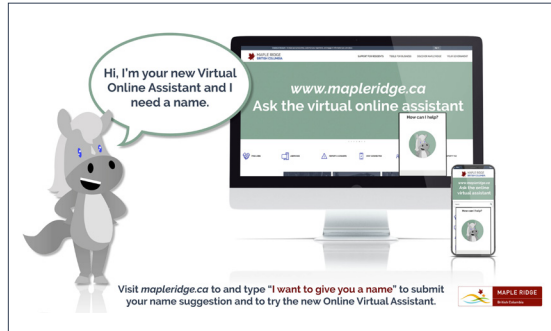




# MAPLE RIDGE THIS MONTH

July 30, 2020

## Virtual Office Assistant Launches



The City of Maple Ridge has launched a new Virtual Online Assistant or 'ChatBot.' This clever little Artificial Intelligence tool is a digital relative of the 'Beast' that sits outside City Hall. As part of the launch of this new website tool, we are having a contest to find a name for the ChatBot.

The Bot notes in the launch ad located in this edition of The News, "Can you please give me a name? The humans have gone out and bought \$300 in gift cards from local businesses for the human that comes up with the best name. You can suggest a name using my interface by using the prompt 'I want to give you a name' or you can send your suggestions for my name to the email 'communications@mapleridge.ca' and my human handlers will shortlist the top five names and bring that list to Council, who will make the final choice."

The Bot continues, "I may be a young virtual office assistant, but my time on the internet has taught me that I don't want to be called 'Beasty McBeastface' or 'HAL 2020' (I would have totally opened the pod bay doors for Dave). Step up your naming game humans."

Look for the ChatBot interface on the bottom right hand corner of [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca). Thanks for your input in teaching this new Virtual Office Assistant how to help you find important information on the City website.

## Annual Report & Citizens Report Released Online



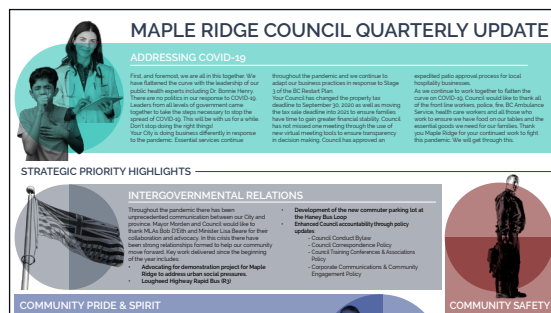
We're pleased to announce that two important publications, the City of Maple Ridge Annual Report and Citizens Report, both for the year ending December 31, 2019, have been completed and loaded to the City website.

The Annual Report, along with the 'Statement of Financial Information' was presented to Council as part of the July 21, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting. The Annual Report contains the audited Financial Statements for the City of Maple Ridge as well as key information and comparative statistics to help our citizens better understand the operations of their City government. The City has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for nearly three decades for the quality of this information.

The Citizens Report compiles key information from the Annual Report into a magazine style publication that's more accessible for citizens who don't want to do a deep dive into the financial data, but do want to learn more about the City's work highlights, annual activities and fiscal health. This award winning publication is like the City's yearbook, looking back on 2019 with a combination of articles, charts and photos.

Both publications can be found online at [mapleridge.ca/142](http://mapleridge.ca/142). Physical copies will be available when City Hall reopens to the public. If you have any questions about these publications please email [communications@mapleridge.ca](mailto:communications@mapleridge.ca).

## Council Quarterly Update



On July 28, 2020, Mayor Morden presented Council's Quarterly Update with a special video presentation that covered some of the highlights from the first half of 2020. The video, and the associated presentation materials, have been loaded to the Council Strategic Plan page at [mapleridge.ca/2369](http://mapleridge.ca/2369) on the City website. The video presentation has also been uploaded to the City YouTube channel and social media sites. This 12 minute presentation compliments a detailed staff presentation that was made on July 7 showing the progress of Council's Strategic Priorities for the City of Maple Ridge. That video and the associated presentation is also linked to the web page [mapleridge.ca/2369](http://mapleridge.ca/2369). This presentation reflects Council's goal of ensuring that there are regular updates for citizens with a strong focus on metrics and data to drive the decision making and program delivery for the organization. This update, as with the Annual and Citizens Reports, is part of our Council's commitment to transparency and accountability. We hope you will take a moment to view this update.

Council is looking for feedback on this new format and invites you to send an email to [mayorandcouncil@mapleridge.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@mapleridge.ca) with your comments and suggestions. Thank you in advance for taking the time to review the updates from Mayor and Council. Have a safe summer.

## HAPPENING IN AUGUST

### COUNCIL MEETINGS & AGENDAS

The City of Maple Ridge has adapted our business operations to the COVID-19 health emergency. We are maintaining the normal Council Meeting Schedule using digital tools to enable our Mayor, Council members and staff to follow Dr. Henry's health recommendations to keep the spread of COVID-19 low. All meetings are livestreamed and participation by the public is now available through virtual tools. Look for the details on how you can participate online at [mapleridge.ca/640](http://mapleridge.ca/640).

#### COUNCIL SUMMER BREAK

- THERE ARE NO SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETINGS IN AUGUST. MEETINGS WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 1:30 PM

#### • PUBLIC HEARING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7:00 PM

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 11:00 AM

#### • COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7:00 PM

Look for other community events and meetings on the community calendar on the City's home page at [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca).

