



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

Why am I getting a bill for sewer, is this a new charge?

The method of calculating sanitary sewer charges was changed for 2017 to more fairly distribute costs among sewer users. Sanitary sewer was previously billed on property tax statements. 2016 tax notices showed line items for "sewer fixtures" and "sewer debt" with the sum of the two being the annual charge for sanitary sewer. These charges have been removed from 2017 property tax statements.

If you have a water account with the City you are responsible for sanitary sewer charges and will now receive a monthly statement. If you rent and only maintain an electric account, you are not responsible for sanitary sewer charges. Please note that rental agreements vary and the party responsible for payment could be a landlord, tenant, strata or some other entity depending on the nature of the tenancy agreement.

Letters explaining the changes were mailed to all water account holders in early November.

For more information on sanitary sewer charges, please consult the City's website under Departments/ Billing & Finance or call 250-490-2489 or e-mail utilities@penticton.ca

Does the City give "money" to developers?

Developments may qualify under the City's Economic Investment Zone (EIZ) Program for tax breaks on the improvements they bring to a property - taxes are still payable on the land and any other improvements that previously existed. In most cases, tax exemptions are for five years and include the municipal portion of taxes only; hospital, regional district and school taxes are still collected and benefit the community.

The City is in competition with other regions to attract development and keep our existing businesses here. While the cost of incentives must remain top of mind, we must also factor in the benefits of revitalization which extend beyond the purely financial aspects.

For example, the land occupied by the Landmark Cinema downtown used to house a rundown building on a brownfield site with contaminated soil. After development it became a catalyst for further activity in the surrounding area and we now have Bad Tattoo (also a brownfield site) Cannery Brewing, Old Order Distillery and TIME urban winery. Development has transformed environmental problems into amenities that the community can enjoy and helped establish an entertainment hub. Businesses have increased staff

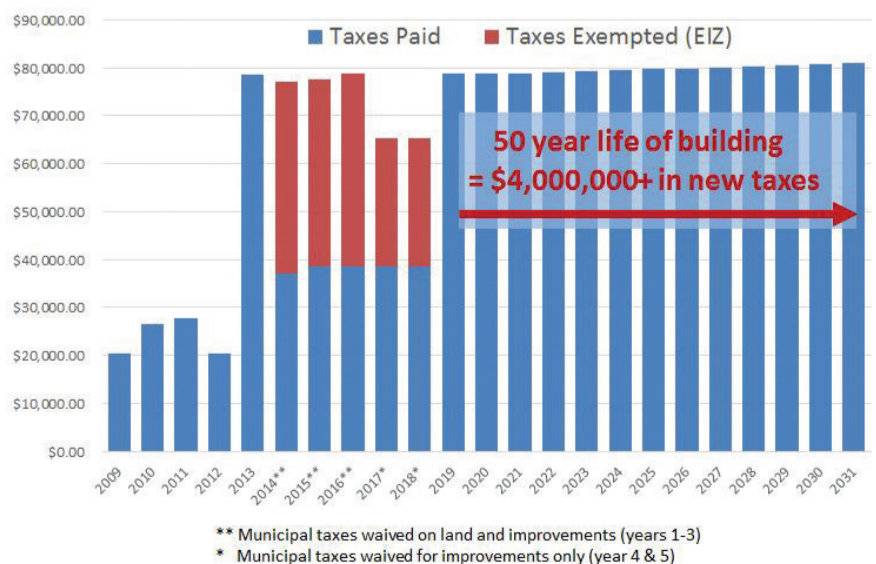
or created new jobs and are playing a major role in making downtown vibrant, safe and attractive to visit. Funds that may have previously flown out of town to larger entertainment centers are now being spent locally.

Of the 27 EIZ projects that have qualified to date, 70% came from local business and industry re-investing back in the community to grow their business. When the exemptions are complete for the current slate of applications, more than \$223,000 will have been added to the annual tax role. Not only does

the City collect substantially more tax due to higher valuations, we continue to collect it over the entire life of the assets, which often extends to 40 years and beyond.

It is impossible to definitively validate if a given development would have taken place without an incentive plan in place, or what the exact tipping point is for any development decision. What we can say with certainty is that we have benefited from the economic activity and community benefits our EIZ program has created.

Landmark Cinema Example



MEET US

...who we are

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: Blain Ford

Position: Recreation Coordinator

Start date: July, 2014

Primary responsibilities: Planning adult fitness & recreation programs, taking care of day-to-day operations in the fitness room, working with our volunteers and coordinating skating lessons.

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

My job varies a lot from day-to-day and the time of year, but the majority of my day is spent at my desk planning and monitoring various programs. I also check in on the fitness room and drop in sports to ensure they're running smoothly, as well as touching base with fitness instructors and volunteers. Despite my busy days I always make sure to fit in a run, cycle or swim during my lunch hour

What is the most rewarding/favourite aspect of the job?

I think the coolest thing about my job is that we get to be the highlight of the day for many people. Everyone is in a good mood when they come to the Community Centre because they're here to have fun, whether they're taking the kids swimming, working out in the fitness room, playing a sport in the gym, or going to a class. I love being able to offer programs that contribute to the health and well-being of our community

What types of programs are being offered this year?

As always, we have a ton of awesome programs for people of all ages – everything from kids swimming lessons, to teen babysitting courses, to adult yoga, to older adult fitness.

The Spring/Summer Recreation Guide has all the information you need and will be available online as of March 3, with registration beginning March 8. Our Active Advantage packages offer great perks and savings as well as early registration - call us at 250-490-2426 to learn more.

How can someone go about registering for programs?

- In person at the Community Centre, 325 Power Street
- Over the phone at 250-490-2426
- Online at pentiction.ca/recreation

Are there any programs you'd like to highlight in your upcoming Rec Guide?

Absolutely! We have a huge variety of programs to choose from, but a few highlights are:

Childminding - For this program guide we've scheduled a huge variety of fitness programs in sequence with our childminding service including Zumba, Tai Chi, Yoga, Barre, Total Toner, and LaBlast Dance Fitness. So for all those parents out there with little ones, let us take care of the kids while you take care of your health!

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and Monday to Thursday 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Together In Movement & Exercise (TIME) - The TIME program is a lighter moving exercise class that is tailored to those that are struggling with their mobility and balance. If you (or someone you know) is suffering from limited mobility as a result of a stroke, MS, the effects of aging, or weakness after a hospital stay - the TIME program would be a great way to get the body moving again.

Tuesday/Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

20/20/20 - This workout incorporates three areas of fitness into one class. The first 20 minutes focuses on cardio and strength to get the blood flowing. The middle 20 minutes builds core strength through static and dynamic exercises, and then we slow it down for the last 20 minutes with some stretching and rolling. You'll leave feeling rejuvenated, relaxed, and ready to face the afternoon!

Tuesday/Thursday 12:05 p.m. to 1:05 p.m.



New Rec Guide coming soon! Registration for Spring/Summer programs starts March 8th.

Meet your Council

COUNCILLORS

Helena Konanz
Andre Martin
Max Picton

Tarik Sayeed
Judy Sentes
Campbell Watt

MAYOR Andrew Jakubeit

Want to contact your elected officials? Call 250-490-2400 and you will be connected, or visit www.pentiction.ca/contactcouncil to send them an email.