



MAPLE RIDGE THIS MONTH

September 03, 2020

Growing Together – Visioning Your Town Centre

GROWING TOGETHER

Visioning your Town Centre

Maple Ridge's Town Centre Area Plan was adopted in 2008 with a vision of creating an urban core for our community with a diversity of housing types and a pedestrian friendly feel. The area has undergone significant growth and changes since the it was approved. Maple Ridge Council recognizes this and remains determined in seeing a positive evolution of the Town Centre leading to greater vibrancy within this core part of the Community. We want to hear what you think! The City has been busy planning a number of engagement opportunities to learn about how you would like to live, work and play in the Town Centre of Maple Ridge. These events have been designed with safety in mind and

may be reorganized or rescheduled, subject to any changes made by the Public Health Officer to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

You are invited to participate in a 'WalkShop' and Open House on Saturday, September 12. Please note that while everyone is invited to participate in one or both of these events, **registration is required** to ensure social distancing measures (in alignment with the City's safety plan and BC Restart Plan) can be planned in advance. For details of these events please go to mapleridge.ca/2456 or look at the newspaper ads in this edition of The News. Want to stay in touch? Updates on the Town Centre Area Visioning Process will be provided online as well as via email. If you wish to be included on the Email List, please email us at planning@mapleridge.ca. Thanks for sharing your thoughts and suggestions.

2020 Property Tax Deadline Extended to September 30



Your Council recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted household finances and has therefore extended the penalty free deadline to September 30, 2020 to provide some extra time to allow citizens to stabilize their financial situation. We would like to thank everyone who was able to make their payment as part of the normal deadline and for their patience as we deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the penalty free payment date is September 30, 2020, you can make your payment anytime using a variety of methods. The full selection of options is outlined on the back of your 2020 Property Tax Notice. From using online banking to dropping your payment off at the City Drop Box, remember that you need to claim your Home Owners Grant.

You can access your account online at hog.mapleridge.ca and follow the link to your account. Your folio number and access code (PID) are on your tax notice. You can access you Tax Notice anytime on your 'MyCity' account using the eSERVICES link on the home page at mapleridge.ca.

For those who have made their annual payment, you may want to consider signing up for the Pre-Authorized Withdrawal Service (PAWS) which provides citizens with the option of paying taxes in ten monthly withdrawals. Go to mapleridge.ca/2325 for more information on the PAWS option.

Please contact us if you have any questions or go online to mapleridge.ca/178 for further information on payment options and the Provincial Tax Deferment Program.

Virtual Office Assistant Naming Contest Closes on September 11



The City of Maple Ridge launched a new Virtual Online Assistant or 'Chabot' in July. 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've been running a contest to find a name for the Chatbot.

The Bot noted in the launch promotion in July, "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. Mayor and Council will choose the final name from the entrants and announce the winner at the start of the September 29 Council Meeting. Thanks for your input in teaching this new Virtual Office Assistant how to help you find important information on the City website.

HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

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.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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

COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 1:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 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.