

Town of Gibsons

The Gateway to the Sunshine Coast

May 2009

Message From Council

In these challenging times, Council worked hard with staff to find the means to achieve a 0% increase in municipal property taxes 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.

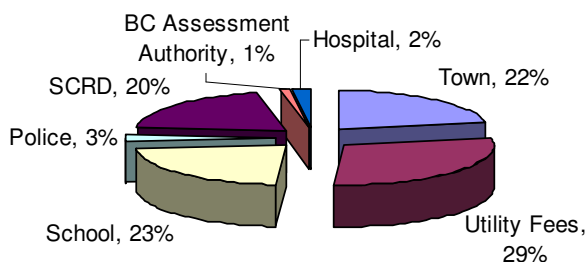
Another goal of Council has been to continue to find alternate revenue sources with the aim of reducing our reliance on property taxes. This year we have been fortunate to receive significant grant funding, as outlined on page 2.

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!*



Where does your tax money go?

Here's how the taxes that we receive from the residents and businesses of Gibsons are distributed:



How is our revenue spent?

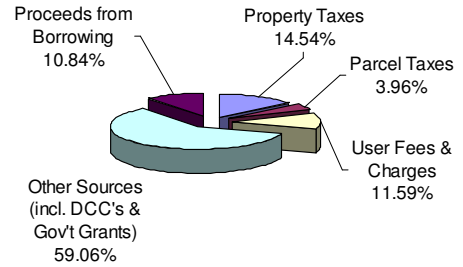
Here's how we will spend the revenues that we receive:

Capital Projects	60%
Water & Sewer Operations	11%
General Government & Admin.	10%
Public Works	7%
Parks	5%
Fiscal Services	3%
Planning	3%
Protective Services	1%

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.



Grants

To take the pressure off of the local taxpayer, we look for every opportunity to apply for grants to help ease the financial burden. 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

2009 OPERATING BUDGET		2009 CAPITAL BUDGET			
		GENERAL		WATER	
REVENUES		Sunnycrest Impr.	\$ 158,922	Fire Booster Stn	\$55,000
Property Taxes	\$1,898,705	Road Rehab (Burns)	162,800	Water Metering	1,375,236
General Revenue	733,391	Traffic Calming	9,400	PRV Projects	217,050
Rental Income	149,504	Traffic Safety Study	23,500	School Rd Proj.	907,180
Motor Vehicle Branch	250,000	Bals Lane Diversion	85,000	Water Main Rep.	231,300
Protective Services	114,000	Bollard @ Molly's	1,100	Reservoir Design	155,000
Animal Control	4,450	Five Corners	9,000	Generator Building	75,000
Transportation Services	154,191	Harmony Drainage	2,600	Aquifer Mapping	275,000
Planning Fees	20,000	Loading Zone	1,200	Total	3,290,766
Grants	2,883,788	Sign Review	1,000		
Transfers from Reserves	2,292,357	Road Rehab (Gower)	294,500	SEWER	
Collection for Others	4,333,012	Henry Rd. Roof	7,500	Force Main Des.	20,000
Total	\$12,833,398	Parkland Looping	51,400	Seawalk	7,000
		S. Fletcher Xwalks	13,200	CCTV Camera	12,000
EXPENDITURES		Vehicle Replacements	89,000	Wash down pad	5,000
General Government	\$1,413,267	Brush Cutter	20,900	Total	\$44,000
Protective Services	165,721	UGNP Storm Diversion	1,888,600		
Public Works	870,218	Com. Centre Sign	8,800		
Planning	363,235	Gibsons Way Sidewalk	1,108,833		
Parks & Cultural Services	632,444	Ocean Exchange	638,300	Note: several of these capital projects are grant dependent and will proceed only when grant funding has been approved.	
Debt	367,946	Snow Blade	18,000		
Capital Expenditures	4,687,555	Road Design	65,000		
Transfers to Other Govt's	4,333,012	Telephone System	12,000		
Total	\$12,833,398	Brothers Park Fields	17,000		
		Total	4,687,555		

Capital Budget Highlights

Here are just some of the capital work projects that we have planned for 2009.

Public Works Department:

- Road pavement rehabilitation:
 - Gower Point - School Road to Winn Road
 - Design for Gower Point - Dougall as well as Winn to Trueman (Construction planned for 2010)
- Bals Lane drainage improvements (from Gibsons Way to Creek)
- Upper Gibsons Neighbourhood Plan Geo-Thermal Energy Ground Looping (A \$325,000 grant has been received and we will be applying for an additional grant to cover another 25% of the project costs.)
- Ocean Energy and School Road Storm Drain (subject to grant)
- Gibsons Way Sidewalk - Seaview to North Rd. (subject to grant)

Planning Department:

- Gibsons Harbour Plan Study
- Complete Gospel Rock Neighbourhood Plan
- Subdivision and Development Bylaw Revision
- Begin Climate Action Plan (The Town's goal is to be Carbon Neutral by 2012.)

Parks Department:

- Community Centre Landscaping – managed on behalf of Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Ryan Dempster Field Upgrades – field lighting, electronic scoreboard, complete scorekeepers building – mostly managed by the Gibsons Minor Ball Association from a sizeable donation they recently received
- Parks Master Plan
- Inglis Park (Five corners) – Install a lifeboat planter
- Communities in Bloom – assist with above and Community Centre entrance way, Business License contest.
- Winegarden Park – tree replacement and add seasonal lighting
- Assist with Community Festivals


PROPERTY TAXES

WHEN ARE MY PROPERTY TAXES DUE?

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.

To claim your 2009 Homeowner Grant online, just click on the  link, located on our homepage.

Note: 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.**

HOW TO REACH US:

Phone: 604-886-2274

In Person: 474 S. Fletcher

Mail: Town of Gibsons
PO Box 340
Gibsons, BC
V0N 1V0

Email: info@gibsons.ca

PROVINCIAL TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAMS:

There are now two provincial 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. You can also find extensive information at the following website:

http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferment/about.htm