



District of Lantzville Community Update

Five Year Financial Plan, Property Tax Deferment Programs, Northern and Rural Home Owner Benefit & Costin Hall

March 2011

Five Year Financial Plan 2011-2015

Residents of the community are invited to join members of Council at its Committee of the Whole Meeting to be held Monday, March 7, 2011 to receive a presentation on the District's proposed 2011-2015 Five Year Financial Plan. Mayor Haime will be highlighting aspects of the Plan in addition to soliciting feedback from residents of the community as it relates to the financial planning of the District of Lantzville. Some highlights of the Financial Plan are as follows:

- Proposing a 3% property tax increase (note: 1% tax increase generates approximately \$14,000 in new revenue for the District)
- Garbage parcel tax will decrease to \$116 from \$123 resulting from the first full year of the RDN providing garbage, recycling and food waste collection
- Parks and Trails parcel tax will decrease to \$10.00 from \$12.30
- Ongoing contributions to the various capital reserve funds of the District
- Seasonal Public Works employee (8 months)

Capital projects planned for 2011:

- Watermain replacement - \$281,000
- Pavement replacement - \$234,000
- Culvert replacement - \$160,000
- Public works backhoe and replacement truck - \$102,000
- E&N Aulds/Ware Road Trail Project - \$790,000 (subject to receipt of Towns for Tomorrow grant funding approval)

Residents may also keep up to date by visiting the District's website where agendas and minutes are available for review. A draft copy of the District's Financial Plan will be posted to the District's website on Friday, March 4th, 2011 at www.lantzville.ca.

Alternately, residents may also contact Jedha Holmes, the District's Deputy Director of Financial Services who would be more than happy to address any questions/comments you may have relating to the District of Lantzville Five Year Financial Plan.

Property Tax Deferment Programs

The British Columbia Property Tax Deferment Program is a low-interest loan program that allows you to defer your annual property taxes on your home if you meet certain criteria. There are two types of deferment programs:

- Families with children (introduced in 2010)
- 55 and older (including surviving spouse) and persons with a disability

To qualify you must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who has lived in British Columbia for at least one year immediately prior to applying for tax deferment benefits, and meet other requirements specific to each of the programs.

Northern and Rural Area Home Owner Benefit

The basic home owner grant will be increased by \$200 and will be available for 2011 and subsequent years. The majority of Lantzville residents will be eligible for the total combined Home Owner Grant of \$770 (2010-\$570) or \$1045 (2010-\$845) for veterans, residents 65 or older, and residents with disabilities (subject to reduction on higher-valued properties).

For more information on Property Tax programs run by the Ministry of Finance please contact our office or visit the Province of B.C. website: <http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/rpt>

Future Uses of Costin Hall and Heritage Church

Further to the article in the last *Community Update*, residents are reminded that if they have ideas and/or suggestions related to the future uses of these municipally-owned buildings, to please email Council at council@lantzville.ca or telephone the District Office directly at 250.390.4006. Council would greatly appreciate hearing from the residents of the community. In addition to inviting written feedback from residents by way of mail, email or telephone, Council will be conducting an open house to encourage one-on-one discussions with residents regarding this initiative. This open house will be held in the spring once Council has had an opportunity to receive and review any public feedback.