

Photo credit: Julian Giordano

## Patience requested following adjustments to service levels

The City of Penticton is seeking the public's understanding and patience as the impact of \$3.6 million in COVID-19 triggered budget cuts becomes more evident throughout the community.

"What a reduction of \$3.6 million actually looks like is now becoming more visible", said Penticton's Chief Financial Officer, Jim Bauer. "Although the City has taken steps wherever possible to mitigate revenue reductions with cost savings as we navigate through the COVID-19 crisis, many of these adjustments have had a direct impact on services that are highly visible to our residents, including maintenance for parks, roads and beaches as well as reduced recreation programs and amenity access."

Cost saving measures introduced in April, including the layoff of 88 employees constituting nearly 20 per cent of the City's workforce, were triggered by drops in annual revenue typically acquired through gaming, recreation, parking, building & licensing, transit, planning and other sources.

Details of the City's current financial state, along with steps being taken to responsibly manage available funds, were presented to Council during their June 2 meeting.



Notable adjustments include:

- Closure of arenas, Community Centre and all related programs at the Cleland Theatre, SOEC, PTCC, Library and Museum.
- Reduction of Park staff from 34 to 23.
- Reduced maintenance in Dunant, Granby, KVR, Lions McGregor, McLaren, Old RCMP, Riverside, Skate Park Warren, Windsor, Columbia, Kiwanis, Queens, Robinson and Sendero Canyon, Arasook, Ayres Cres and Baskin parks.

## Bylaw Services downtown location now open



As we move into the height of the summer season with more people utilizing our outdoor parks and beaches, it is important to remember that if you see something, say something. Our Bylaw Services Officers are out on bike patrols, but we all play a role in keeping our community safe.

If you are heading out, please review these helpful reminders:

- Remove items from vehicles that are easily seen such as purses, loose changes and electronics.
- Ensure that you have locked your vehicle or bicycle.
- Register your bike with Project 529 Garage to help return your bike

back to you if stolen.

- All crime related incidents should be reported to the RCMP

Our downtown Bylaw Services location has recently completed construction and opened its doors as of June 15 across from Nanaimo Square.

The new office will create a valuable meeting and planning space where Bylaw and RCMP officers meet and collaborate. Also included is a Bylaw response front counter and a public non-emergency call phone with a direct line to the RCMP.

Let's continue to work together to keep our community safe so we can enjoy all of the great amenities and places in Penticton.

For more information about Bylaw go to [www.penticton.ca](http://www.penticton.ca), email [bylaw@penticton.ca](mailto:bylaw@penticton.ca) or call 250-490-2440.



# Recreation Penticton offers three modified summer programs

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Recreation Penticton has cancelled all summer programming apart from three modified programs including Summer Day Camps, Penticton Youth Park Skate Camps and Summer bugs.

Summer Bugs for ages 3-5 operated in partnership with the Safety Village, Community Centre Day Camps for ages 6-12, and Penticton Youth Park Skate Camps for ages 6-12 will all be returning this July and August.

These programs will be modified to ensure all guidelines in place by the Provincial Health Officer are followed and enforced.

With more outdoor play, increased



instructor to child ratio, enhanced cleaning procedures and new physical distancing games, these camps are bound to be fun and safe for all participants. The City's Recreation department is looking

forward to welcoming participants back to camp in a new, fun and exciting way.

Head online to [www.penticton.ca/recreation](http://www.penticton.ca/recreation) for more information on camp changes and registration.

## Property Tax Notices

Property tax notices are issued in mid-June, with a due date of the last business day in July. If you did not receive your property tax notice, please be aware taxes are still due by the due date.

**Claim Your Homeowner Grant!** The homeowner grant is a provincial program that helps reduce the amount of residential property tax you pay. You must claim your homeowner grant for the current year, even if you successfully claimed it in the prior year.

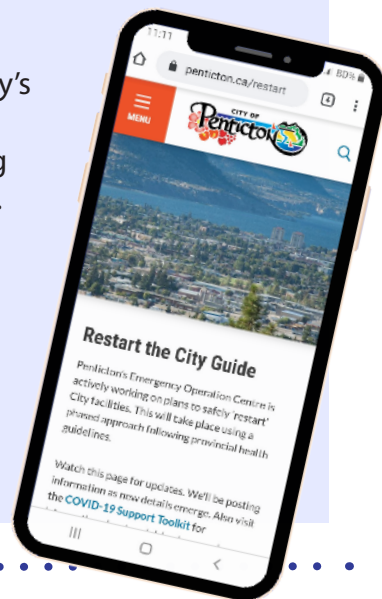
Visit [www.penticton.ca/HOG](http://www.penticton.ca/HOG) for more information.



## Retart the City Guide

Stay up-to-date on the City's phased approach to reopen facilities by visiting [www.penticton.ca/restart](http://www.penticton.ca/restart).

Also visit the COVID-19 Support Toolkit for information about social, business and financial support that may be available to you.



# City takes steps to reopen City Facilities



Following a closure lasting nearly three months, Penticton City Hall, along with the Yards Building and new Bylaw Office, reopened to the public June 15, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To safely greet the public, a variety of protocols were introduced including, instructional signage, social distancing floor decaling, enhanced cleaning measures and hand sanitizing stations.

“While all three buildings are once again open to the public, with the spread of COVID-19 remaining a risk, we continue to encourage residents to use the City's online resources as their primary method of connecting with staff or when making payments,” said the City's Communication Manager, Philip Cooper.

For service updates from specific departments, including development services, public works, bylaw, utilities, procurement, cemetery and the Mayor's office, please visit the City's website and subscribe for online updates providing information on recently issued announcements and emergency alerts.

Visit [www.penticton.ca/subscribe](http://www.penticton.ca/subscribe) to sign up.

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