 to \$1,769 (an increase of \$99 or 5.9%).

The average business property increased from an assessed value of \$336,356 in 2007 to \$373,513 in 2008 (11%). This business paid \$3,660 of municipal tax in 2007 and will pay \$3,747 in 2008. The total tax bill for the average business increased from \$7,879 to \$7,896 (an increase of \$17 or 0.2%).

If your assessment increase was higher than the average increase your tax increase will also be higher than that expressed for the "average"

Major Projects Planned for 2008

- ❖ Seismic upgrade to Fire Hall
- ❖ Completion of Chesterfield Ave. upgrades
- ❖ Completion of Cowichan Aquatic Centre
- ❖ Government Street Crosswalk redesign
- ❖ TCH Boulevard replanting
- ❖ New Ball Fields on Somenos Rd.
- ❖ Centennial Park upgrades
- ❖ Stairs linking Cairnsmore St. to Canada Ave.
- ❖ Refurbishing of the Train Station Caboose
- ❖ Cowichan Place

For comments/questions/concerns about this newsletter, please contact Councillor Sharon Jackson 746-9451 or email suggestionbox@duncan.ca

Bylaw Reminders

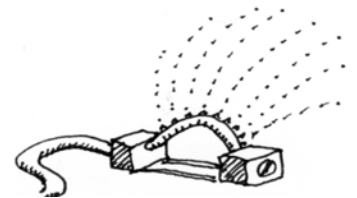
OPEN BURNING: Open burning is not permitted within the city limits. Yard and garden waste can be taken to the Transfer Station at Bing's Creek.



TEMPORARY TENTS: Are permitted in back yards as a summer "gazebo" but using **temporary tarp tents in your driveway to cover your car is prohibited.**



WATERING RESTRICTIONS: Odd numbered buildings on odd calendar days, even numbered buildings on even calendar days, 6 am to 9 am and 7 pm to 10 pm



A GENTLE REMINDER: Everything that goes down a storm drain in Duncan flows into the Cowichan River or Somenos Marsh. These are home to salmon and other aquatic life. Soap, dirt, oil, paint, and grime pollutes water and can be deadly for fish. Please be cautious about car wash products or other cleaning products that make their way to the storm drains.