

## Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

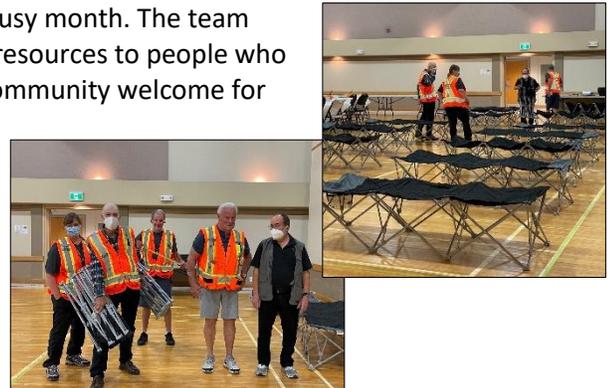
Welcome to Fall and a strange one it has been. We have had little or no rainfall since early July and temperatures which continue to be above normal. The Province of BC recently elevated east Vancouver Island and other areas in the province to provincial Drought Level 4 and as such most municipalities have moved to Stage 4 Watering Restrictions which is a comprehensive watering ban. The lower mainland, Sunshine Coast and west Vancouver Island have now reached Drought level 5. As well, the fire danger rating is extreme for our region of east Vancouver Island. Lots more information at these links:

[BC Drought Information](#)  
[BC Fire Danger Rating](#)

### Oceanside Emergency Support Services

As always, Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) have had a busy month. The team responded to two emergency activations in the region, providing vital resources to people who had been evacuated from their homes. OESS also participated in the community welcome for the Tour de Rock by setting up and maintaining group lodging at the Parksville Community Centre for the cyclists. On top of that, the team completed their regularly scheduled training sessions. Thank you to all our OESS volunteers; our communities are more resilient because of you!

If you are interested in joining the OESS team, contact Chris James at [oessd@parksville.ca](mailto:oessd@parksville.ca) or 250 937-0448.



### New Emergency Program Coordinator

The City of Parksville has a new emergency program coordinator; Kate Pocock started on September 26. Kate has great experience in emergency planning and management. Most recently, she was with Innomergence Solutions as an emergency management contractor, and as emergency planning coordinator with the Regional District of Nanaimo. Kate's experience includes development of emergency and business continuity plans, public education, training, volunteer recruitment and retention, stakeholder collaboration, and work with Indigenous communities. Among many other qualifications, Kate has a diploma in Emergency and Security Management.

You can reach Kate at [kpocock@parksville.ca](mailto:kpocock@parksville.ca) or (250) 954-4672. **Welcome aboard Kate!**

### Are You Ready to Shake Out?

The 2022 Great British Columbia ShakeOut drill is set for October 20 at 10.20 am. Participating in ShakeOut is a great way to practice how to be safer during earthquakes. It encourages us all to check our personal emergency preparedness plans and supplies and to think about how we can make our work and home spaces safer during earthquakes. Spread the word about ShakeOut to motivate your neighbourhood, friends, family, and colleagues to prepare for earthquakes.



Resources are on the ShakeOut BC website and one of this year's activities include "Ask an Expert" webinar on October 19. Info at this [link](#).

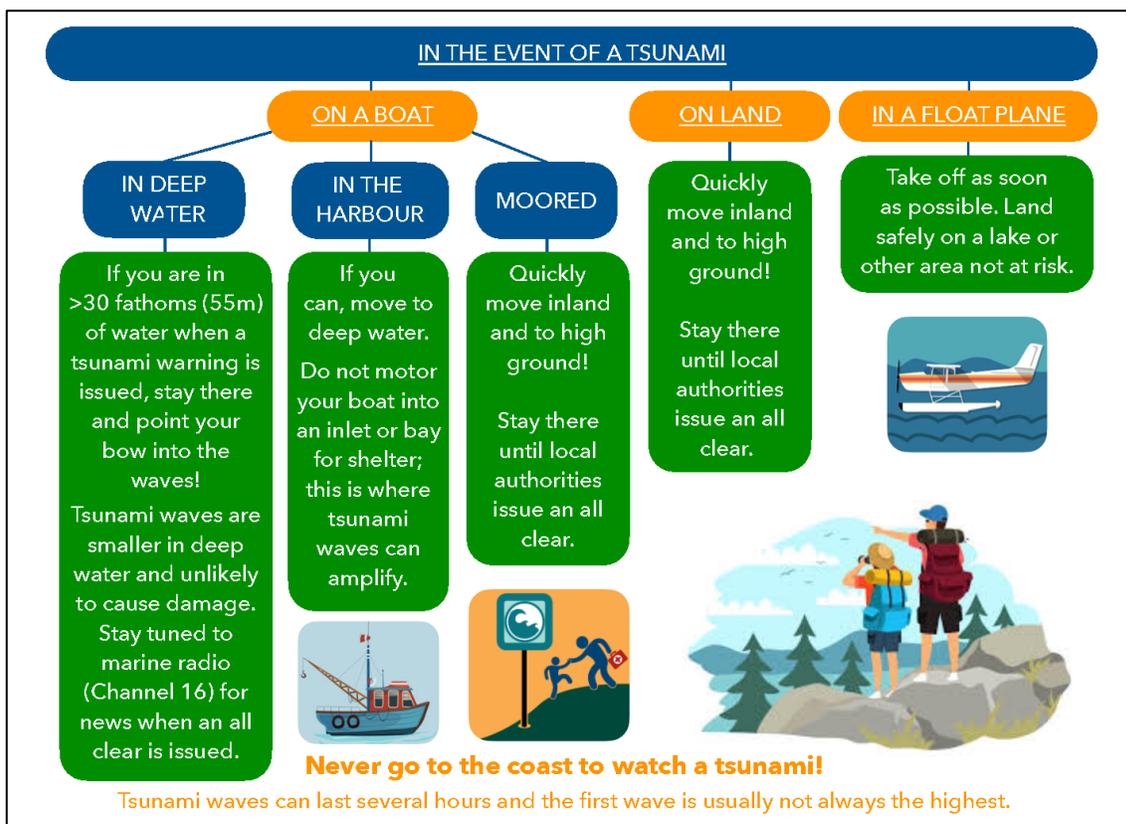
## Tsunami Awareness for BC's Coastal Areas

Tsunamis are rare but serious events: being prepared and knowing what to do can save lives. Most tsunamis are caused by huge undersea earthquakes. BC's coastline is tectonically active: a major fault lies along western Haida Gwaii and the Juan de Fuca Plate subducts under the North American Plate west of Vancouver Island. It is the movement between tectonic plates that causes earthquakes.

When tsunami warnings or advisories are issued, emergency officials may refer to BC's five tsunami zones. The Parksville-Qualicum area is in Zone E, but Vancouver Island covers 4 tsunami zones! It is wise to know the tsunami zones and hazards where you live, work, play, and visit. If you feel strong shaking, hear a loud roaring sound coming from the ocean and/or see the water recede abnormally far/quickly, these can be precursors to a tsunami. Once any shaking has stopped, immediately move inland to high ground (more than 20m above sea level). Then, stay there! Tsunami waves can last many hours. Follow the instructions of local officials before assuming the event is over.

*Not all earthquakes cause tsunamis and not all tsunamis are caused by earthquakes!*

For more information watch [ShakeOutBC's YouTube videos](#) – [What Causes a Tsunami?](#) And What is a Subduction Zone?



## Stakeholder Working Group and CCEM Strategies

A stakeholder working group has been created to assist EMO in the ongoing preparation for response and resilience to hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities affecting our communities. This work will complement the hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis developed in 2019. EMO has contracted CCEM Strategies, an emergency management and business continuity consultancy firm, to engage in and develop three hazard-specific response guidelines over the coming months. The working group and the hazard-specific guideline project are of crucial importance to enhancing the overall readiness of our communities to respond to and recover from emergent events. EMO appreciates the involvement and time commitment of the stakeholder working group. Stay tuned for more information.

## Emergency Notifications

In the event of an emergency, one of the ways Emergency Management Oceanside may notify you is by using alerts sent through Voyent Alert!. This system allows community members to register online to receive messages relevant to their community through email, app, text message, or voice call.

Registration for Voyent Alert! is free. Go to <https://www.register.voyent-alert.com> to sign up today. Contact Kate at [kpocock@parksville.ca](mailto:kpocock@parksville.ca) or 250 954-4672 if you have questions about the system or registration process.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open to the public with full services. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm (except statutory holidays). Although the office is open, residents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the other payment options including payment through your financial institution; mail a cheque; or drop off a cheque at Town Hall drop box (location below). If you do wish to visit Town Hall to conduct business, masks are recommended while in the building.

- Email [gbtown@qualicumbeach.com](mailto:gbtown@qualicumbeach.com)
- Phone 250 752-6921
- Post PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7
- Mail Slot Out front of Town Hall, near the fountain
- [Website](#)

In accordance with public health orders from the Province of BC, the public is welcome to attend to in-person Council meetings. Council and select staff will attend in person, capacity limits will be monitored, and if required, alternative viewing location(s) will be provided.

### City of Parksville

City Hall is open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm. When visiting:

- Masks are recommended while in the building.
- If sick or feeling unwell, please stay home.
- The public is welcome to attend Council meetings in-person; however, attendance is limited. Meetings are webstreamed live and archived from the City's [website](#).
- Refer to the City [website](#) and [Let's Talk Parksville](#) for more information.

### [COVID-19 Resources](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control](#)

[Island Health](#)

[Vaccine info](#) - 1 833 838-2323

Medical COVID-19 information - 811

### For more information:

Kate Pocock, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Parksville  
[kpocock@parksville.ca](mailto:kpocock@parksville.ca)

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications, City of Parksville  
[dtardiff@parksville.ca](mailto:dtardiff@parksville.ca)

