

## 2009 PROPERTY TAXES

The due date for the 2009 Property Taxes is **Thursday, July 2nd, 2009**. To avoid a 10% penalty, payment of property taxes and completed Home Owner Grant **must be received in the Municipal Office by 4:30 pm July 2nd, 2009**.

### POSTMARK IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS PROOF OF PAYMENT

If your taxes are paid through your mortgage, PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR HOME OWNER GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BANK. Complete and forward the application to the Town Office. Failure to present your homeowner grant to the Town office will result in an outstanding balance of the amount of the grant and a 10% penalty will be added to this amount if not claimed by the deadline date of July 2, 2009. The Homeowner Grant is printed on the back of the "tear off" section at the bottom of your tax notice.

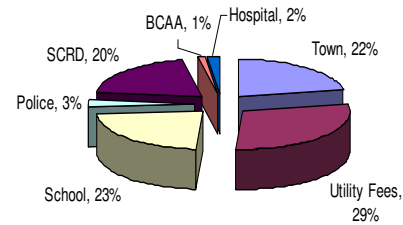
In 2009 you can apply for your Homeowner Grant "on line" through the Town's website at [www.gibsons.ca](http://www.gibsons.ca).

### YOU MUST APPLY FOR YOUR PROVINCIAL HOMEOWNER GRANT IN EVERY TAX YEAR.

#### Payment Options:

- Internet, telephone banking or ATM options are available with the following financial institutions:
  - CIBC
  - Royal Bank of Canada
  - TD Canada Trust
  - Bank of Montreal
  - HSBC
  - Scotiabank
  - Credit Unions of British Columbia
- POSTDATED CHEQUES.** An excellent way to avoid the last minute rush and line ups and ensure your payment is received on time!! You may mail or drop off your post dated cheque.
- CHEQUES MAILED:** Please ensure cheques are mailed in plenty of time to reach the Town office by July 2, 2009. As noted above, postmarks are not acceptable as proof of payment.
- CASH/CHEQUES:** May be brought into the Town Office. To assist us in serving you, **PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHEQUE AND HOMEOWNER GRANT FILLED OUT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.**
- DEFERRED TAXES:** There are now two programs which enable property owners to defer their taxes:
  - Property Tax Deferment Program
  - Financial Hardship Property Tax Deferment Program (2009 & 2010 only)
 Brochures are available at the Town Hall.

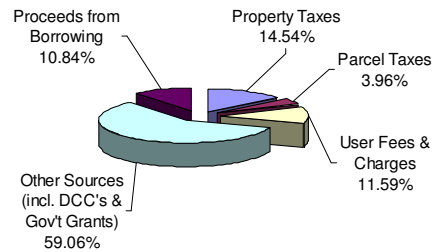
## HOW ARE YOUR TAXES SPENT?



For more financial information, please visit our website: [www.gibsons.ca](http://www.gibsons.ca).

## REVENUE SOURCES

Did you know that only one third of the Town's revenues come from taxes and user fees paid by residents? The remainder of our funds come from a combination of borrowing, development cost charges and grants.



Here are just a few of the grants we have applied for and received in 2009:

Grant Received	Purpose
\$ 460,000	Water Metering
\$ 400,000	Aquifer Mapping
\$ 615,366	Strategic Community Investment Fund – General Operations
\$ 50,000	Community Rec. Centre Landscaping
\$ 325,115	Geo-Exchange District Energy Utility in Upper Gibsons
\$ 219,188	Gas Tax - Infrastructure

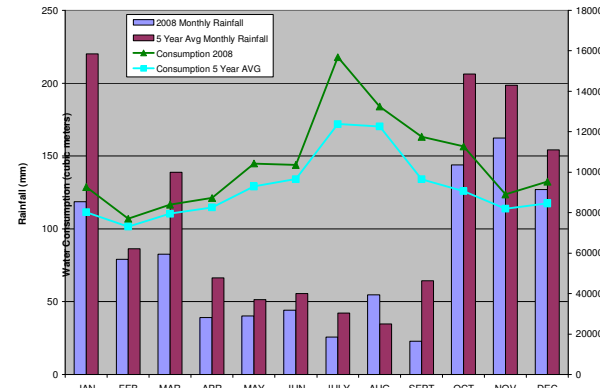
## WATER CONSERVATION

Why do we need to conserve water when we get so much rainfall?

Almost 70% of the annual rainfall occurs in autumn and winter, yet the greatest proportion of our water consumption happens during the summer (see chart below). The chart also shows that we typically use 60% more water in July than we do in February.



Monthly Water Consumption vs Monthly Rainfall 2008



On average, the Town of Gibsons uses approximately 3.5 million litres of water each day. On a hot summer day, this amount has been known to double. Why is summer time water consumption so much higher?

Studies have shown that residential indoor water use remains fairly constant throughout the year. The overwhelming majority of the extra residential summer water use is for outdoor purposes – lawn sprinkling, car washing, hosing down driveways, watering gardens, etc. As over 80% of the water consumed in the Town is for residential use, we must be sprinkling a lot of lawn!!

**If we don't reduce our summer water consumption, the Town runs the risk of drawing down the reservoirs below acceptable levels for fire protection and ultimately depleting the aquifer.**

Please visit <http://www.gibsons.ca/gibsonswater> for more information on Gibsons' drinking water source and water saving tips and strategies.

Other valuable links on water conservation tips:  
<http://www.waterbucket.ca/>  
<http://www.h2ouse.org>  
<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/su/waco/index.cfm>

## WATER METERING

The Water Meter and Cross Connection (backflow prevention) program is well underway with over 25% of the Town's residential properties already equipped with meters and protected with backflow prevention devices.

Residents will continue to be billed on a flat rate for the remainder of 2009 and 2010. During this time, Town staff will be reading the meters and collecting data to assist in leak detection.

Commencing in January of 2011, residents will be billed according to how much water they use. This provides the opportunity for residents to realize savings from conserving water. Rates will be set to ensure that the average user will pay no more than the amount that they paid in 2009 and 2010.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the Town's dedicated water website at [www.gibsonswater.ca](http://www.gibsonswater.ca).

**Thanks to all of you for your patience during the brief interruptions in water service as these valuable additions to the Town's water infrastructure are installed.**

## SPRINKLING REGULATIONS

(Note, these regulations are in effect year 'round)



<b>ODD house numbers</b>	
Monday / Wednesday / Friday:	7-10 am
Monday & Wednesday:	7-9 pm
<b>EVEN house numbers</b>	
Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday:	7-10 am
Tuesday / Thursday:	7-9 pm

**ONLY ONE sprinkler per property is permitted.**  
**A soaker hose counts as a sprinkler.**

## TREES ARE TERRIFIC!

### Why is it important to retain our trees in Gibsons?

Trees protect water and soil resources. Healthy trees can reduce the amount of runoff and pollutants in creeks, ponds and other receiving waters in 3 ways:

- Leaves, branch surfaces and trunk bark intercept and store rainfall.
- Root growth and decomposition increase the capacity and rate of soil infiltration of rainfall and reduces overland flow.
- Tree canopies reduce soil erosion by lessening the impact of raindrops on barren surfaces.



For the residences of Gibsons where most of the precipitation occurs in the winter months, evergreens play a crucial role in rainfall interception.

**Thinking of topping your trees?** You may think that topping a tree will create a water view, but what may be left is an unsightly tree with water in the background. Consider removing a few branches instead, that will provide a window or framed view of the water.

**Before cutting that tree – make sure it is your tree, and if it is your tree, check with us to make sure it is permissible to cut this tree in your area, as restrictions and penalties may apply.**

## WEST NILE VIRUS

### D- FEND YOURSELF AGAINST THE WEST NILE VIRUS

Practice the 4 D's this mosquito season.



1. **Drain** your property of standing water.
2. **Dusk/Dawn** are times to avoid being outside.
3. **Dress** appropriately & protectively.
4. **Deter** mosquitos from biting by using mosquito repellants wisely.

## BUS TICKETS

Sunshine Coast Transit System bus tickets are available for sale at the Town office.



## MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

In these challenging times, Council worked hard with staff to find the means to reduce our municipal property taxes to 0% and at the same time, reduce the business tax ratio once again.

Although this added real hurdles to balancing the 2009 budget, we were successful and are pleased to have passed a budget which met our goals, while maintaining current services to residents.

Another goal of Council has been to continue to find alternate revenue sources with the aim of reducing our reliance on property taxes. This year we have been fortunate to receive significant grant funding, as outlined in the Revenue Sources section of this pamphlet. Alternative revenue sources go a long way to reducing the burden on the local taxpayer and we will continue to work on this goal. We expect further good news in 2010 and beyond!

## MEETING SCHEDULES

### REGULAR COUNCIL

1<sup>ST</sup> and 3<sup>RD</sup> Tuesday of the month  
7:00 p.m. Council Chamber



### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday of the month:  
Planning: 8:30 a.m.  
Parks & Community Services: 2:00 p.m.

4<sup>TH</sup> Tuesday of the month  
Corporate Services: 9:00 a.m.  
Infrastructure Services: 1:30 p.m.  
Community Dialogue: 7:00 p.m.

## COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Communities in Bloom encourages everyone to continue to take pride in our community. Communities in Bloom will be judging participants of the 2009 *Bloomin' Business* contest in early August and winners will be announced in September.



Gibsons Communities in Bloom, Box 340, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0 EMAIL [info@gibsons.ca](mailto:info@gibsons.ca)

## BEAR PROOF YOUR HOME

- Keep garbage in the house, garage or shed until pick-up day.
- Pick ripe and fallen fruit daily.
- Use birdfeeders only in the winter.
- Burn off the grill on the BBQ after each use.
- Bring pet dishes inside and clean up any spillage.



## GREEN WASTE DROP OFF

The Town provides free green waste drop off at its Henry Road works yard location (915 Henry Road).



Note this is for residential use only, no commercial use please.

## RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION

Residences above Gibsons Way:  
Thursday



Residences below Gibsons Way:  
Wednesday

Only 1 – 77 litre can per house number is collected each week. You can purchase tags for extra cans for \$2.00 each at the Town office, Home Hardware, Direct Disposal or the garbage truck driver.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



The Sunshine Coast Regional District recycling depot is located in the Gibsons Park Plaza Mall.

## BURNING RESTRICTIONS

In an effort to keep our air clean, **ALL** burning is banned within the Town of Gibsons. **Please use the Green Waste Facility to dispose of your organic waste.**



May, 2009



Best Water, Best Scenery, Best Blooms



## CONTACT US:

Visit our website: [www.gibsons.ca](http://www.gibsons.ca)

### MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: 604-886-2274

Fax: 604-886-9735

### ICBC DRIVER SERVICES

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Phone: 604-886-3379

Fax: 604-886-0220

### YOUR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Mayor: Barry J. Janyk  
Councillor: Bob Curry  
Councillor: LeeAnn Johnson  
Councillor: Chris Koopmans  
Councillor: Wayne Rowe

For a brief biography and contact information please refer to the Town's website.