

SENIORS AND OTHERS DISCOUNTS

This list is informational only. Inclusion does not imply recommendations by the Gibsons Seniors Society of any of the businesses or services. Although the information is believed to be correct, mistakes happen. Additional money-saving tips are very welcome; please send corrections or communications to gibsonsseniors@gmail.com. A copy will be sent to you by email, if requested.

General shopping advice: If a business deals with the general public and the question seems appropriate, don't be shy about asking whether they offer age-related discounts. It is probably best not to ask for a seniors discount if the business deals almost entirely with seniors. If an amount is uncertain or unfixed as in garden work, then a discount may be meaningless. In small areas like ours, other seniors are an excellent source of recommendations. Ask people who they used for jobs or bought from, and whether they were happy with the results.

Transportation:

Ferry free with gold card Mon-Thurs except statutory holidays. Exception: free on whatever day November 11th falls.

Buses: Faresavers are \$15 for 10 (regular seniors fares \$1.75) available at Municipal Hall.

Universal yearly bus passes are available from the BC government for low income seniors receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement, \$45 for 2010, good on all regular BC municipal bus systems but not Handi-Dart. Phone the number on the bus schedule to apply. There are other non-senior classifications as well.

General:

BC Hydro has rebates on many Energy Star rated appliances and other incentives to make your home more energy efficient. There is an energy saving kit for low income households (amount unspecified) which includes such items as a low flow showerhead, light bulbs, fridge and freezer thermometers, night light, weatherstripping, pipe insulation. www.bchydro.com or telephone BC Hydro Power Smart toll-free 1-877-431-9463. Have your account number ready. My experience is that even if you think you might not qualify for the kit, fill out the short form on-line and an agent will phone in a few days with information about all their programs. An energy savings program was closed off to middle income folk but lower income households may still apply. Rural districts are expected to become eligible in the next few months, including Gibsons..

Gibsons Library: CD, tape, and DVD collections. Internet access, first half hour free. They also have books. The Gibsons library card can be used in Sechelt.

Local discounts:

IGA and SuperValu - 10% off first Thursday of the month, The Bargain Shop 1st Monday.
Shoppers Drug Mart Sechelt - 20% off for ages 55+ last Thursday of the month.

Internet-related

Most large companies have advertising e-bulletins, often with special deals and promotional coupons.

FreeCycle: Post items to give away, or what you would like to take free of charge.
Available in daily digest form or as submitted. To enroll:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SunshineCoast/>

On-line advertising with local(ish) areas: www.craigslist.ca , www.buysell.com ,
www.sunshinecoast.gyos.ca

Delivery Charges When Ordering On-Line

Free delivery: www.dell.ca. (electronics) Also, www.well.ca (health and beauty products)

Free delivery to local outlets, no minimum purchase: thesource.ca (previously Radio Shack).

Sears, free other than a non-refundable and REALLY ANNOYING \$3 handling charge.
On-line promotional coupons are often available, \$10 off \$100, \$35 off \$350, etc. I've brought internet coupon numbers into the local Sears outlet to apply on in-store items.

Free home delivery for purchases over \$39 - www.bestbuy.ca , www.futureshop.ca ,
www.amazon.ca . Amazon has discounts available for first orders.

Promotional coupons can be sought via Google. Input wording like
promotional coupon* amazon.ca

Free delivery for purchases over \$50 - staples.ca (not sure if we are also in the free delivery area for officedepot.ca).

Staples often includes promotional coupon numbers on their e-bulletins, typically \$10 or \$20 off a purchase over a certain amount..

Although these promotional coupons are intended to be used on-line, sometimes they can also be applied when ordering via phone or through a store. In the past I've brought Sears promotional numbers into the Gibsons outlet.

Consumer websites:

The largest and best-known Canadian website is www.redflagdeals.com . Very well organized and laid out, this site has separate areas where you can look up promotional coupons and deals by store. There is some clearly-marked paid content. As far as I'm

concerned, the real action is in the "forums" (discussion areas), where members - that's you and me - provide links to sales that they've discovered and discuss the merits of items and not-such-a-bargain prices. Lots of links to product reviews, downloadable coupons, etc.

An excellent source of reviews for all sorts of items is www.amazon.com. You can also do searches via Google using wildcards ("*") and quotes to keep words together.

Example:

review* "george foreman grill"

If you shop via the internet, sooner or later you'll be tempted to enter on-line draws. You may also need to register for forums such as the ones at redflagdeals. Unless you're dealing with a company where you already have an account, ***don't use your primary email address*** because often these addresses end up on spam advertising lists. Instead, open a disposable account that you won't mind closing down later.

A good source of free email accounts is gmail.com. Be choosy about giving out your phone number.

www.mail.google.com/mail/signup

(for additional information about these accounts)

<http://mail.google.com/mail/help/open.html>

Drafted October 1, 2009 by Maureen Goldman
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gibsonseniors@gmail.com