

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Winter Preparedness

We've all noticed a shift in the weather in recent weeks, a sign that winter is on its way. As we head into the winter season, it is wise to consider the change in hazards we may face in our communities. At this time of year, our communities can experience windstorms, king tides, atmospheric rivers, and cold weather. While all of these play a valuable role in our ecosystem, there are potential human impacts for which we can all prepare.



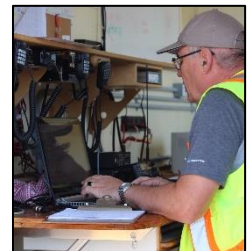
- As with all potential hazards, making a home emergency plan, putting together a home emergency kit and checking in with a trusted friend or neighbour to help each other are easy ways to prepare for winter weather and storms. Consider preparing for power outages: how might you stay warm, cook food or manage your medical needs if the power is out for a day or two?
- Consider tasks that can be completed around your home to increase your resilience to winter weather: additional insulation and mitigating draughts, clearing gutters, and moving summer furniture to inside storage can all help reduce the impact of winter weather and storms.
- Download the [WeatherCAN app](#). You'll receive up-to-date weather information and alerts for your community.
- Check [DriveBC](#) before you leave home to assess the road conditions on your planned route.
- Consider adding an emergency kit to your vehicle. Having a flashlight, warm clothing, a snack, reflective triangle, jumper cables, and additional windshield washer fluid in your car are wise choices when travelling in winter.

PreparedBC's [Severe Winter Weather and Storm Preparedness Guide](#) provides useful tips for staying safe this season.

Emergency Radio Communications Exercise

This month, our emergency communications team took part in ERTEX, an exercise testing communications pathways between communities across Vancouver Island and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) headquarters in the Victoria area.

Our radio team practiced sending voice and digital messages via amateur radio to simulate the types of communication we may need to establish with the province during a large emergency with impacts to our regular methods of communication. In the event of a large emergency, we may need to communicate with EMCR to request additional resources or to request approval for provincial funding for emergency response activities. Our messages were all successfully received, confirming we had a strong emergency communication pathway with EMCR.



Community Emergency Preparedness Presentations

Are you part of a group or society interested in learning more about emergency preparedness? We regularly meet with community groups to provide emergency preparedness presentations, tips and resources. We are happy to tailor presentations to meet your group needs and areas of interest. Contact either Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com if you would like to discuss options or book a meeting.

Volunteer with EMO

If you're interested in joining either the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), contact emergencyprogram@parksville.ca. Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn't necessary as we can provide all of the training you'll need.

Emergency Notifications

In the event of an emergency, one of the ways Emergency Management Oceanside may notify you is by using alerts sent through Voyent Alert!. This system allows community members to register online to receive messages relevant to their community through email, app, text message, or voice call. Don't forget that you can sign up for notification from more than one community. If, for example, you work in a community other than the one in which you live, it is wise to sign up for notifications in both locations.

Registration for Voyent Alert! is free. Go to [Voyent Alert! \(voyent-alert.com\)](http://Voyent Alert! (voyent-alert.com)) to sign up today.

Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca 250 954-4672 or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com if you have any questions about the system or registration process.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open from 8.30 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

Email qbtown@qualicumbeach.com
Phone 250 752-6921
Mail PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7

qualicumbeach.com
qbfirerescue.com

City of Parksville

City offices are open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm and the operations department from 8 am to 4 pm, closed noon to 1 pm. Contact information:

General inquiries, planning and finance departments	250 248-6144; info@parksville.ca
Administration and Office of the Mayor	250 954-3060; administration@parksville.ca
Engineering	250 951-2484; engineering@parksville.ca
Operations	250 248-5412; ops@parksville.ca
Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242; fire@parksville.ca

parksville.ca
letstalkparksville.ca
parksvillefirerescue.ca

For more information:

Kate Pocock, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Parksville
kpocock@parksville.ca

Shinjini, Climate Action and Emergency Program Coordinator, Town of Qualicum Beach
smehta@qualicumbeach.com

Kendra Stoner, Emergency Planning Coordinator, Regional District of Nanaimo
kstoner@rdn.bc.ca

