

CITYnews



City's next big outdoor event keeps the celebrations going this winter

Frost Fest Winter Carnival will bring skiing, snowboarding, sledding, kids activities and the BCHL All Stars Weekend to downtown Penticton on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024.

The City's Events team is working with local partners including BCHL, Apex Mountain Resort, Apex Freestyle Club, Freeride Boardshop and organizers of HaHaHa Kidzfest to present a high-energy festival in the heart of downtown Penticton for people of all ages.

Frost Fest will feature a rail jam ski and snowboard competition, kids' activities and craft stations, a sled hill, DJ, food trucks and beverage garden. Spectators can walk between each of the activities and events throughout the day, including warming stations.

It takes place the same weekend as the BC Hockey League All-Star Weekend, so top prospects and NHL alumni will be at the Activate Penticton outdoor rink at Gyro Park and are free to watch.

Top skiers and snowboarders will "throwdown" their best tricks in the Downtown Throwdown Rail Jam event. This competition includes a custom rail jam 17 ft. high and 100 ft. long, covered in manmade snow, courtesy of Apex Mountain Resort. Spectators are invited to watch the action from the sidelines or the beverage garden. Numerous family activity stations will be set up throughout the park, along with a snow sledding hill that will be set up off the Gyro Park bandshell.

More details at penticton.ca/frost-fest

BC Assessment notice reminders

Property assessment notices from BC Assessment are in the mail in the first week of January. Once you have it, be sure to review the information and if necessary, contact BC Assessment before the deadline of Jan. 31, 2024.

Here are some helpful tips to remember when reviewing your notice:

- An increase in your property assessment increase does not necessarily result in equivalent higher property taxes. Property assessments are only one part of what the City uses to calculate municipal property tax rates each year.
- The City sets its annual budget for the upcoming year, including the amount of revenue collected through property taxes. This amount is fixed and does not change because of assessed value changes.
- Property assessment values may go up or down but the city-wide total property taxes collected will always equal the amount budgeted for.
- Property owners who feel their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2023 or see incorrect information on their notice, should contact BC Assessment as indicated on their notice as soon as possible to ensure they meet the Jan. 31, 2024 deadline.

Questions about potential impact to your next property assessment as a result of floods, landslides, or wildfires is available at bcassessment.ca. The toll-free phone number for property-related inquiries is 1-866-825-8322.

Thank you for helping keep sidewalks safe and clear

Thank you for doing your part to keep the sidewalk in front of your home clear from snow and ice this season.

It's your responsibility to clear the sidewalks next to your property by 11 a.m. after a snowfall, as stated in the Good Neighbour Bylaw. This also includes the sidewalk at transit stops if you have one in front of your property.

If you're capable, please consider lending your neighbour a hand.

Remember when shovelling your driveway to pile the snow on the left side of the driveway (if facing the property), so when plows go by, they won't drag piles back into your driveway entrance.

For more information and snow clearing tips, visit penticton.ca/snow.



Budget focuses on safety and housing priorities

Council has approved the 2024 budget, including a 5.31% tax increase, which would see residential property owners pay an average of \$8.90 more per month and commercial property owners pay an average of \$34.50 more per month.

In 2022 the previous Council made a major commitment to public safety but, recognizing the tough economic times of the day, the decision was made to defer part of the immediate tax increase with a plan to phase it in over three years, 2023-2025. This year's proposed budget recommended phasing the deferral over two years, 2023-2024, however Council chose to stay with the original three-year plan.

The budget includes an increase of 2% to meet operational expectations, inflationary pressures and contractual obligations, as well as a less than 1% increase to meet the strategic priorities of Council.

Highlights include:

- Creation of a Director of Public Safety and Partnerships position to lead the recommendations made in the City's Community Safety Review.
- RCMP will implement the Integrated Crisis Response Team (ICRT) Program and assign dedicated RCMP personnel to the program.
- Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Grant application to the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) to support key housing initiatives and deliberate growth in Penticton.
- Community Centre energy efficiency upgrades to advance the City's Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP).
- Advanced Waste Water Treatment Plant (AWWTP) Phase 2 expansion and upgrades.
- City Yards facility upgrades, which will incorporate recommendations made in the Electric Utility Reliability and Resiliency Study.
- Sports and Recreational needs assessment to guide short and long-range planning to meet the needs of user groups and residents of Penticton.

ESTIMATED TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASE

Residents

5.31% = \$9

Residents average annual increase of \$107 per year, based on average annual property assessment of \$669,290 (2023)

Businesses

5.31% = \$35

Businesses average annual increase of \$414 per year, based on an annual average property assessment of \$1,171,120 (2023)

Electric Utility

\$11

\$34

Sewer Utility

\$4

\$43

Estimated Monthly Utility Rates

RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES*

Water Utility

\$6

\$31

Storm Water

\$1

\$5

*Electric increases include the October 2023 interim increase of 5% and in progress 2024 increases.

RESIDENTS Average Residential Property will pay an estimated additional \$268 annually, approximately \$22 more per month.

BUSINESSES Average Business Property will pay an estimated additional \$1,360 annually, approximately \$113 more per month.

Tips for recycling glass bottles and jars



Reminder! Glass cannot be placed into your home recycling carts. In fact, this can cause an entire load of recycling to become contaminated and creates a safety hazard.

However, you have a few options to return those empty wine and beer bottles, glass jars and sauce containers, including the following:

J&C Bottle Depot

Drop off your wine and beer bottles, plus other beverage containers, for a refund under the Return-It program. They also accept non-refundable glass jars and containers for recycling. 200 Rosetown Ave., Ph: 250-492-5144 or return-it.ca

Return-It Express & Go

This station offers a quick and convenient option for recycling your refundable beverage containers including cans, juice boxes, milk jugs and bottles. Simply pre-bag your items in a clear bag, print your label on site and drop them off without the need for counting or sorting. 200 Carmi Ave., return-it.ca/express/penticton

Campbell Mountain Landfill

The landfill has a bin right at the front entrance, where non-deposit glass bottles, sauce containers and jars can be recycled. 1765 Reservoir Rd. Ph:250-490-4129 or rdos.bc.ca/campbell-mountain

For more information about recycling, or for more tips about what goes where, visit penticton.ca/recycling

Sign up for City news

Never miss the latest updates when you sign up to receive City news directly to your inbox.

Choose what kind of notifications you want to receive, from service announcements and news releases to emergency notifications like flooding or fire.

Don't like emails? Download the City's app instead for all the same access on your smart device. penticton.ca/updates

Contact Us

Sign up for news updates direct to your inbox or mobile phone: penticton.ca/updates

City Hall: 250-490-2400

Report an Issue Online: penticton.ca/report-an-issue

Email: ask@penticton.ca

Contact Information: penticton.ca/contact