

***** 2011 PROPERTY TAX NOTICES *****

Your 2011 Property Tax Notice will be mailed out at the end of May. Taxes are **due on Monday, July 4, 2011 at 4:00pm**. Please note the office will be closed Friday July 1 for Canada Day. After July 4, 2011, any outstanding 2011 (current) property tax amount is subject to a 5% penalty. An additional 5% penalty will be applied after 4:00pm on September 1, 2011. Outstanding arrears and delinquent taxes accrue daily interest at a percent % set by the province.

Mailing Address

If you have moved or bought your property this year, please ensure that the District has your current mailing address before mid-May by calling the Municipal Office at 250-474-1773.

The Home Owner Grant (HOG) must be completed every year!

If eligible, please claim your Home Owner Grant (HOG) by completing the reverse side of the property tax notice and dropping off at the municipal office between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm, or for after hours please drop off HOG in mail slot in the front door. You can also mail to District of Highlands, 1980 Millstream Rd, Victoria, BC, V9B 6H1. *Important:* if not claimed by July 4, the HOG portion becomes part of the outstanding taxes and is subject to penalties. *You do not need to make a payment to claim the HOG.*

HOG reduced or eliminated on higher-valued properties

For properties assessed at \$1,150,000 (threshold) and above, the HOG is reduced by \$5 for each \$1,000 of assessed value in excess of the threshold. The *basic* grant (\$570) is therefore eliminated on properties assessed at \$1,264,000 and above; and the *additional* grant (\$845 for owners 65+, veterans and persons with disability) is eliminated on properties assessed at \$1,319,000 and above. For more information on the Home Owner Grant (HOG) Program please go to http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Home_Owner_Grant/hog.htm

Payment

The municipal office accepts debit card payments, however, please be aware of what your debit transaction limit is. Your debit transaction may be denied if you have not contacted your bank to arrange for a sufficient amount to be debited from your account. We accept payment by cash, cheque, or postdated-cheque (please include roll# on cheque for reference). Note: we *do not* accept credit cards or on-line payments.

You may also pay your property taxes at your bank or credit union. Your financial institution will require the original bottom portion of your tax notice to process your payment and will accept Home Owner Grant applications only if accompanied by a payment.

New for 2011

For 2011 and subsequent tax years, an owner of a Class 9 (farm land) property is entitled to a credit that will reduce the provincial school tax payable on these properties by 50 percent. An extra line will be added to the tax notice to show that the credit has been applied to that account. For further info go to http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/financial_circulars/cir1016.htm

Continuing for 2011

Property Tax Deferral Program for Families with Children

The program which began in 2010 allowed eligible homeowners who are financially supporting a dependent child under age 18 the option to defer property taxes on their principal residence. This expansion of the Property Tax Deferral Program allows government to assist families with children, particularly during those years when household costs are typically the highest.

As with the Property Tax Deferral Program for homeowners 55 & older, surviving spouse, and person with a disability, the Property Tax Deferral Program for Families with Children is a loan program that allows you to defer your annual property taxes on your home if you meet certain eligibility criteria. For more information on criteria and applications, please refer to http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferral/ptd.htm

Please note the Financial Hardship Property Tax Deferral Program which was in place for the 2009 and 2010 tax years is no longer available.