

# Beneath the Clocktower

YOUR INSIGHT INTO ISSUES AND EVENTS AT DUNCAN CITY HALL

May 2006

200 Craig Street, Duncan BC – 746-6126

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

## June 11 Rick Hansen Man In Motion

The 4th Annual Duncan Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion Event is set for Sunday June 11th. The event is from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm in Duncan City Square. Registration is 11:30 am, with a walk or roll around the downtown core at noon.

There will also be teams playing wheelchair rugby and wheelchair races. Live music and good eating top off the event. 50% of the money raised stays right in the community,

this year these funds are going towards making Centennial Park more accessible for wheelchairs, scooters and walkers. The other 50% goes to the Rick Hansen Foundation for spinal cord research with the hope of one day curing paralysis. People can pre-register or sponsor participants at [www.wheelsinmotion.org](http://www.wheelsinmotion.org).



## New Government Street Seniors Zone

City Council has lowered the speed limit on Government Street between Craig Street and Boundary Road to 30kph (20mph), recognizing that use of the crosswalks in this zone has significantly increased, particularly by our citizens at greatest risk - seniors and children. This is the first step being taken to protect pedestrians using these crossings. In addition, existing crossings will be improved with larger painted lines. The City is also investigating the use of improved signage to highlight that seniors and children use these crossings and is also exploring the idea of different crosswalk lighting arrangements to further improve crossing visibility and pedestrian safety.

Council is also looking at other ways to improve downtown pedestrian access, such as improving pedestrian rail crossings in Charles Hoey Park. Council welcomes public input on any pedestrian access and safety issues.

## Boundary Restructure Study

The consultant and the public committee will be working to answer questions raised at the April 20<sup>th</sup> open house. Information is available on the committee's webpage: [http://www.city.duncan.bc.ca/duncan\\_city\\_hall/boundary\\_restructure.htm](http://www.city.duncan.bc.ca/duncan_city_hall/boundary_restructure.htm)

## Development Permits

A Development Permit (DP) is required whenever a proposed development is located within a development permit area. Any development must comply with the specific bylaws, policies and guidelines that apply to that area. Council recently reduced the Development Permit fee for façade improvements (like awnings and exterior painting) to \$10. There are no guidelines for single family homes, however building bylaws must be complied with. For more information contact City Hall or go to [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca)



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

## BLACKTOP BRIEFS

### Canada Ave. & Islay Street & Coronation Avenue

The paving of sections of these streets has been completed thanks to a patient public, friendly flaggers, conscientious contractors and wonderful weather. Traffic is now back to normal.

### Around Town

Line painting and crosswalk remarking may cause minor traffic delays throughout the spring and summer.

### Trans Canada Highway-- James St. to Miller Road

Start Date: May 8  
Expected Completion: June 9  
Hours of Work:  
7:00 pm to 7:00 am  
Remember, short term pain equals long term gain.



Thanks for practicing safe, courteous and defensive driving habits.

# Mosquito Season is Open!



City Council recently met with D.G. Regan and Associates (Environmental Consultants) regarding the looming mosquito season and the growing threat that West Nile Virus will eventually come to the Valley. Council heard an exhaustive presentation on how the City can limit the opportunities for mosquitoes to grow and spread. Everyone should take part in this process 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: 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 (it's when THEY are out!)

**DEET** is the most effective repellent.

More information on mosquito control? [www.dgregan.com](http://www.dgregan.com)

More information on West Nile Virus? [www.bccdc.org](http://www.bccdc.org)

## Tax Prepayment Option for 2007

Many people have difficulty meeting annual expenses like property taxes. The City of Duncan has a monthly payment program that will spread your 2007 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 5.75% minus 3% = 2.75%.) 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 the second business day in July 2006.

## Tax Deferment Option

For those taxpayers over the age of 60, the Province of BC offers a tax deferral program that allows you to defer (not pay) your taxes. The taxes not paid now will be taken out of your future estate (at low interest rates – currently 3%). More seniors are considering taking advantage of the tax deferment option. 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](http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/property_tax_deferment.htm)

## 2006 Budget and Tax Rates

Final BC Assessment figures show that the assessed value of the average single family home in the City increased by 15.4% while the average business property assessment increased by 2.8%. The increase in 2006 general taxes collected for City purposes in the 2006 - 2010 budget is \$83,394 or 3.8%. A concerted improvement from the 10.7% increase that was projected for 2006 in last year's 2005-2009 budget. Major projects for 2006 include:

- ❖ Road rebuilding
- ❖ Beginning of Centennial Park improvements
- ❖ Craig Street revitalization
- ❖ Official Community Plan (OCP) review
- ❖ Sidewalk upgrades
- ❖ Seismic upgrade of Duncan Fire Hall
- ❖ Trans-Canada Highway median planning and implementation
- ❖ Conversion of public works fuel pumps and tanks to an above ground system
- ❖ Design and possible reconstruction of Trunk Rd between Duncan Street and Craig Street.

For comments/questions/concerns about this newsletter, please contact Councillor Sharon Jackson 746-9451 or email [cpqueeg@telus.net](mailto:cpqueeg@telus.net)



## Toilet Rebate Program

The City is offering a rebate to City of Duncan residents who are connected to the City water system and replace their old toilets with low flush models. There is a lifetime limit of two toilet rebates per residence. 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 three photographs:

1. of the old toilet in place
2. of the old toilet removed with the tank broken
3. of the new 6 litre toilet in place

New construction - In the City of Duncan, low flush (6 litre) toilets are mandatory. 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.

## \$\$ DID YOU KNOW?

The assessed value of the average single family home in the City in 2006 is \$184,623 and will see a total tax increase of approximately \$97. This increase will be essentially offset by the \$100 increase in the provincial homeowner grant. The total taxes in 2006 on the average business assessed at \$277,786 will be \$7,384, an increase of \$18.