



The City has been reaching out to residents over the past few months and we've received a lot of great questions. We are doing our best to get them answered and each month we are going to highlight a few right here in the newsletter.

For plenty more Q&A just like this, visit ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca

Answers to some of your parking questions!

How much parking does Penticton have downtown and the surrounding area?

There are currently about 3,900 parking spaces downtown. Of this amount, approximately 40% are used by employees of businesses in the area, another 40% are used by customers and the remaining 20% are used by residents (2016).



How does the City manage parking?

The City has a mix of programs to address parking pressures while encouraging activity downtown. Free two hour parking along Main Street and metered parking in the adjacent blocks are designed to make it convenient for people to shop and do business downtown. Resident Only Parking areas on neighboring streets encourage employee parking in nearby paid lots. Private and public lots provide parking for employers and their employees.

Should the City add parking downtown?

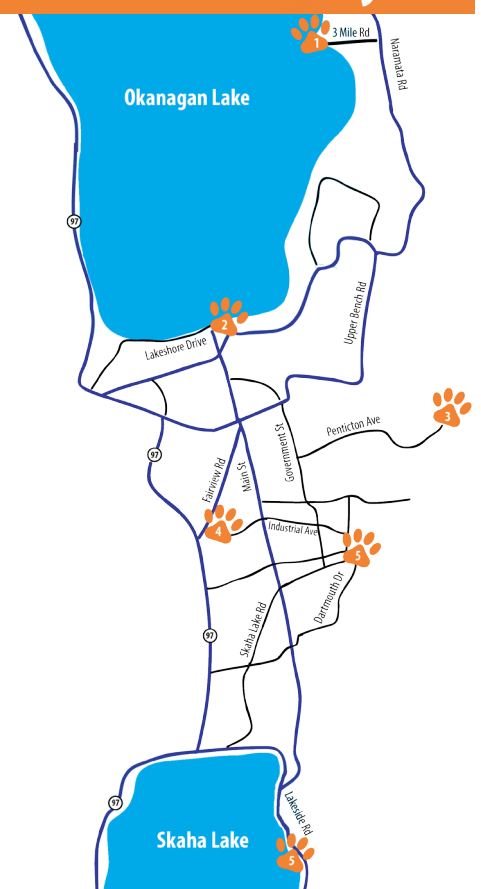
The utilization rate of available parking in Penticton's downtown is about 47% when averaged over the year. Additional parking is often considered once the utilization rate in an area reaches 85%. The City of Penticton is reviewing the current parking and transportation programs, consulting the community through surveys and community events, and working with the Transportation Advisory Committee.

I sometimes see owners letting their dogs run free in parks, is it a requirement to keep your dog on a leash at all times in the City?

Yes, unless your dog is within a designated off-leash area or on private property, all dogs must be on a leash with a length of not more than two metres. You could face fines if your dog is found off-leash, the leash is not in your hand or if the leash isn't under your control – this includes extension leashes. Please be mindful that some people do not want your dog approaching them so it's important to keep your leash under control at all times.

Leashed dogs are welcome in most of Penticton's parks but they are not allowed on the beach except where designated. Please be on the lookout for signage restricting dogs in some public places and note that dogs are not allowed on school property, sports fields, cemeteries or children's playgrounds.

If your dog poops off your property, it's up to you to scoop and you can be fined for non-compliance. Dog owners should always have a plastic bag on hand for the task. Many parks and walking trails are equipped with plastic bag dispensers and waste receptacles.





Meet Us!

Issy's Top 5 Fire Safety Tips:

- 1 Have a working smoke detector on each floor of your house.
- 2 Have a fire escape plan for your family and practice this plan.
- 3 Have a working Fire Extinguisher. Know how to properly use it.
- 4 Teach your children the risks of playing with matches and lighters.
- 5 Keep flammable objects and materials away from ignition sources.

What is a typical day-in-the-life for you?

The typical day of the firefighter is very dynamic. No day is the same for us. When we are on shift we usually do a mix of cleaning and maintaining our equipment to ensure we are emergency response ready, we work with the public doing fire and life safety training, and we do inspections at business and residential buildings throughout the city. We are continually training to refresh and stay up-to-date on our skill sets.



Who works for the City and what do they do?

Each month we shed some light on who does what around City Hall as well as the numerous other facilities and operations managed by the City.



Name: Issy Venables

Position: Firefighter

Start date: February, 2017

Primary responsibilities: Protecting the public in emergency situations, Fire and Life Safety Education, and continual training to keep skill sets fresh and current.

What is the most rewarding aspect of job?

It's hard to pick just one thing. There are so many parts of this career that are rewarding. If I had to pick, it would be working with and helping the public.

What is the best part of the day?

Being put in different challenging situations and being able to put skills learned during training to use.

We hear that you are a newer member to the fire fighter team at Fire Station 1. What made you choose a Penticton fire station?

I spent the last four years of my forestry firefighting career with Penticton Initial Attack. There have been a handful of other forestry crew members who made the move to structural careers with the Penticton Fire Department. I came from a common background, working relationships were made, and it was the right direction for me to move.

What is one of the best things about working in Penticton?

It's hard to beat the Okanagan Valley. It's beautiful here. Penticton is a really friendly community with lots of outdoor activities. I feel really lucky to be able to take in the beauty that our community and valley has to offer four seasons of the year.

Is there a particular aspect of Penticton that made you want to continue working here?

I was born and raised in Penticton. My family is here. I've spent some time away but Penticton has always been my home.

Is there something that you've learned from this job that you didn't know was so important before you worked in this industry?

My husband and I are both shift workers. He often works away and my shifts consist of night and days. So it's rare for our time off to lineup. When we actually get a morning, evening or full day together it makes that time so much more important.

What is something that you think the public should be more aware of when it comes to fire safety?

The public should make sure they have a working smoke detector on every floor of their home. Early fire detection it vital to survival.

