



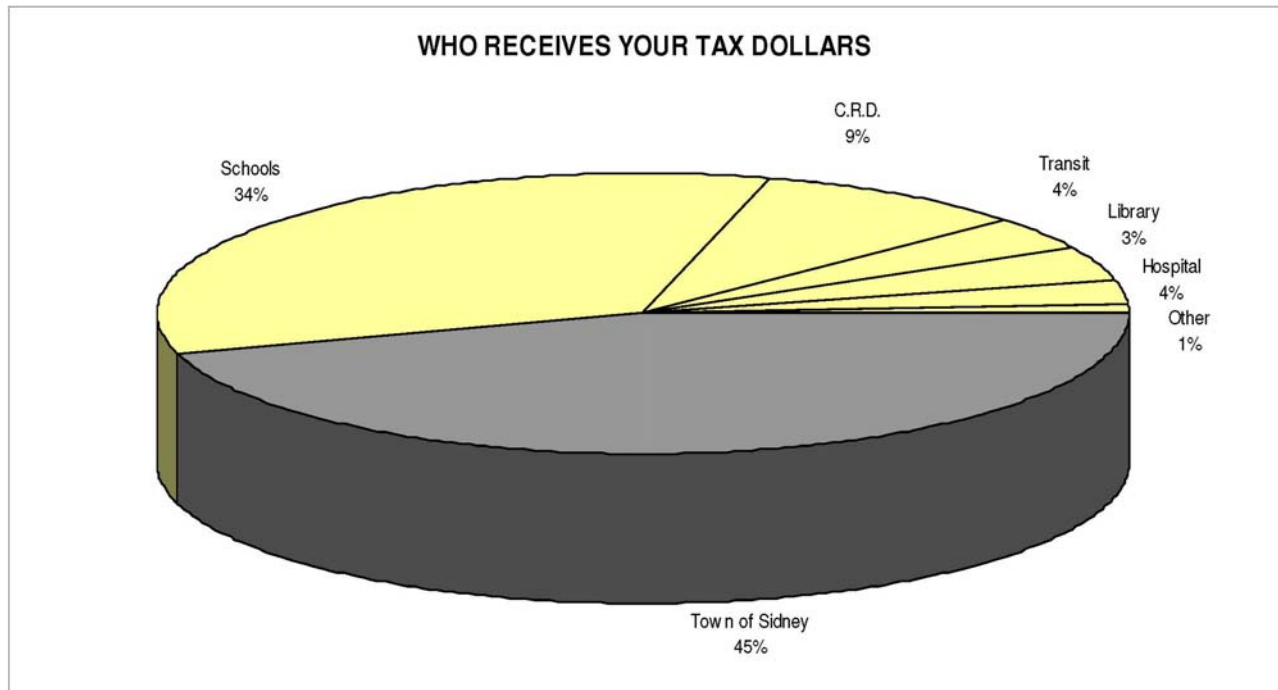
# TOWN OF SIDNEY

## PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

2440 Sidney Avenue, Sidney, BC V8L 1Y7 phone 250-656-1184 fax 250-655-4508 www.sidney.ca

Your individual property's tax increase is dependant upon its change in assessed value as compared to the average change of minus 2.2%. For 2009, BC Assessment set the taxable assessment of your property at the lower of the 2009 or 2008 assessed values. For most property owners, the assessed value for 2009 has been held at the 2008 value. There were, however, many properties for which the assessed value decreased. This resulted in the average assessment change of minus 2.2%. If your assessment stayed the same as last year, you may see a higher than average tax increase. The net affect to the average residential property is an increase of approximately 5% or about \$5.50 per month for the municipal portion of the tax bill.

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. Approximately half of your tax bill is collected for other governments, and most of these amounts have seen an increase as well. Most notable among these increases is for the CRD as a result of the ongoing expansion of the pool at Panorama Recreation Centre.

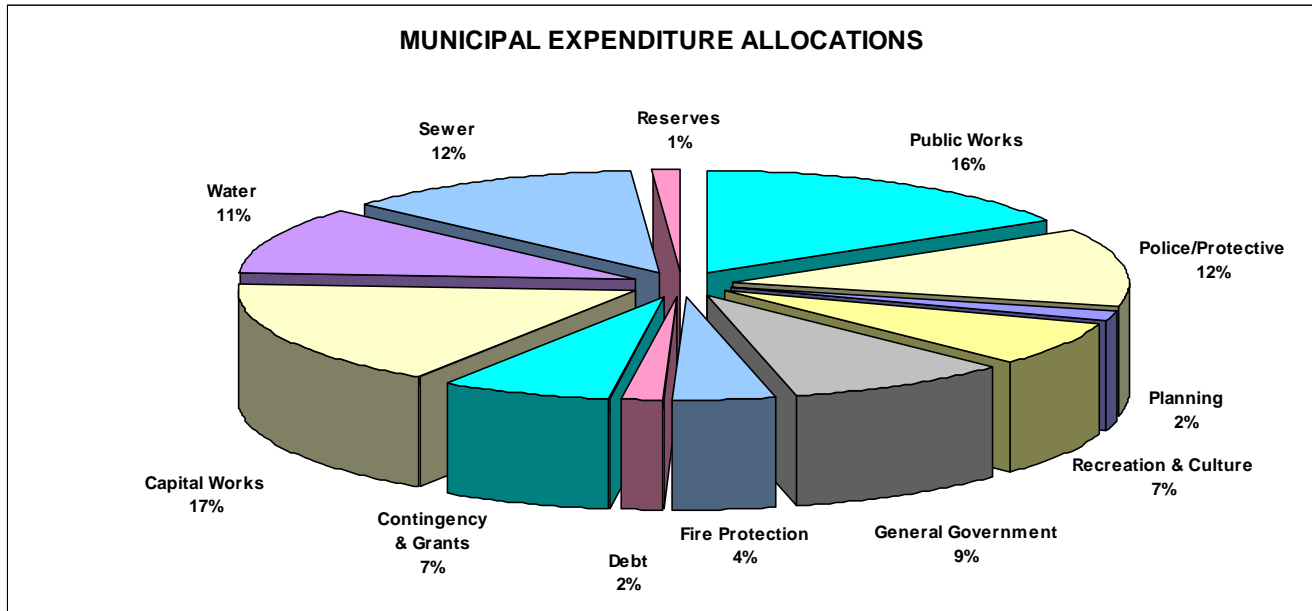


### Contact Information for Other Taxing Authorities

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ○ School District #63                         | 250-652-7300 |
| ○ Capital Regional District/Regional Hospital | 250-360-3000 |
| ○ Regional Hospital District                  | 250-360-3000 |
| ○ BC Assessment                               | 250-595-6211 |
| ○ BC Transit                                  | 250-385-2551 |
| ○ Vancouver Island Regional Library           | 250-656-0944 |

## 2009 PROJECTS

- Beacon Park Pavilion
- Community Wellness Park
- Courthouse renovation for use by RCMP
- Decommissioning the Fifth Street sewer pump station
- Fire department and public works vehicle replacements
- Ongoing investment in 20-year (infrastructure renewal) plans for paving, sidewalks, curb and gutter, storm drains, water, sewer, and parks.



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## **IMPORTANT NOTES ON PAYING YOUR 2009 TAXES**

**Payment deadline is July 2, 2009**

- Unpaid 2009 taxes (including unclaimed Home Owner Grants) are subject to penalties as follows:
  - 5% if paid after July 2, 2009
  - An additional 5% if paid after September 2, 2009

### **Payment Options:**

- **In person** - at the Municipal Hall, located at 2440 Sidney Avenue. Office hours at 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We accept cash, cheques, and direct debit, but not credit cards.
- **By mail** - by cheque or money order. The mailing address can be found at the top left corner of your tax notice.
- **Drop box** - there is a drop box available after business hours, to the right of the entrance to the Municipal Hall. Please do not remit cash if paying through the drop box.
- **Financial institutions** - we are set up to take in-person payments, as well as telephone and Internet payments, through most banks.

Please see the back of your tax notice for more detailed information.

To avoid the last minute rush, please consider paying early by post-dated cheque. Cheques may be post-dated to the due date.

**Please don't forget to claim your Home Owner Grant. This has to be done every year, regardless of who pays your taxes, or how you pay them.**

## PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAMS

In addition to the regular property tax deferment program, the Province of British Columbia has introduced a new Financial Hardship Property Tax Deferment program available for the 2009 and 2010 tax years. To qualify for the temporary program, you must meet the following conditions:

- You are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who has lived in BC for at least one year immediately prior to applying
- You are currently experiencing financial hardship due to economic conditions
- You must have and maintain a minimum equity of 15% of the current BC Assessment value, after deducting the upper limit of all outstanding mortgages, lines of credit and other charges on your home
- You must have a current fire insurance policy on your home for an amount not less than the current BC Assessment value

For more information, please contact the Finance department, at 250-656-1184, or the Provincial Deferment Office, at 250-387-0555.

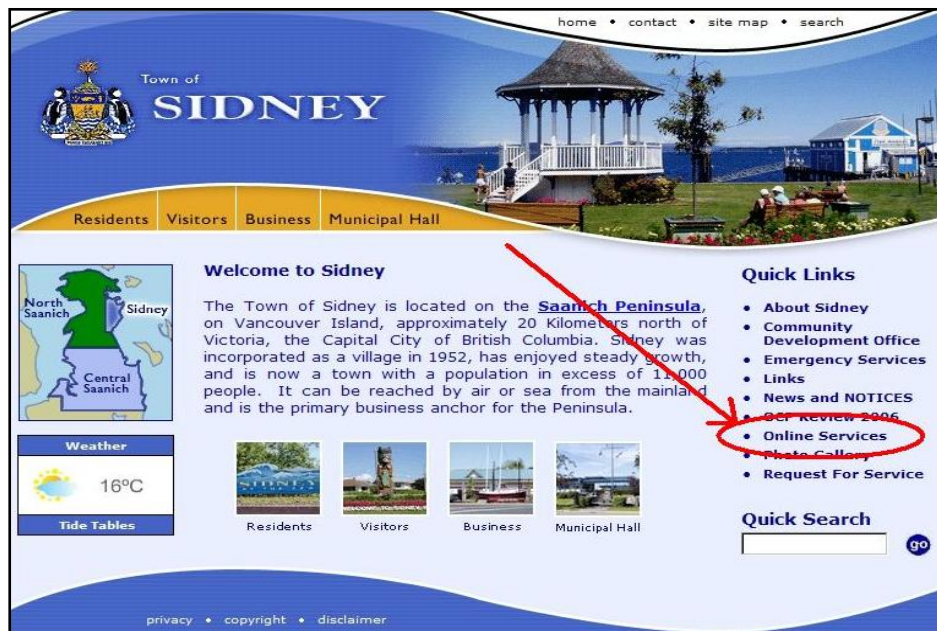
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## Claim Your Home Owner Grant Online

Residents eligible for the Home Owner Grant (HOG) can claim their grant through the Town of Sidney website. This will be especially convenient for home owners who use online banking or have their mortgage company pay their taxes.

- go to [www.sidney.ca](http://www.sidney.ca)



- under '**Quick Links**', select: **Online Services**
- from the Online Services page select **Electronic Home Owner Grant** and follow the on-screen instructions
- you will need your **Folio Number** and **Access Code** from your Tax Notice to claim your grant online

If you claim your home owner grant online, please **do not** submit a paper copy.

This online service is available between mid May and the end of December. However, to avoid penalty, please ensure that you claim your grant by the **July 2<sup>nd</sup> due date**.

# 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.
- If a payment is not honoured by your financial institution, a service charge will apply.

## What are the advantages?

- Monthly payments can 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%.
- 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.

## 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 from the Municipal Office.

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## PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM

Registered Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Folio #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Civic Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION BRANCH ADDRESS

Bank Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To debit my/our account indicated above 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.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ 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.**
- ✓ Your treatment of each payment shall be the same as if I/we have personally directed you to pay as indicated and charge the amount specified to the account of the undersigned. This authorization may be cancelled any time upon ten days written notice. Any delivery of this authorization to you constitutes delivery by the undersigned.
- ✓ I understand that it is my responsibility to cancel this plan if I sell my property. Initial: \_\_\_\_\_