

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

SPECIAL WEATHER ALERT

Please be advised of two weather systems over the next few days. Heavy rains and strong winds are expected to begin Thursday evening through Friday with rainfall amounts up to 30 mm. The River Forecast Centre has also issued a “high streamflow advisory” for rivers and tributaries across BC including the Englishman River so please be cautious when around fast flowing water. Below seasonal temperatures are then expected Sunday through Wednesday, with below zero temperatures overnight. Please check on those who are vulnerable or live alone and be prepared. Stay up to date at Environment Canada and DriveBC.

Oceanside Emergency Support Services

This past month, the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) team were called upon to assist following an emergency which resulted in residents having to evacuate their home. Thank you to the OESS team for responding with compassion and efficiency, as always.

The team has also been completing the preparation required to begin using the new Provincial Evacuee Registration Tool (ERA 2.0) which provides an online platform for resource allocation and team management. Many volunteer hours have been spent configuring the associated electronic system and training team members. ERA will provide efficiency to both volunteers and evacuees, while allowing for the traditional paper processing system to be used when required.

Here's a [video](#) explaining ERA here!

In October, OESS members were invited to be part of a training exercise at Nanaimo Airport, a full-scale simulation of a plane crash at the airport. A group of OESS members travelled down and acted as injured passengers and concerned family members of those involved. It was a fun opportunity for our members to experience a different type of training and response, and their participation was greatly appreciated.

Oceanside Emergency Communications Team

Over the last month, the Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT) has been testing their stored equipment at community sites around the area. Each week, team members check communications clarity, overall condition of the equipment, and familiarize new volunteers with the facilities and equipment OECT may use in the event of an emergency.

OECT stores equipment in community facilities throughout the north of the Regional District of Nanaimo. Regularly checking and maintaining the equipment is essential to ensure the facilities are ready to be used in the event of an emergency.



Last month, OECT was contacted by a neighbouring emergency program to tour the Oceanside emergency communications trailer. OECT volunteers provided a detailed tour of the trailer and its emergency communications capabilities to assist our neighbouring emergency communications team develop their own emergency communications trailer.

If you are interested in joining the OESS or OECT team, please contact Chris James at oesd@parksville.ca or 250 937-0448

Atmospheric Rivers

“Atmospheric rivers” is a phrase we often hear nowadays. How concerned should we all be?



Atmospheric rivers are not new and are not uncommon. On average, twelve to twenty atmospheric rivers occur in BC each year. They are a vital way to replenish the land after the dry summer months; each atmospheric river often brings a volume of water like the Mississippi River! With that much water landing in a short period of time, there is the potential for an atmospheric river to cause significant damage, as witnessed in November 2021.

These weather events are closely monitored through strong interagency cooperation. Incoming weather systems are tracked, and partner agencies are regularly updated. Coordination calls are held in advance between partner organizations so everyone has all

the available information. This allows preparation to occur as far in advance as possible.

When atmospheric rivers occur close together, or after periods of drought, or when they stall over land, the risk associated with them increases as that is when flooding is most likely to occur. Emergency Management Oceanside will notify residents of incoming atmospheric rivers likely to cause increased risk to the area. Residents can [prepare their households](#) by being storm ready.

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 kpcock@parksville.ca or 250 954-4672 should you have questions about the system or



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 qbtown@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:

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