



Village of Kaslo

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Important property tax and home-owner grant information inside.

Mayor's Message

Kaslo May Days – this event was missed by people far and wide! It was indeed a sad weekend for the Village of Kaslo and its residents as it was the first year that the usual events associated with this weekend could not be held. The Chamber of Commerce has done an excellent job of building the weekend into the event that it has become, and all of it being free to the public. They spend countless hours coordinating the numerous events with their organizers to bring this experience to Kaslo. Thank you Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce board members present and past.

We were not completely without celebration though. Thanks to the efforts of Mark Elder, Kaslo Search and Rescue put on a May Days Parade on Monday evening dedicated to thanking Front Line workers. Teacher Katie Sheldrick organized music and hung the Maypole ribbons in Vimy Park to keep alive Kaslo's tradition of the longest running maypole dance in North America. A few brave adults also did a dance around the Maypole at a safe distance.

This will be difficult year for our entire business community, especially for the tourism-dependent businesses. This past week we saw some businesses start their gradual reopening with their Covid-19 measures being put in place. Please be patient with those businesses that have put measures in place for the safety of their staff and customers. They may not be perfect, but they are adapting to the ever-changing landscape that they are working in.

Please remember, these businesses are here year-round for the communities of Kaslo and Area D so we ask that you make shopping local a part of your routine from now on.

I know there are differing views on the approach that the federal and provincial governments have taken in response to the pandemic. The balanced measures put in place by the BC government and Provincial Health Officer, Bonnie Henry have minimized BC's infection rate and death toll while being less strict than many other Canadian jurisdictions.

The isolation has been difficult for many and will continue to be a fact of life for those with compromised immune systems and for our senior's population for the foreseeable future. For the rest of us, we are now seeing the resumption of our normal activities as campgrounds, parks and playgrounds begin to open. Here in Kaslo, the campground was able to open a few sites for self contained units, the skate park and playground have opened, and other recreational activities are making plans to reopen. Be respectful—physical distancing will continue to be part of our daily lives, not necessarily to protect you, but to protect those who are vulnerable and people working the front lines in our businesses and health facilities.

This newsletter will provide some more details regarding what Council has been doing and what the days and weeks ahead may bring. It's also tax time. Our Council and staff have worked hard to keep costs down with this year's budget.

Remember to always be kind to each other and be well.

Suzan Hewat
Mayor

*** Annual sewer utility bills have been sent out along with the property tax notices.**

Village of Kaslo City Hall, 413 Fourth Street.

As of June 1, 2020 our public service hours are Monday to Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm. We'll be closed Canada Day.

PO Box 576, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0

Email us: admin@kaslo.ca

If mailing a cheque, make payable to Village of Kaslo. Cash, cheque or debit payments are accepted at the Village office. We have new online payment options available. See next page.

2020 Property Tax Information

Each year, the Village of Kaslo Council reviews its achievements from the past year and looks forward to setting priorities for current and future years. These goals and objectives form the foundation of an annual budget that balances revenues and expenses, from which the property tax and service fees are determined. Council strives to maintain service levels that the community can afford while continuing to achieve the Village's strategic goals.

In 2020, a total budget of just over \$3.5 million was approved by Council. The Villages portion of property tax revenue is 19% of this budget. We also collect nearly \$1 million on behalf of other regional and provincial authorities. Those authorities set their own tax rates each year, which we remit directly to them. This is convenient because you only receive one tax bill, but we don't control their rates.



Zero average change in Village taxes

Taxes are based on the total assessed value of all properties within the municipal boundary. Council recognizes the challenges our residents and businesses will be facing this year due to the impact of the pandemic on our local economy. So we tightened our belt, too, and committed to no Village tax increase this year. Due to the increase in assessed values, this means that Village tax rates are actually going down by 4.76%. The province is also providing relief to commercial property owners by reducing the School Tax portion of their bills.

Assessment Roll

- 0.6% of the increase in total property value is attributable to non-market increase (new building permits, growth)
- The reduction in rates keeps the 2020 property tax the same as 2019 for a property that saw an average increase in assessed value. Actual increase or decrease will vary.

2019 to 2020 Assessment Comparison

Property Use	2019		2020	
	Value	Rates	Value	Rates
Residential	\$ 157,007,300.00	0.3276%	\$167,182,600.00	0.3128%
Utilities	\$ 513,300.00	1.5268%	\$514,500.00	1.4575%
Industrial	\$ 196,000.00	0.7634%	\$286,700.00	0.7288%
Business/Commercial	\$ 13,758,250.00	0.7634%	\$13,784,850.00	0.7288%
Recreation/Non Profit	\$ 352,400.00	0.3408%	\$352,400.00	0.3253%
Total Assessment	\$ 171,827,250.00		\$182,121,050.00	

Value Up 5.95%

Rates down 4.76%

Paying your taxes and applying for the Homeowner Grant: *New online options make it more convenient!*

Apply for your **Home Owner's Grant** online through **eHOG**. The link is on our website kaslo.ca, or type in <http://ehog.amaitech.com/eHOG/Connect?client=kaslo> (case-sensitive). The password is shown at the top-right of your tax bill.

If you are a **Kootenay Savings Credit Union** client, you can make an online bill payment to Village of Kaslo. When you set this up for the first time, the account number is "T" followed by the Roll Number shown at the top-left of the bill. If your roll number is less than six digits add zeros at the beginning to make it so.

You can **pay online with a credit or debit card** through **PayTM**. The link is on our website kaslo.ca, or type in http://p.paytm.ca/pages/village_of_kaslo. A convenience fee will be added to your payment amount. Again, your account number is "T" and the Roll Number shown at the top-left of the tax bill.

By Mail (Cheque, Bank Draft): PO Box 576, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0 Please make cheque payable to "Village of Kaslo" and indicate the Roll Number in the note so we credit the payment to the right property account.

In person (Cash, Cheque, Debit): Village of Kaslo City Hall, 413 Fourth Street.

Our in-person public service hours are Monday to Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm. Extended hours 9:00am to 4:00pm on June 29, 30 & July 2. Please enter via the front door, unless you need to use the accessibility ramp, and observe signs and floor markings as we have to restrict the number of people in the building.

*** Payment is due on or before July 2, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. ***

Payment must be received by the due date. Please allow adequate time for mail delivery or online payment processing. If you are eligible for the Homeowner Grant please remember to send us the application form (the bottom portion of your tax bill) or apply online through eHOG by July 2, 2020.

Payments received on or after October 1, 2020 are subject to a 10% late penalty.

2020 Property Tax Information (CONTINUED)

Defer your property taxes

If you're having trouble paying your taxes this year you may be eligible to defer your property tax through the BC Government's deferment process. You may qualify under the regular program if you're:

- 55 or older during the current year
- a surviving spouse of any age, or
- a person with disabilities

You may qualify under the Families with Children Program if you're financially supporting a child.

Tax deferment is a low-interest loan on your property that can be paid off at any time or when you sell your property. You can re-apply every year up to a maximum of 25% of your property's equity. Your previous year's taxes must be paid up to date, and you may only apply for your primary residence.

To find out more: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes>

eHOG

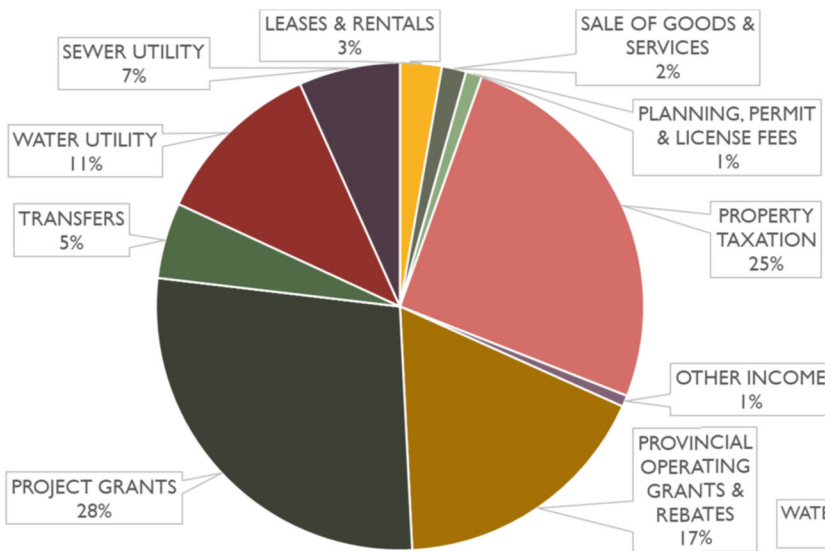
In the top-right corner of your tax notice is your password for accessing the online Home Owner's Grant application form. You'll need this password and your roll number to apply. It's fast, easy and takes a big chunk out of the tax bill for your principal residence. You must apply by July 2, 2020 to claim your grant!

No late penalty until October 1, 2020

We encourage you to please pay your property tax on time if you can. But if you need more time this year, Council approved delaying the 10% late payment penalty to October 1st. Normally, the penalty is imposed as of July 3rd. You can also pay by installments.

2020 Total Budget Revenue & Expenditures

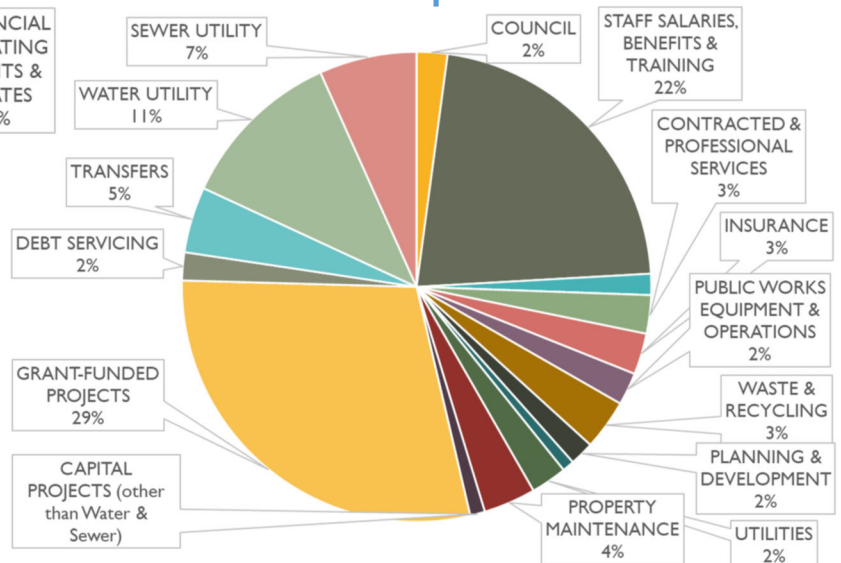
2020 Sources of Revenue



Taxes collected for other agencies:

RDCK	\$ 476,373.00	+11.2%
Hospital	\$ 51,858.00	+0.5%
Assessment Authority	\$ 9,529.25	+5.5%
Municipal Finance	\$ 41.84	+12.0%
School	\$ 384,205.63	-3.7%
Police	\$ 57,057.56	+8.2%
Total Collections	\$ 979,516	

2020 Expenditures



Sewer Rates

New sewer rates based on the new Liquid Waste Management Plan were recently approved by Council. There is now a consistent basic rate for residential properties instead of the complex formula used in the past.

Council also approved delaying a sewer parcel tax, to help ease the transition to the new rates and keep costs low for residents and businesses that are connected. The sewer parcel tax goes towards funding future upgrades and servicing debt.

2020 Garbage and Recycling Collection Calendar

July 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					


September 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			


October 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Single-use Blue Bags are no longer accepted for recycling collection.

 Garbage Collection Day

 Garbage & Recycling Collection Day

Visit: www.recycleBC.ca/what-can-i-recycle

Blue Bin Program

The Village will be distributing recycling bins in June. If you haven't already let us know you don't need a bin, please contact the office at 250-353-2311 x101 or email admin@kaslo.ca

2020 Projects & Programs

This year's budget includes these major projects:

- Front Street Park (\$600k)
Funding from Columbia Basin Trust
- Kaslo River Dike and Shoreline Protection (\$300k)
Funding from UBCM Structural Flood Mitigation grant
- Community Fire Smart and Education (\$150k over 2 years)
Funding from UBCM Community Resiliency grant
- Aerodrome and Kaslo Bay Planning Projects (\$90k)
Funding from BC Rural Dividend Grant
- Completion of Sewer Expansion Phase 1 to Campground (\$36k)
Funding from UBCM Federal Gas Tax Strategic Initiatives grant

We thank our funding partners for making these projects possible!

Garbage Bag Tags

Bag tags are required for curbside collection of all garbage bags or containers as of June 2, 2020.

Tags are \$30 per sheet of 10. You can purchase them at City Hall, Husky or contact the office to arrange payment and receive them by mail.

City Hall Open June 1

The Village office will be open to the public as of June 1st. Please enter by the front door and exit by the side door unless you need to use the accessibility ramp. Observe the signs and floor markings. The number of people allowed in at any time will be limited. Service BC will also be back three days a week.

Summer Student

Summer employment opportunity with the Village Public Works Crew. Must be under 30 years old and have Class 5 driver's license. Email resume to admin@kaslo.ca by May 29, 2020.

Parks Open

The **Skate Park** is open again but we ask all users to be respectful of personal space. **No mountain bikes or motorized units of any kind are allowed.** The playground is also open but keep in mind the equipment is not cleaned. Use at own risk. No group bookings or activities permitted.

Campground Open

The campground is open on a limited basis. Only about 1/2 of the sites will be available starting in June so that appropriate distance between unrelated campers is maintained. One public washroom is open on the Ring Road side. U.S. reservations are not being taken until border restrictions are lifted, and no group bookings.

Social distancing, the "Jazzlo way!"

