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On December 24, 1874, the City of Nanaimo was incorporated as a municipality making it the sixth municipality formed in BC.

Fast forward to 2024 and Nanaimo is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada.

This year, join us as we look back over the past 150 years and look ahead to the next 150.



1881 City of Nanaimo Map courtesy of Nanaimo Archives



Construction of South Fork Dam

Jump Lake



DID YOU KNOW?

We are fortunate for the incredible foresight used in planning our drinking water supply system. The South Fork Dam was built in 1931 at an elevation that would allow water to flow by gravity saving the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in electricity costs that would otherwise be needed for more pump stations. In 1974, the City built another dam upstream at Jump Lake, which can hold up to 16.6 billion litres of water - enough to supply every household in Nanaimo for a year.

An Ever-Evolving Downtown: Exciting Updates Happening!

A number of projects are taking place downtown to make it more welcoming:

- Renovations to the old A&B Sound building, which will include an open-air market as well as retail and business space. It's expected to open in 2025.
- The first phase of Terminal Avenue upgrades are underway and should be complete this summer.
- The City is working with developers to bring the Jean Burns site back to productive use.
- The first phase of the Design Commercial project is expected to start this September with work taking place between Wharf and Church Streets including replacing old water mains and streetlights, resurfacing the road and sidewalk, updating the landscaping and more.

Keeping Up with a Growing City: MidTown Water Supply

This project involves the installation of two large water pipelines from College Heights to the roundabout at Labieux and Kenworth Rds. So far, 72 per cent of the water mains have been installed. Construction continues along the Parkway, in particular between East Wellington Road and College Drive. This summer, the mains will be installed on Bowen Rd from James Way to Pryde Ave, which will affect travel and daily commutes for months. We are almost at the finish line for this multi-year project that started in July 2022, construction is scheduled to complete this year. Thanks for your patience during this project, Nanaimo!



Commercial Street in the 1880's

Commercial Street Night Market

STAGE 2 WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

Until September 30, even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered days and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days for up to 2 hours between 7 am to 10 am or 7 pm to 10 pm. Veggie gardens and fruit trees can be watered any time.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can find many of the shops and businesses built around 1874 still standing today including A. R. Johnston Grocers built in 1898. You may now know it as the building that houses Flying Fish, but what you may not know is it used to back onto the harbour before that part of the harbour was filled in.



DID YOU KNOW?

With incorporation taking place on December 24, 1874, Nanaimo is BC's fourth oldest city! Our first Mayor was Mark Bate, elected on January 19, 1875 and the City's first Council meeting was held on January 22, 1875.

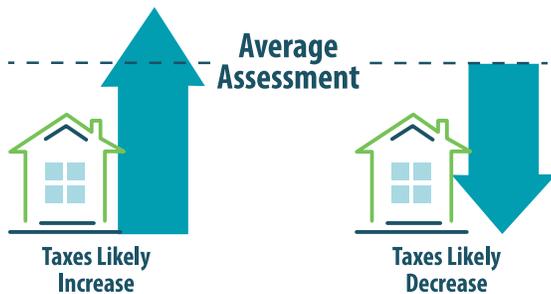
Your tax notice: here's how it's calculated

The City of Nanaimo tax rate is based on what we need to balance the budget. Your property taxes are based on your property's assessed value, which is determined by BC Assessment. The gross taxes are then calculated as follows:

$$\text{Your Property Assessment} \times \text{Tax Rate} = \text{Your Portion of Property Taxes}$$

\$1,000

An assessment increase does not necessarily mean there will be a significant increase in your property taxes. It's about how your assessed value changed relative to the average change for your property class.



DID YOU KNOW? Property taxes are billed annually in May for the calendar year (January to December).

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR MYCITY YET?

Manage all your City of Nanaimo bills in one convenient place. With MyCity, your user rate and property tax bills can all be viewed and managed online. Visit mycity.nanaimo.ca to log in. Don't have an account yet? Learn how you can set up your MyCity account at: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/MyCity.

Property Taxes: Why do we collect them?

The property taxes collected pay for the important City services and initiatives that make Nanaimo a community that is livable, environmentally sustainable and full of opportunity for all generations and walks of life. Also, one per cent goes towards an increase in funding for the general asset management reserve.

In addition to collecting money to fund City services and programs, the City also collects money on behalf of other agencies such as the Regional District of Nanaimo, Hospital, School, BC Assessment and Municipal Finance Authority.

Learn more about the budget at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/budget.

NEW PROVINCIAL HOUSING LEGISLATION

The Province has passed new housing legislation that has direct implications for the City of Nanaimo. For more information, visit the Housing page on the city's website at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/Housing.

YOUR 2024 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE JULY 2, 2024



There are a number of ways to pay:

Your bank: online, phone or in person. To add the City of Nanaimo as a payee, search for "Nanaimo". The account number is the 8-digit folio number (no period) found on your notice. Please note: we do not accept e-transfers.

Mail a cheque: 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5J6. Payment must be made out to "City of Nanaimo" and received by July 2, 2024.

In person: at the Service and Resource Centre located at 411 Dunsmuir St, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Please note: we do not accept credit card payments.

How much should you pay?

The amount you need to pay depends on whether you qualify for the Regular or Additional/Senior Home Owner Grant, or you do not qualify for the grant.

A late payment penalty of two per cent will be applied to current year outstanding balance at the end of the day on July 2, 2024 and an additional eight per cent will be applied at the end of day on August 30, 2024.

REMINDER: Make sure to claim your **Home Owner Grant by July 2, 2024**. Claim it online at www.gov.bc.ca/HomeOwnerGrant by phone at **1-888-355-2700**.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO READ OVER YOUR TAX NOTICE FOR MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION.



City Hall Under Construction

Opening of City Hall with Princess Elizabeth and Mayor Westwood



DID YOU KNOW?

City Hall officially opened in 1951 with Princess Elizabeth in attendance (she would become Queen of England six months later). This two-storey building was built in the International style and designed by prominent Nanaimo architect, Thomas B. McArravy, one of the pioneers of the use of modernism on Vancouver Island. There are many interesting nooks in City Hall, including an old vault containing many historical records including the minutes from first City Council meeting.

Summer in the City: Enjoy summer FUN in our Parks

Join us in Nanaimo's parks for FREE summer fun!

- The popular **Concerts in the Park** series returns to Nanaimo's parks this summer with some concerts featuring double or triple acts! Check the City website for a list of dates, times, locations and line ups.
- **Family Fun Nights** are back! Join us on July 31 in Harewood Centennial Park and August 23 in Maffeo Sutton Park for an evening of games, crafts, food and more.
- **Water parks** are open 9 am to 8 pm daily in Departure Bay Park, Deverill Square Park, Harewood Centennial Park and Mansfield Park.
- Lifeguards are on duty at **Westwood Lake** daily from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm, June 28 - September 2.
- Our **Playground Program** features activities including crafts, games, music and more from July 2 to Aug. 30. Check recreation.nanaimo.ca for locations.
- Come down to Maffeo Sutton Park on July 1 from 11 am to 3:30 pm for **Canada Day** festivities.
- Play in one of **Nanaimo's playgrounds**. In addition to neighbourhood playgrounds, destination playgrounds are located in Beban Park, Harewood Centennial Park, Maffeo Sutton Park and Oliver Woods Community Park.
- Explore **Nanaimo's parks and trails** this summer. Check out our Parks and Trails brochure on the City website to discover your next adventure.

For more details, please visit recreation.nanaimo.ca or call 250-756-5200.



Westwood Lake in 1952

Aerial of Bowen Park in 1965

Westwood Lake: watch for more improvements this year

Following the upgrades to the parking area last year, expect to see a few more improvements to the park including an expansion of First Beach at the end of Westwood Road. You will soon be enjoying many new and improved amenities in the park such as more beach space to enjoy, expanded shade and seating for those hot summer beach days, change rooms for your swimming and paddle board adventures and expanded room for food trucks. Also, we are building new washrooms including a fully accessible and inclusive washroom built to meet the needs of everyone in our community.

You can expect to see construction on these new and improved amenities starting this year.



DID YOU KNOW?

From farm to hydro dam to one of Nanaimo's most popular swimming spots, Westwood Lake Park got its name from W.J. Westwood who farmed the land in the 1860's. The lake is a result of a dam built in 1912 to provide a reserve water supply for Nanaimo's Millstream River power station. It officially became a park on January 27, 1957.



DID YOU KNOW?

Bowen Park has been a well-loved recreation site since 1855, but didn't officially become a park until 1931. The park has seen many changes, but it has always remained a natural refuge for many in the heart of the city.

THE ULTIMATE NANAIMO BAR RECIPE

In 1986, then Mayor Graeme Roberts, along with Harbour Park Mall, held a contest to find the ultimate Nanaimo Bar Recipe. Out of nearly 100 recipes, Joyce Hardcastle's was chosen. Here is her winning recipe. Enjoy!

Bottom Layer

1/2 cup unsalted butter (European style cultured) (125 ml)

1/4 cup sugar (50 ml)

5 tbsp. cocoa (75 ml)

1 egg beaten

1 3/4 cups graham wafer crumbs (425 ml)

1/2 cup finely chopped almonds (125 ml)

1 cup coconut (250 ml)

Melt first 3 ingredients in top of double boiler. Add egg and stir to cook and thicken. Remove from heat. Stir in crumbs, coconut and nuts. Press firmly into an ungreased 8" x 8" pan.

Second Layer

1/2 cup unsalted butter (125 ml)

2 Tbsp. and 2 Tsp. cream (40 ml)

2 Tbsp. vanilla custard powder (30 ml)

2 cups icing sugar (500 ml)

Cream butter, cream, custard powder, and icing sugar together well. Beat until light. Spread over bottom layer.

Third Layer

4 squares semi-sweet chocolate (4 oz)

2 Tbsp. unsalted butter (30 ml)

Melt chocolate and butter over low heat. Cool. Once cool, but still liquid, pour over second layer and chill in refrigerator.

Here Comes the Sun: Have a safe and FireSmart summer

Follow these simple steps and visit www.firesmartbc.ca to help reduce the risk of wildfire:

- Clear dead brush, dry debris and other combustibles from within 10 metres of your home, clean your roof and gutters and keep your lawn short.
- Remove branches overhanging the roof of your house and keep all lower tree branches pruned up two metres.
- Clean and maintain your BBQ before using it and never leave it unattended while cooking.
- Properly extinguish and dispose of all smoking material. **NEVER** throw cigarette butts out the window of your car. Not only is it littering, it's also the cause of many wildfires.
- Call 911 to report all fires no matter the size
- Sign up to receive emergency alerts from us through the Voyent Alert! app. Download the app for free or give us a call at 250-758-5222.

CURBSIDE CHECK-IN

Recycle Right! - Let's reduce blue cart contamination

Let's work together, Nanaimo, to make sure we are recycling right and reducing blue cart contamination! Contamination happens when items that aren't accepted at the curbside are tossed in with accepted items in the blue cart. We WISH we could recycle everything you toss in the cart however, there is a reason why some items can't be mixed in with other recyclables. Glass containers break and can make dangerous handling conditions for workers. Soft plastics (eg. plastic wrap and bags) can get tangled up in machines at the sorting facility and cause damage.

Recycle BC, the organization that oversees recycling in BC, requires collection partners such as the City of Nanaimo to maintain contamination rates of less than 3% to meet contract requirements. Currently, we have an average recycling contamination rate of over 7%! Higher levels of cart contamination can lead to increased service fees for homeowners and recycling ending up in the landfill. Keeping out contamination means that over 90% of materials collected in recycling programs in BC are made into new products. In 2023, Nanaimo collected and recycled nearly 3,000 tonnes! The goal is to never leave a cart behind, but households that continue to contaminate could see their blue carts not collected.

If you aren't sure if something is accepted in your blue cart, use the **What Goes Where Waste Wizard tool** found on the Recycling page on the City website at: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/recycling or download the free **Nanaimo Recycles App**. Or, you can give the **Recycling Hotline** a call at **1-800-732-9253**. **Waste Ambassadors** will also be on curbside collection routes this summer inspecting carts and answering questions about acceptable materials!

JOIN IN ON THE FUN AT OUR REDUCE AND REUSE SPECIAL ANNUAL EVENTS!

Do you have a storage room full of household items that you haven't looked at, let alone used, in years? Nanaimo's annual Trunk Sale and Reuse Rendezvous aim to give unwanted household items a longer lease on life and reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill.

TRUNK SALES

This year you'll again have two chances to bargain hunt! On **June 22** come down to the Country Club Mall parking lot from 9 am to 2 pm and on **August 24** the sale will be held from 9 am to 2 pm at VIU's Upper Parking Lots. Registered vendors can sell their unwanted items from the trunks of their cars to bargain hunters. Registration is free and spots are limited.

REUSE RENDEZVOUS

Join in on the city-wide swap meet over the weekend of **July 20 and 21**. Stick a "FREE!" label on unwanted household goods and set them out on the curb for other community members to take and reuse. Please make sure to take any items left over after the weekend back inside.

Visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NanaimoRecycles for full details and event updates, including registration information for the Trunk Sales and guidelines for Reuse Rendezvous.



Recycle Right! A guide to your blue cart

When recycling, make sure to **check before you chuck!**
Use this handy guide to make sure you are recycling right.



Keep items loose - do NOT bag or nest items of different materials inside one another.

Rinse, squish and flatten items before placing in cart.

Remove any string, ribbon, etc (staples & tape acceptable) from cardboard and make sure cardboard pieces are **60 cm x 60 cm (2 feet x 2 feet) or smaller**.

Take these items to a recycling depot:



Find a list of depot locations and what items they accept with the **What Goes Where** tool at www.nanaimo.ca or on the **Nanaimo Recycles App** - available for free from the AppStore and GooglePlay!



CITY OF NANAIMO
THE NATURE CAPITAL

www.nanaimo.ca
Ph. 250.758.5222



QUESTIONS ABOUT CURBSIDE COLLECTION?

Visit: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NanaimoRecycles

Call us: 250-756-5390

Email us: Zero.Waste@nanaimo.ca

