

Tofino Ratepayers Association



Follow-up to Meeting of January 8, 2024

January 12, 2024

Hello Ratepayers,

Thanks to those who were able to attend our recent meeting. Both some of our regulars as well as some new faces.... Welcome.

First off, I have to apologize for the lack of visuals to accompany the presentation. What was to be as simple as “You just plug in the laptop” didn’t account for the lack of the correct adaptor that fit the laptop. Oh well... next time.

As taxpayers these are certainly challenging times. While we have some small victories the overall picture remains what I can only describe as unhealthy for the bulk of the resident population and would be resident population.

We invited Mayor Law to speak about the STR situation. Particularly the coming Provincial legislation.

It turned out there was plenty of interest and questions but a lot that is still to be sorted out by DOT.... Stay tuned and stay active.

By the end of that discussion, it appeared folks had enough and most rose to leave so we wrapped it up.

A variety of subjects were to be included in a final discussion..... such as the increasing impact of Regional District, and Provincial taxes (RCMP, School taxes etc.... on your tax notice.) The fact is, as Tofino’s Assessments continue to out pace the regional and provincial averages, we pay disproportionately increasing amounts. So, your taxes go up. This is a problem that needs more attention and discussion.

Other things of interest would be ongoing discussion of facilities such as a recreation complex (rink and pool) There are regional proposals moving forward to be located at the Airport as well as a separate Tofino go it alone idea continuing to be pursued. Each has their own tax implications and operational efficiencies as well as their likelihood of gaining Provincial, and Federal funding support. All the information is not yet on the table but most of our members, at least in conversation, are tending towards the regional solution as offering the greatest efficiency tax wise for Tofino Residents. (If we need it at all)..... But that is a subject that could warrant its own meeting. This is a looming big issue for Tofino Taxpayers.

The other item on the agenda was to have been the standard election of officers for the organization. We have never had enough people volunteer their services to warrant an election. I can say without equivocation, if you have any desire to help out, participate or get involved we have a place for you. If you want to work on one or any areas of concern, talk to us about your project. If you would like to be a director, let me know, this can be quickly arranged. And if you have a strong desire to lead the effort, **that**, can be accommodated as well. We are waiting for your email.



Regardless send us your thoughts.

We have \$157.00 in the acct.... actually, the sock. If our expenses increase, we will let you know.

I will leave you with one parting example that might appear humorous to us Tofitians but demonstrates how far down Alice in Wonderland's black hole of taxation that we, in Tofino, have descended.

From the [Parksville Qualicum Beach News](#) Wednesday, January 10, 2024 page A3 (see below or [E-Editions - Parksville Qualicum Beach News \(pqbnews.com\)](#)). The residents of Nanoose Bay area of the Nanaimo Regional District are pissed off and organizing. They, like us, want answers and commitments. The article states: "For a home appraised at \$1,302,858, taxes will go up by \$173 this year, to \$1162 from \$990 in 2023." Did I get that right? No folks it is not a misplaced decimal point.

Without any disrespect to Nanoose we can only dream of such increases.

Cheers Jack Gillie

Nanoose taxpayers unhappy

Residents face significant hike on RDN property tax bill

MICHAEL BRIONES
michael.briones@pqbnews.com

Some Nanoose Bay residents are upset their tax bill for 2024 will be one of the highest in the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN).

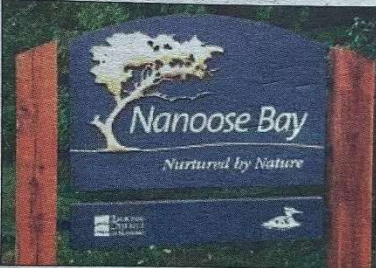
Home and property owners in Electoral Area E (Nanoose Bay) want to know why they face a 17.5 per cent property tax increase in 2024.

For a home appraised at \$1,302,858, taxes will go up by \$173 this year, to \$1,162 from \$990 in 2023.

The Northwest Nanoose Bay Residents Association (NNRA) addressed the issue with Area E director Bob Rogers. He explained to the NNRA the increases depend on the RDN services Nanoose Bay residents use.

The RDN provides close to 110 services to many residents in the region that include water, waste water, solid waste, transit, parks and recreation and more.

NNRA secretary Neil Watson wrote to



Nanoose Bay residents face a big increase in their taxes in 2024. (Submitted photo)

RDN board chair Vanessa Craig also seeking answers. Craig responded and provided the NNRA the site where they can access itemized information of where increases are happening in the budget.

She also confirmed Rogers's explanation the increases are based on the service levels being provided by the regional district to the Nanoose Bay area.

The NNRA wanted to know the items

in the Area E 2024 proposed budget that spiked by six per cent or more.

Among the significant hikes is the tax requisition for recreation and parks services. Area E's share will go up by 28 per cent, to \$452,323 this year from \$335,515 in 2023.

Others services that residents will be paying more for include water, Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area (14 per cent); Animal Control for Area E, G, H (45 per cent); and Nanoose Bay Fire Volunteer service for Area E, G, F (19 per cent).

Watson indicated in his letter to the RDN chair their correspondence should also be received as a formal opposition to the budget proposal for their area.

The 2024 property taxes are the top priority of the NNRA's board of directors. A committee has been formed to lead the discussion, establish the NNRA's position, and work on coming up with a more satisfactory end through area director Rogers.

The NNRA board will be meeting on Jan. 8.

Tofino Ratepayers Association

