

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Oceanside Emergency Support Services

You may have already read about the successful training session the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) team completed on January 10. The team gathered at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre and practiced setting up a reception centre and the new Evacuation Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool. ERA allows emergency support services responders to quickly register evacuees and provide them with referrals and resources without paper forms.

A great article was published by the PQB News and can be read [here](#).

The OESS volunteers have been training hard to ensure a smooth transition to ERA. Many hours have been spent completing the required courses and setting up the necessary computer components. EMO looks forward to the flexibility and autonomy the new ERA system will offer evacuees.

Oceanside Emergency Communications Team

January was a quieter month than December for Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT). The team met for regularly scheduled training, a maintenance morning and a planning meeting. As always, the team has been working hard to maximize the efficiency of EMO's emergency radio communications systems.



The team is always accepting new members. If you're even slightly interested in entering the world of radios, arrange a time to come and see what goes on at OECT.

You don't have to have any existing certification to join our team! If you are interested in joining the OESS or OECT team, please contact Chris James at oessd@parksville.ca or (250) 937-0448

Mid Island Emergency Coordinators and Managers Group

EMO is an active member of the Mid Island Emergency Coordinators and Managers (MIECM) group. MIECM comprises emergency management personnel from communities on the northern half of Vancouver Island. The group meets every other month to share news, work towards common goals and to identify wise practices in the dynamic world of emergency management.



January's meeting had a strong focus on radio communications and the importance of emergency communications teams in community readiness and resilience. It is expected that multi-regional radio communications exercises will occur again this year after a break in recent months. These exercises require significant planning and expertise to run. However, they are extremely valuable in identifying strengths and weaknesses in radio communications for individual communications teams, and Vancouver Island as a whole.

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program Groups

EMO has noticed a renewed interest in neighbourhood emergency preparedness (NEPP) groups over the last few months. This is great news! In February, EMO will start to get back out into communities meeting with NEPP groups to help plan their next steps towards resiliency.

NEPP is a great way for community members to take an active role in increasing their neighbourhood’s resilience to emergencies and disasters. NEPP provides residents the tools to expand from personal preparedness to a network of neighbours able to help themselves and each other.



Supported by the EMO emergency program coordinator, neighbourhoods create teams to help each other prepare for emergencies, minimize hazards in the home and think about how they can work together after an emergency or disaster occurs.

Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca or 250 954-4672 to talk about getting NEPP started where you live.

Emergency Notifications with Voyent Alert!

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 register.voyent-alert.com to sign up today. Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca or 250 954-4672 with 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 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
- Websites qualicumbeach.com
qbfirerescue.com

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 offices are open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm and the operations department from 8 am to 4 pm, closed noon to 1 pm. Contact information:

General inquiries and finance department	250 248-6144; info@parksville.ca
Administration and Office of the Mayor	250 954-3060; admin@parksville.ca
Operations	250 248-5412; ops@parksville.ca
Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242; fire@parksville.ca

For more information:

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Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications, City of Parksville
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