



TOWN OF SIDNEY

PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

2440 Sidney Ave, Sidney BC V8L 1Y7

T 250-656-1184

www.sidney.ca

Town Council has adopted a Financial Plan for 2015 reflecting a slight increase in municipal property taxes of 2.52%. To partially offset this increase, Council also reduced the Sewer Parcel Tax, which is collected on the tax notice, as well as the Sewer User Fee, which is paid through your quarterly Utility bill. With the Parcel Tax reduction, the net impact on the tax bill for the *average* residential property is about \$18 (or about \$1.50 a month).

As always, the tax increase for any individual residence will vary depending on its assessment change relative to the average. For 2015, the average residential property increased in value by 1.35%, to about \$425,860. The impact on your property depends on how close your assessment change is in relation to that 1.35%.

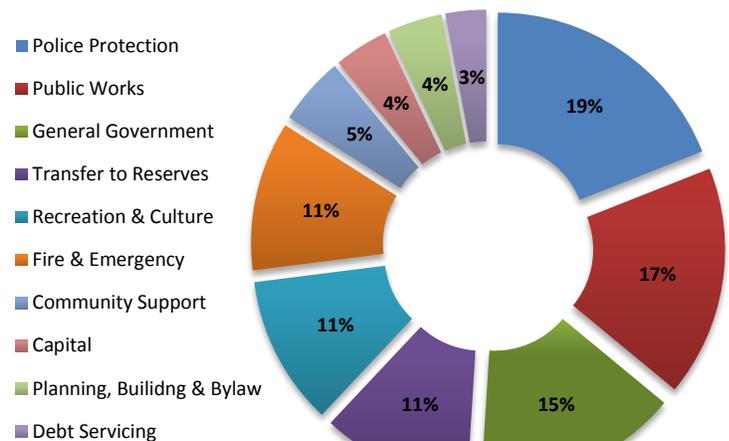
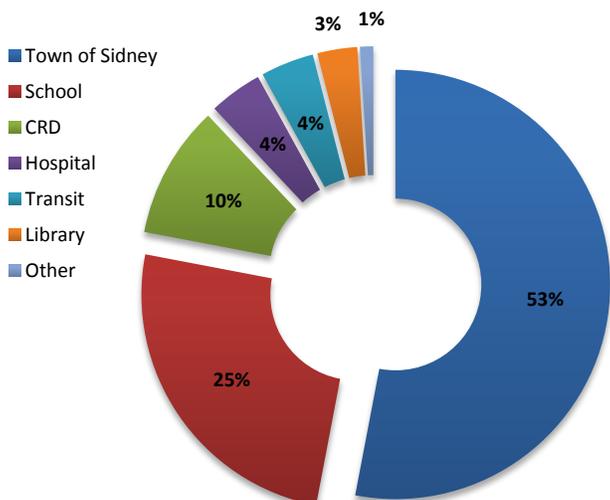
Please note that the Town also collects taxes for a variety of other local jurisdictions, including the Province for School Taxes, and the Capital Regional District for regional and Panorama Recreation services. About half of the charges on your tax bill are amounts collected for other jurisdictions and levels of government.

The change in taxes collected for other jurisdictions represents an increase of about \$9 for the average residential property. This means that the overall increase on the tax bill for the average residential property is \$27.

The chart below (left) shows the distribution of total taxes paid for a residential property, before applying the Provincial Home Owner Grant.

Total *municipal* taxes for the average residence are just over \$1,350 per year, or \$113 per month. For this monthly amount, the Town provides fire and police services, roads maintenance, parks and public space maintenance, community and emergency planning, bylaw enforcement, as well as a range of related community services. While many of these services may be taken for granted, the value received for \$113 per month compares favourably with many common utility bills.

The Town is collecting just over \$10.2 million in municipal taxes this year. The chart below (right) shows where those tax dollars are going. Please note that most of our capital program is funded from non-tax sources, mainly from reserves which have been set aside for replacement of infrastructure and certain other assets.



2015 Service Highlights:

This year's 2.52% tax increase is not just paying for the same level of services as last year; we found some operational efficiencies to cover the inflationary pressures, and provide the same level of service for the same cost. What the increase is paying for is additional service and support to the community, as follows:

- Enhanced emergency services, including the first full year of a 15th RCMP officer for Sidney, as well as an additional career firefighter to ensure better daytime coverage for our fire service, which remains mainly volunteer-staffed.
- Additional support for our community organizations, and for economic development. Our level of support for the Mary Winspear Centre is now set at 2.5% of tax revenues, to enhance this important community asset's financial sustainability, and its ability to

provide programming. We are now also providing a bit more to the Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre, which is the economic driver at the other end of downtown. In addition, we have increased our budget for general economic development to better support our local economy, which is essential in keeping goods and services close-by for residents, and to maintain a vibrant and attractive downtown.

- Ongoing investment in infrastructure renewal plans for road paving, sidewalks, curb and gutter, storm drains, water, sewer, and parks. The biggest renewal project this year is in the Allbay Road area. In addition, we are carefully planning for investment in our waterfront assets, such as Beacon Wharf, the Bevan Pier, and the Lochside seawall.

IMPORTANT NOTES ON PAYING YOUR 2015 TAXES

Payment deadline is Thursday July 2, 2015

Unpaid 2015 taxes (including unclaimed Home Owner Grants) are subject to penalties of:

5% if not paid by July 2, 2015

Additional 5% if not paid by September 1, 2015

Payment Options:

Online Banking – Use your financial institution's online bill payment service. To avoid penalty, please ensure your payment is made before your bank's cut off time for processing July 2, 2015 transactions. For tips on how to add the Town of Sidney as a new payee, please refer to the "Pay Online" section on the next page.

By Mail – Cheques and bank drafts are accepted, and may be post-dated to the due date. Mailing address can be found at the top left hand corner of your tax notice. Mail must be post marked no later than July 2, 2015, to avoid penalty.

Drop Box – Available 24/7, conveniently located at the front entrance to the Municipal Hall, just to the right of the main door. Please do not deposit cash through the drop box.

At Financial Institutions – Payable in person at most financial institutions.

At Municipal Hall – 2440 Sidney Ave, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. We accept cash, cheque and debit (up to your daily transaction limit). Credit cards are not accepted for property taxes.

Please see the back of your tax notice for more information. To avoid the last minute rush, please consider paying early online or by post-dated cheque. Cheques may be post-dated to the due date.

Please do not forget to claim your Home Owner Grant, if eligible.

This has to be done every year, regardless of who pays your taxes or how they are paid.

Avoid The Line Go Online



Say Goodbye to the Line-up and Hello to Online Payment & Online Home Owner Grant Application

PAY ONLINE – To pay online, use your financial institution's online bill payment service.

If you need to add the Town of Sidney as a new payee, try searching for us as just “Sidney”, then select the option for property taxes.

- Use the folio number, found on your property taxes, as the account number.
- You will need to enter **all 12 digits, starting with “476”, but exclude the decimal.**

APPLY ONLINE – To apply for the Home Owner Grant online, go to ehog.sidney.ca

- Enter the folio number and access code, which can be found on your tax notice.
- For the folio number, enter the **9 digits after “476”, including the decimal.**

If you have a **MySidney** property tax account, simply follow the “Claim Grant” button on the Tax Account Details screen.

To avoid penalty, your online payment and grant application must have a transaction date of July 2, 2015, or earlier. Please consider submitting your payment and grant early to avoid unexpected last minute delays.

MYSIDNEY – Want to have one-stop 24 hour secure access to your Town of Sidney accounts? Register today at mysidney.sidney.ca

Create a profile, register your accounts and access all of your information for tax, utility, dog and/or business licence.

- Obtain one-click access to apply for your Home Owner Grant.
- Review account details, including payments, historical charges and consumption, property tax assessments and levies.
- Find information for income tax purposes.

Q: Where do I find my Folio Number and Access Code?

A: Left side of your tax notice, below the mailing address block.

TOWN OF SIDNEY	
2440 Sidney Avenue Sidney BC V8L 1Y7 250-656-1184 www.sidney.ca M-F 8:30-4:00	
SAMPLE PR DUE DATE: _____	
It is not necessary for tax Penalties are not discretic Homeowner Grants) are s * 5% penalty if not paic * an additional 5% pen:	
(NAME) (ADDRESS) (TOWN, PROVINCE) (POSTAL CODE)	LOT #, SECTION #, RAN PLAN #####
	TOTAL NET ASSES CLASS GE # -###
FOLIO NUMBER 476123456.789 ACCESS 123456	COLUMN A
PROPERTY ADDRESS (ADDRESS)	NO. GRANT
RID. 123.456.789	RATES

PROVINCIAL PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAMS

The Province of British Columbia continues to offer both the Regular and Families with Children deferment programs to assist qualifying homeowners with payment of property taxes on their principal residence. To qualify, you must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who has lived in British Columbia for at least one year immediately prior to applying.

If you have an active deferment agreement, the Province will mail you a Statement of Account and

2015 Renewal Form. Once received, please complete the Renewal Form and Home Owner Grant application, and submit to the Sidney Municipal Hall.

To avoid penalty, deferment applications and renewals must be submitted, or post-marked, no later than July 2, 2015.

For more information about these programs and to download the application form, please visit: www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment



Worried about incurring the penalty in case your deferment application is not approved by the Province?

You have the option to provide us a cheque for the amount of taxes you plan to defer. We will not cash the cheque unless your deferment application is declined by the Province. Your cheque will be considered on-time payment of your taxes regardless of when the Province makes a decision on your deferment application.

PRE-AUTHORIZED PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT PLAN

The Town of Sidney offers an instalment plan that allows you to make 10 equal payments on your next year's property taxes by automatic monthly deductions from your bank account.

How does it work?

- You determine how much you'd like to pay each month.
- The pre-determined amount is withdrawn from your bank account on the first day of each month, starting in August and ending in May. There are no withdrawals for the months of June and July.
- Your annual tax notice will reflect the current year's taxes less the total prepayments, including the interest that you earned. You are responsible for paying any difference, as well as applying for the Home Owner Grant, by the due date.

What are the advantages?

- Monthly payments assist you in budgeting and eliminate the impact of one large payment in July.
- Interest will be credited to your instalment account monthly, at the Prime rate less 2.5%.

How do I sign up?

- Detach, complete, and sign the authorization form below and return it along with a personal cheque marked "VOID".
- Detailed terms and conditions are available at the Municipal Hall.

Already signed up?

- Your monthly payment will continue at the same amount less you decide to change it.
- Use the form below if you would like to modify the amount of your monthly payment.

MySidney

- If you have a MySidney account you can view your instalment balances, assessment and property tax history. To sign up, go to mysidney.sidney.ca

Did you know?

- We also offer a pre-authorized payment option for our quarterly utility bills.
- For more information and to sign up, visit www.sidney.ca

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM

NEW

MODIFY

REGISTERED OWNERS: _____ Folio: _____

Starting Date: _____

Civic Address: _____ Phone No: _____

We hereby authorize _____ Amount \$: _____

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

To debit my/our account on or after the 1st day of each month for the months August to May inclusive each year. All payments are to be made to the Town of Sidney. *My / our void cheque (or stamped confirmation from financial institution) is attached.*

SIGNATURES: _____ DATE: _____

- For a joint account all depositors must sign if more than one signature is required on cheques issued against the account for verification purposes. **Please attach a void cheque.**
- The designated monthly withdrawal amount above will not change unless a pre-authorized payment modification form is completed.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to cancel this plan if I sell my property. Initial: _____