

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

The Fall is my favorite season, the smells of apple harvest and the trees turning into beautiful colours, just makes me feel good. The Fall is one of the busiest seasons of the year with school starting and many organizations that took a hiatus over the summer will now restart their programs.

The District of Coldstream Mayor and Councillors continued to meet over the summer to work on various initiatives and review planning for next year. In June, Council got an early start reviewing the budget process to ensure we are prepared and can plan adequately for the future. Read more about this on page 2 of this newsletter under Finance Administration.

The School Road project should be completed shortly. The Husband Road project hit a snag with the Archeology arm of the provincial government. We successfully lobbied to have the process of obtaining permits expedited and work resumed in mid-September. The public works building is coming along swimmingly, and Council and I enjoyed a tour on September 3rd. District staff and Council have been working together on long range planning and I am pleased that our residents are engaging us with ideas. Thank you for that. Council sincerely appreciates hearing (good, bad, and ugly) from residents.

Staff has been working hard to meet all the new provincial requirements under the "Homes for People Plan", with the zoning element of this legislation completed. There are many aspects of this legislation that may not be obtainable in the District of Coldstream. This is due to the nature of our area, being rural and mostly agricultural. The District has asked questions about infrastructure, such as, "Do we have enough sewer capacity?" Council met with the Housing Minister and offered some suggestions, and it is my hope our voices were heard. The cost of water and sewer treatment plants, are simply too costly for our District. We are not alone.

In September, myself and councillors Hoffman and Levy attended the UBCM Conference in Vancouver. This presented valuable opportunities, to not only network with other communities, but with provincial government representatives on important issues. There were great seminars and panel discussions. It was helpful to meet with other district Mayors, especially from the Okanagan, where we have common concerns to share, along with potential solutions. It is terrific that smaller communities can work together. Often, we feel unheard, with legislation which may be appropriate for large urban centers, and almost impossible for smaller communities.

The District began reviewing our Official Community Plan (OCP) and have set up at numerous venues to gather input. Any input I have received, will go towards the comments from residents. The OCP is a document which guides us forward and Council wishes to hear from you. This will allow Council to see what is important for residents. We have the honour of serving you and take our duties seriously. We will prioritize items which we can afford, defer others, apply for appropriate available grants, and manage a budget. All these tasks can provide their own challenges. I wish everyone a safe start to the school year and be mindful of children on the road. I look to be available to meet with you. Do not hesitate to contact the District and we can set up a time for "Coffee with the Mayor". I have a new cookie recipe I can try with you.

Warm Regards – Mayor Ruth Hoyte

### Get to Know Your Council

Find out how to contact or address Mayor and Council, visit [www.coldstream.ca/municipal-hall/mayor-council](http://www.coldstream.ca/municipal-hall/mayor-council)



Mayor Hoyte



Councillor Dirk



Councillor Gerlick



Councillor Hoffman



Councillor Levy



Councillor Runyan



Councillor Cochrane

## FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION



Council started the 2025 budgeting process in June 2024 by reviewing and updating their 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. This plan contains Council's goals and objectives and determines the projects that will need to be budgeted for in the long-term financial plan. This "living" plan is adjusted to manage Council's priorities; sometimes adding new ones or deferring existing ones if necessary.

Council's first budget meeting (Finance Committee) was held September 3, 2024. At this meeting the Committee considered operational items, which are typically the items that impact the annual level of taxation required, and made recommendations to Council. On October 7, 2024 a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled to consider capital projects. Many of the capital projects are funded by reserves, grants or taxation or any combination thereof. Once the Finance Committee has a draft budget prepared, it will be forwarded to Council for consideration and form the Financial Plan Bylaw.

The Community Charter requires that municipalities have a financial plan that is adopted annually, by bylaw, before May 15th. A public Open House will be held to review the financial plan before it is adopted. All residents of Coldstream are invited to attend and review the plan, so watch for advertisements in the paper, on our website, and on social media in the new year.

***Did you know the District offers paperless utility billing? Simply login to your 'Online Account' through the District website and use the Online Access Code from a past utility bill to get set-up today!***

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Did you know that Coldstream is reviewing the Official Community Plan (OCP)? The OCP is the overarching community plan, that looks at land use, transportation and activities all over Coldstream. It is one of Council's most important ways to help shape how Coldstream looks by 2050.

If you are interested in following the OCP, or finding opportunities to contribute, you can find it at <https://www.coldstream.ca/coldstream2050>. Coldstream looks forward to hearing from you over the next year on this exciting project.

Coldstream's Long Range Planning Committee recently hosted the Minister of Housing, Ravi Kahlon, and local MLA Harwinder Sandhu, to discuss changes in Provincial Housing Legislation and how they will effect Coldstream. The Committee held a good discussion with the Minister and is looking forward to further follow up conversations. The Development Services department would like to remind property owners that the new Zoning Bylaw, Zoning Bylaw 1838, 2024, was adopted in June this year. This bylaw may change the development potential of your property, and may allow you to install a secondary suite or even additional homes on your land. For further information, please visit the District website.

## BYLAW COMPLIANCE

### Back to School



School is back in session for another year and the District wants to remind drivers to slow down, use caution, and watch for children walking to/from school and crossing streets. School Zones speed limit maximums are 30km/hr and are in effect from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on days when school is in session. Playground Zone speed limits are maximum 30 km/hr and are in effect from dawn to dusk every day. Please note that the District has 30 km/hr zones that remain in effect year round and at all hours. When stopping to drop off or pick up children from school, please do so in areas where parking is permitted with enough room to safely pull over and park. Do not impede sightlines at intersections, driveways, or crosswalks. School zones tend to be congested on school days during pick up/drop off times, and the District

recommends avoiding these areas during those times and encourages other transportation, such as using public transit, walking or biking, or carpooling to and from school to reduce the number of vehicles in the area.

### Reducing Attractants Can Help Reduce Wildlife Interactions This Fall

Autumn brings additional encounters with wildlife as they ready themselves for winter, and natural food sources become less readily available. Please remember to:

- Feed pets indoors and keep them inside at nighttime.
- Clean up unwanted/fallen fruit.
- Properly dispose of food waste.
- Place birdfeeders in a manner that it is inaccessible to wildlife and ensure the area below is kept clean.
- Securely store garbage and composting bins until pick up day, so they are inaccessible to wildlife.
- Keep your BBQ equipment and tools clean
- Report wildlife to the provincial **Report All Poachers and Polluters** (RAPP) line at 1-877-952-7277.



### Coldstream Community Hall

More than just weddings and events – the Coldstream Community Hall is acoustically designed with a blend of modern and organic finishes making it a premier location for live performances, networking events, programs, meetings and more! Returning to Coldstream this fall is the Coldstream Coffee House. Keep informed of upcoming events and performances by clicking “Subscribe to News” and selecting “Events Calendar” at [www.coldstream.ca](http://www.coldstream.ca). For rental information or a facility tour, contact 236-600-0030.

## INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### Roads & Drainage

The yearly road maintenance works are starting to wrap up. This year the crack sealing was focused on the roads on the west side of Kalamalka Lake. Potholes were filled and new lines were painted throughout the District. Husband Road and the School Road and Learmouth Road rehabilitation projects are progressing and paving is planned to be completed mid-October at both sites. In October, Council will be presented with the 5-Year Pavement Management Plan that will layout the paving projects for 2025-2029.

### Parks

After a lengthy construction period, construction of the new irrigation system at Lavington Park is finally complete. Design for upgrades to the irrigation system at Coldstream Park is underway and a new bridge will be installed to replace the existing one that is showing its age and is in poor condition. Kalamalka Beach received a new piece of maintenance equipment in the form of a beach rake. The first day cleaning the beach with the new rake resulted in the removal of hundreds of pounds of rocks, sticks, metal, plastics, and glass.

### Trees

This year has seen the pruning or removal of a number of trees classified as dangerous. Assessments of trees in our public spaces indicate that we can expect a similar level of pruning or removal of these trees in 2025. A dangerous tree is defined by large dead branches, one with a dead or compromised trunk, and/or one with compromised or undermined root systems.

### Public Works Building

Occupation of the new Public Works Building will be happening soon and will be followed by renovations to the old firehall. The project is slightly ahead of schedule and all of the works are expected to be completed by the end of December.

### Remembrance Day

Please join us in honouring our local veterans at the Coldstream and Lavington Cenotaphs on Remembrance Day.



Monday, November 11, 2024  
Find out more: [www.coldstream.ca](http://www.coldstream.ca)



## PROTECTIVE SERVICES

### FireSmart Coordinator

The District of Coldstream now has a position dedicated to helping the community and residents reduce their risks from wildfires through the BC FireSmart program.

Nairn Hay is Coldstream's new FireSmart program coordinator. Although the wildfire activity has not been as great this summer as compared to 2023, it is important to continue to prepare your home for an emergency.

If Coldstream residents have additional questions or are interested in speaking with Nairn about the FireSmart program, email [firesmart@coldstream.ca](mailto:firesmart@coldstream.ca) or call (250) 540-2036. Additional information about FireSmart can be found using the following links:

<https://firesmartbc.ca/resource-types/guides-manuals>

[https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/10.21.23\\_FireSmartBC\\_HIZDesign.pdf](https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/10.21.23_FireSmartBC_HIZDesign.pdf)

### Woodstove Safety

The District's Fire Protection Bylaw has three general requirements for the use of solid fuel burning appliances, which includes woodstoves.

The first requirement is that prohibited materials are not burned in woodstoves -only seasoned/untreated wood should be burned. Some paper may be used to ignite the fire, but the purpose of the stove is not to incinerate paper or other types of garbage.

The second requirement is that the woodstove be installed according to CAN/CSA-B365, in the BC Building Code. If you are unsure about any aspect of the installation, it is best to use the services of a WETT (Wood Energy Technology Transfer) certified inspector/installer to ensure that your woodstove, flue pipe, and chimney are properly installed. A WETT inspection is likely a requirement of your home insurance company.

The third requirement concerns the maintenance of the woodstove. This includes ensuring the components are in good operating condition and that the flue pipe and chimney are kept clean. Basic maintenance includes replacing bricks and baffles as they become cracked or damaged, and ensuring that the door gasket continues to provide a tight seal. If you put a piece of paper in the door and close it, you should not be able to pull it out - if you can, then the door is not closing properly. While it is difficult to say exactly how often to clean a chimney, as burning habits vary, it is important to ensure that it is inspected regularly to prevent build-up that could cause a chimney fire. There is nothing better than sitting near a warm woodstove on a cold winter day, so make sure that your stove is safe to use and that you are not creating excessive pollution that can have a negative effect on other residents.

### Smoke Alarm Safety

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home, including the basement.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms - when one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms - they should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are [hard-of-hearing or deaf](#) can use special alarms.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan

### Council Meeting Dates

Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers (located within Municipal Hall – 9901 Kalamalka Road). Public is encouraged to attend either in person or by joining us via Zoom. To register to attend a Council meeting electronically, please visit: [www.coldstream.ca/council-meetings](http://www.coldstream.ca/council-meetings).