



# It's *Your* City! eNews

City of Parksville

July 16, 2024

## Dance With Me at Memorial

Free! Fun! Everyone welcome!



### Salsa

Thursday, July 18



Instruction by Sara Raymond Dance Academy  
and music by DJ Dave Graham



Memorial Plaza - Memorial Avenue and Alberni Highway  
parksville.ca | parksvilledowntown.ca



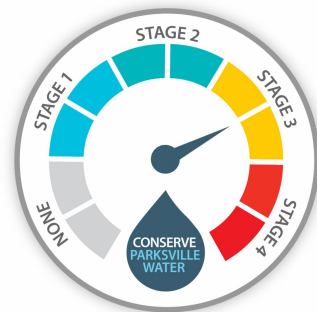
The City and Parksville Downtown Business Association are once again hosting *Dance with Me at Memorial* events at the Memorial Plaza, Alberni Highway and Memorial Avenue. Next up is learn to salsa on Thursday, July 18 from 6-8 pm, followed by two more Dance with Me in August.

Dance with Me is a chance to learn new dance moves with free dance instruction by Sara Raymond Dance Academy and music by our favourite DJ, Dave Graham. Dust off your dancing (runners) shoes and join in the fun again this year. *Dance with Me at Memorial* is a fun, active and social community event for all ages. Bring your family, friends, or come meet others while you learn new dance moves, spectators welcome and no dance experience required. Sponsored by the [City of Parksville](#) and the [Parksville Downtown Business Association](#).

## Outdoor Water Conservation Stage 3 Now in Effect

Effective immediately, the City is implementing Stage 3 water conservation measures until further notice. Stage 3 maintains the same even and odd day watering framework as Stage 2, while encouraging residents to further reduce consumption to defer a comprehensive watering ban. The Province of BC currently lists eastern Vancouver Island at Drought Level 3, "Adverse Impacts Possible" and is calling for all communities to voluntarily reduce water consumption, especially outdoor use.

We were fortunate to have a cool wet spring; however, we are now experiencing hot dry weather with no snowpack to augment surface water levels. Creeks and streams in the region have begun to experience low flow conditions and fire risk is always a concern during summer months without any significant rainfall in the forecast. By proactively conserving groundwater and surface water, we ensure water supply resiliency for essential household use, fire protection, stream flows for fish, and irrigation purposes.



The City of Parksville has several water licences issued by the province for drinking water purposes and when the Arrowsmith Dam was constructed, the City committed to releasing water to the Englishman River in drier months to add to the base flow, which is beneficial for fish and the riparian ecosystem. To prolong the release of water from the dam, a reduction in the flow release has been approved

which requires the City to implement Stage 3 conservation levels.

Stage 3 offers flexibility for residents to decide where and how they cut back on water use; however, it is critical reductions are implemented. Please note watering of vegetable gardens and fruit trees and drip irrigation are exempt from restrictions. Here are some ways to conserve in Stage 3.

- Reduce the lawn irrigation on your property by decreasing run times, cutting back on the number of watering days and refraining from sprinkling certain lawn areas. Lawns naturally go dormant in the summer months and return with fall rains.
- Avoid washing vehicles or boats unnecessarily, unless for safety reasons (windows and headlights).
- Sweep outdoor surfaces such as driveways or decks with a broom rather than a hose or power washing.
- Retrofit old, inefficient or leaking irrigation systems.
- Add mulch/topsoil to aid in landscape water retention so you can decrease sprinkler run times, being mindful of FireSmart BC principles.

#### RESOURCES:

- Details about the City's water framework including conservation tips may be viewed on [Let's Talk Parksville](#).
- The City is a partner in the Regional District of Nanaimo's Team WaterSmart program. [teamwatersmart.ca](http://teamwatersmart.ca).
- Province of BC [drought information](#).

## Parksville's Canada Day Celebrations



This region's residents and visitors celebrated Canada's 157th on July 1 with an amazing community parade and the Parksville Community Park was busy with families, friends and neighbours who gathered to celebrate the day.





## Support for bees, butterflies and birds

The planting of the [Pym Street garden](#) this year is meant to bring awareness about bees and their habitat. Bees play a crucial role in our ecosystem as pollinators, aiding in the reproduction of many plants and crops that we rely on for food. Bees and butterflies in the City rely on our gardens and green spaces for food and shelter. In return, these beneficial insects pollinate our plants, crops and fruit trees, giving us beautiful flowers, fruits, nuts, and honey.

Another step in protecting bees is the creation of naturalized pollinator meadows in some of our parks and open spaces. The areas are being mowed and maintained by staff but in a slightly different manner than previous years. Mowing has been reduced in a few select areas for these important reasons:

- Improved habitat for beneficial species of plants and animals, including birds, bees and butterflies.
- Cooler temperatures in the air benefiting visitors.
- More moisture in our soils for longer, helping trees during periods of drought.
- Less carbon emissions during maintenance.
- More diverse and exciting park landscapes for people to enjoy.

Many municipalities are adopting these best practices following extensive research and studies and found the benefits to be significant. Concerns linking fire, insects, and garbage accumulation to unmowed grass have not been substantiated by research or information gathered from other municipalities. As the ecological benefits and rainfall declines, the long grass will turn brown, and the City will mow these areas.

An example of this reduced mowing is at Nicolls Park where areas used by the public are being mowed and managed, leaving some areas to support environmental benefits. The tall grass also adds texture and colour to the park. Although the aesthetic may not be to everyone's liking, benefits of selective mowing mean our green spaces can function at a higher level.



There's lots more info, ideas and resources at this [link](#).

## REMINDERS AND THINGS TO KNOW



### Campfire Ban

Campfire ban remains in effect until otherwise advised. The ban applies to open fires of any size including campfires.

Implemented by the Parksville fire chief for the Parksville Fire Protection Area in conjunction with the Coastal Fire Centre ban for Vancouver Island and south coast.

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## Share Your Feedback on Comms Initiatives

We're looking for your feedback, ideas, thoughts on City communications initiatives. It's been a while since we checked in to see how you wish to receive information about programs, activities and projects, and we are in the beginning stages of a website redesign project and looking to gather feedback from residents, businesses and visitors. The online survey, open to July 29, will take a few minutes of your time... so thank you!

The website is one of our key communications tools for the community to connect with the City and stay informed. We're redesigning and replacing our City website to

be more use friendly, accessible and customer focused and wish to improve the experience for residents, businesses and visitors when viewing our website. Your feedback is valuable to this process. As well, it will be beneficial for us to know how you prefer to receive information from the City and how you prefer to provide your feedback. Don't be shy, share your thoughts in our survey!

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

## Recycle BC Pop-up Depot

The depot in Parksville is accepting free of charge, flexible plastic packaging, white and coloured foam packaging, glass packaging and paper packaging and cardboard. Materials may be dropped off from 10 am to 3 pm at 1080 Industrial Way, Parksville on July 27 and August 10. For more dates and info, visit Recycle BC [website](#).

## WE'RE HIRING!

We are seeking qualified candidates for these positions:

**Fleet Technician**  
**Watch Clerk RCMP**  
**Engineering Technologists II and III**

*[More info here](#)*

## CITY DATES

July 18	Dance with Me at Memorial
August 1	Dance with Me at Memorial
August 5	BC Day (offices closed)
August 15	Dance with Me at Memorial
September 2	Labour Day (offices closed)
September 4	Council Meeting
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (offices closed)

Please note, Council does not meet in August.

### For more information:

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[parksville.ca](http://parksville.ca) | [letstalkparksville.ca](http://letstalkparksville.ca)



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