



# What to know this quarter

July 2024 / City of Castlegar

☀ 250 365 7227 | [castlegar.ca](http://castlegar.ca)

## Help Us Plan Big Community Events!

Be part of the action. Join the Council Special Events Commission to volunteer and engage with your community and local government.

We're looking for 11 members to coordinate 2-3 seasonal community events. Send written application with your experience and qualifications by email to [info@castlegar.ca](mailto:info@castlegar.ca) or by mail to City Hall with the subject: Special Events Commission Volunteer Position. View the Terms of Reference and learn more at [castlegar.ca/volunteer](http://castlegar.ca/volunteer).

## Property Tax Pre-Payment Plan

Helping you prepare for the 2025 property tax bill

The City can automatically withdraw ten equal pre-payments from August 15 to May 15 to apply towards next year's property tax bill. Prepaid amounts, and any remaining balance will be displayed on your annual property tax bill next year. Here's how you sign up:

- Complete the application (all account holders must sign the application).
- Attach a void cheque where you would like payments withdrawn.
- Apply before August 6 to start to start the plan by August 15. Please mail, drop off or email the completed application to [finance@castlegar.ca](mailto:finance@castlegar.ca).

Learn more or download the application at [castlegar.ca/propertytaxes](http://castlegar.ca/propertytaxes).

## Annual Report

The City's 2023 Draft Annual Report is available for public viewing and comment. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the City's activities, achievements, and financial performance over the past year, offering transparency and accountability in our local government operations. It also outlines future goals and initiatives, ensuring residents are informed and engaged. Please visit [castlegar.ca/annualreport](http://castlegar.ca/annualreport) to view the Annual Report and find out how to submit your comment.

## Payment Methods

### Pre-Authorized Debit Program

The City will debit your account for the full amount of your quarterly bill on the due date. Download and complete the agreement at [castlegar.ca/utility](http://castlegar.ca/utility).

### Online Banking

Log in to online banking, add a payee, choose the City of Castlegar Utilities and enter your 13 digit utility number. Make an online bill payment.

### Your Financial Institution

Take your utility bill to the bank and pay through a teller.

### City Hall

Take your bill to the front desk Monday – Friday, from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM and pay by cash, cheque or debit.

### Credit Card

Please note there is a user fee for credit card transactions charged by OptionPay. Visit [castlegar.ca/pay-online](http://castlegar.ca/pay-online).

### Mail Cheque to City Hall

Be sure to include the top portion of your utility bill.

# Bear smart your waste carts and green spaces

Castlegar's wildlife are drawn to neighborhoods by waste. Here's how you can help.

## REDUCE ODOURS



Freeze smelly food items (meat, bones, rotten fruit, etc.). Add them to your organics cart on your collection day.



Take excess garbage to the landfill, and excess yard waste to the City's Yard Waste Composting Facility at the Castlegar & District Recreation Complex, 2101 6th Avenue.



Line the bottom of your cart with newspaper, a paper bag, or yard waste to absorb excess moisture and prevent food from sticking to the bottom. Add ¼ cup baking soda and ¼ cup of Borax to absorb odours. Bears hate the smell of ammonia. Spraying your cart lid with an ammonia based cleaner acts as a deterrent.



Clean your carts regularly. Rinse your bin with a garden hose and clean with an environmentally friendly soap, or half cup of white vinegar and water. Pour any soapy water onto grass or gravel, not down outdoor drains.



Clean BBQs/grills after each use.

## STORE CARTS PROPERLY



Lock and store carts in a secure building between collections. If you are a business, keep your outdoor grease bins or containers secure.



Carts left outside must have both clips locked and be chained to a strong post or tree between collections. Secure outdoor freezers too! Bears find it harder to break into fixed items. If your cart or clips are damaged, contact the City.

## KNOW YOUR COLLECTION TIME



On your collection day, place carts or bins at the curb from 4-7 a.m. Do not put carts or bins out the night before, as fines may be issued for those placed on the curb outside this window.

## MANAGE ATTRACTANTS



Pick all domestic fruit and nuts as they ripen.



Install electric fencing.



Remove bird seed and feeders until winter.



Feed pets inside. Store pet food inside.

## FREE Fire Risk Home Assessment until September 30

On behalf of the City, the Regional District of Central Kootenay is offering free, no obligation, FireSmart Home Partners assessments. These assessments identify the vulnerabilities our homes and properties have to wildfire. A Wildfire Mitigation Specialist will recommend scientifically proven, easy and cost effective measures to complete around your home to drastically reduce the risk of loss due to wildfire. All homeowners who get an assessment will be eligible to receive a \$1,000 rebate for completing recommendations. Find more information at [rdck.ca/firesmart](http://rdck.ca/firesmart).

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