

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello all, here we are again at year end, a time to reflect on our accomplishments and a look at our next year and beyond.

With all the deadlines and legislative requirements imposed by the Provincial Government, I can say the District is on track to meet those requirements. A shout out to our small and dedicated staff who worked diligently towards goals set by the Province and towards our ongoing Council direction. It has been a very busy year.

This time of year, is also budget time. This year the District started early so that we could have thorough discussions. Yikes! The most challenging part of our job is to balance the community needs and wants with what we can afford. So far, the District is anticipating a 9.4% increase, which includes general increases in costs such as employee contracts, inflation, Public Works debt servicing, WorkSafe premiums, paid-on-call for firefighters and the RCMP contract. Not all of these require a big increase, however, even small expenses add up quickly.

The budget process looks beyond the next year and into the future. With an expected increase in population and density, come community challenges. One of those challenges is policing. This is a high value service, and a duty of Council to provide adequate policing service for our residents. We have remained at 7 RCMP members funded by the District for a significant amount of time and Council is looking to set aside 0.5% increase in tax requisition to provide for another RCMP member in 2026. This would avoid a big jump when the District receives another RCMP member to complement our policing staff.

One of the items Council may consider, is placing funds aside in our reserves to deal with infrastructure. Most of this is underground, so it is hard to think about and not very glamorous. Council is responsible for safe, reliable municipal services. Council has suggested we increase our reserve amounts, so the District has adequate funding for meeting infrastructure challenges and avoid expensive repairs, such as the water main break on Coldstream Creek Road earlier this year. Council and staff constantly monitor infrastructure deficit, asset conditions, operations, maintenance, long range planning, and the capital budget. Most of the District's funding comes from residential taxation and it is understood that local families have financial challenges, managing expectations along with Council priorities and vision keep us focused on what we can deliver.

Having just received a report in regard to community input towards our Official Community Plan, Council was very pleased to see the vast majority of our residents are happy with the District's direction. Residents expressed the importance and priorities for Council to look at, with parks, recreation, trails and housing affordability at the top. Thank you to all who participated and gave great input.

This Mayor is happy to meet with residents to hear their concerns and solutions. Do not hesitate to contact the District office or my direct line to arrange a "Coffee with the Mayor".

Have a wonderful upcoming holiday season with family, friends and yummy food.

- 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 Garlick



Councillor Hoffman



Councillor Levy



Councillor Runyan



Councillor Cochrane

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Coldstream continues to experience strong development activity, with several new and ongoing projects keeping the Development Services Department busy.

### Official Community Plan

In accordance with the provincial mandate, Coldstream is reviewing the District's Official Community Plan (OCP), to accommodate growth and change in the community. The District has completed the first round of public outreach. Between the OCP review and the North Kal Area plan study, the District has received over 600 surveys and spoken to hundreds of residents to get their opinions on how Coldstream will grow to accommodate provincial mandates. Look for further consultation opportunities this spring.

### New Zoning Bylaw

As a reminder, the District of Coldstream has adopted a new Zoning Bylaw, effective June 2024, as mandated by the province. Your property's zone may have changed during this process, and you may have new opportunities to build a secondary suite, carriage house, duplex or four-plex on your land. Please check out the Zoning Maps on the District website to see if your property has been re-zoned or call to determine your options.

### Business Licenses

If you have a business license with the District, please be ready to renew in January 2025. The new year is coming soon. If you own or operate a business within the district, you are required to have a valid business license. Business licences run from January to December with payment due by February 15th each year. Please see the District website for more information, as well as an application form.

### Property Information Requests

Selling your home? Get your request for property information in early. The District processes the requests on a first come, first served basis and cannot expedite processing to meet real estate closing dates. Plan ahead to ensure a smooth sale.

### Christmas Tree Drop-off

Dispose of natural (not artificial) Christmas trees in the yard and garden waste section at the Regional Landfill.  
Remove all decorations, lights and tinsel prior to disposal.

## FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

### District Budget 2025

The District is preparing its 2025 budget. In-person consultation opportunities are being offered on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the Coldstream Municipal Office.

*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!*

## BYLAW COMPLIANCE

### Snow Removal

For the safety of pedestrians, the District requires all property owners to:

- Clear the sidewalk fronting your property within 24 hours of each snowfall, 7 days a week,
- Refrain from depositing snow onto a roadway or adjacent property,
- Move vehicles parked on the roadway to assist the plow truck drivers during snow clearing operations.

The District will continue to plow the Sovereign Park Parking lot throughout the winter to provide a safe parking alternative for the parents or guardians picking up or dropping off children from Kidston Elementary.

### Wildlife Attractants

The District of Coldstream has a wildlife attractant bylaw to reduce the number of human/ wildlife conflicts. This bylaw also applies to rodents and vermin. One way to deter rodents and vermin is to ensure garbage and food containers are airtight or stored inside your residence. Other effective strategies include:

- Covering compost containers with ¼" hardware mesh to create a non-penetrable barrier;
- Prevent rodents from entering the house by installing ¼" hardware mesh over vents or by using steel wool and caulking to cover small gaps;
- Using a box to enclose snap traps to eliminate harm to other wildlife or domesticated animals;
- Placing snap traps perpendicular to the wall and on a stable surface to prevent the trap from moving;

- Providing continual monitoring and maintenance of your property to eliminate attractants; and;

If you have concerns about rodents or other wildlife, please do not hesitate to contact the District of Coldstream, a pest control expert or retailer that specializes in rodent/vermin mitigation. For additional resources, please visit the District’s website at <https://www.coldstream.ca/node/774>.

## INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### Flushables

Flushing these items down the toilet causes problems for our wastewater system and our environment.



These products do not breakdown in the wastewater system and can end up clogging our sewer systems. **Even if they say they’re flushable, these products go into the garbage.**

Return used and expired medication to the pharmacy for proper disposal of the drugs.

### What can be flushed?

The only things that are okay to flush down the toilet are toilet paper, poo and pee.

### Rotary Pier



Burton Marine Pile Driving Inc. began demolition of the Kal Beach Rotary Pier in mid-November. Replacement of the pier was necessary because extreme weathering and unprecedented wave action damaged the wooden piles

and deck beyond repair. The new pier will have steel piles and bracing, pressure treated timber stringers and composite decking (a resin/wood material) – making the structure more robust and better able to resist weathering and damage from waves.

The Coldstream end of Kalamalka Lake has been known to freeze solid, which would limit the ability to drive piles. If the weather co-operates, pile driving and reconstruction of the pier will be completed by February 2025. Delays from poor weather could push the project into March. Updates for the project can be found in the Monthly Infrastructure Services Project Report that is available at the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Council Meeting of each month.

The beach will remain open during construction. The construction zone will be fenced off for the safety of the crew and visitors to the beach.

## 2025 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Generally, Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month; Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month. For 2025, some Committee of the Whole meetings will be replaced with Long Range Planning Committee and Finance Committee meetings. Meetings begin at 6:00 pm in the Municipal Chambers at 9901 Kalamalka Road. When meetings fall on a statutory holiday, they are held on the next business day.

Council meeting exceptions in 2025 are as follows:

- There is no Committee of the Whole meeting on January 6
- Council Meetings on March 10 and September 8 will be held at the Lavington Fire Hall, 9739 School Road, Coldstream, BC;
- There is no Council meeting scheduled on September 22 or December 22, 2025.

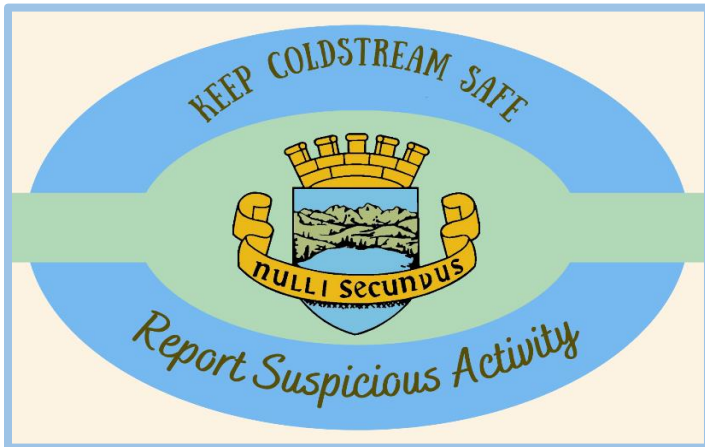
Virtual attendance is available through ZOOM software – details can be found on the District’s website.

## UBCM CONVENTION

Council representatives attended the 2024 Union of BC Municipalities Convention to voice concerns to senior levels of government on important local and regional matters.



## PROTECTIVE SERVICES



Non-Emergency Vernon RCMP 250-545-7171

### 2024 – 2025 Open Burn Period for Eligible Properties

The 2024 and 2025 open burn permit periods have been combined to run from November 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025.

Property owners with parcels larger than 2 hectares (4.94 acres) may apply for a free Open Burning Permit online at <https://www.coldstream.ca/open-burning>, or at the District office.

Eligible property owners may only burn:

- With an approved open burn permit
- Prunings and non-compostable garden refuse.
- During the hours of 8:00am and 2:00pm,
- On days when the smoke ventilation index is greater than 55, as reported by BC Air Quality.
- Daily smoke ventilation index can be found online: <https://envistaweb.env.gov.bc.ca/ago/files/bulletin/venting.html>, or by calling the Kelowna Weather Line at 1-888-281-2992

### Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

The District of Coldstream is currently guided by our 2016 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP provides a framework to reduce the risk of the impacts from Wildfire events. As part of the District FireSmart program, an updated plan, a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP), is currently being developed and will replace the CWPP. The framework for CWRP was

developed by the BC Wildfire Service in partnership with the BC FireSmart Committee.

The CWRP will outline recommendations and priorities that, along with regional fire departments and other stakeholder input, will determine the next steps and future plans to make Coldstream more resilient during a wildfire threat. The CWRP includes a framework for emergency planning, outreach and education, vegetation management and governance (development and legislation). The plan is being developed by ForeSite Forest Management Specialists and will be ready for implementation in the spring of 2025.

Residents can contact Nairn Hay about the FireSmart program by emailing [firesmart@coldstream.ca](mailto:firesmart@coldstream.ca) or calling (250) 540-2036.

### Woodstove Safety & District Regulations

Ensure your stove is safe to use and that you are not creating excessive pollution by following these regulations:

- Only burn seasoned untreated wood.
- Do not burn garbage.
- Use the services of a WETT (Wood Energy Technology Transfer) certified inspector/installer.
- Ensure stove components are in good operating condition.

*Learn more about the District Fire Protection Bylaw, available at [www.coldstream.ca](http://www.coldstream.ca)*

### Coldstream Community Hall

Winter is a great time to book an event at the Hall with discounted rates available on weekends from January 2-March 15th. More than just weddings and events – the 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!

This winter, the Hall features the Coldstream Coffee House on January 18th and February 15th and a Family Day event on February 17th. Keep informed of upcoming events by clicking “Subscribe to News” and selecting “Events Calendar” at [www.coldstream.ca](http://www.coldstream.ca). For rental information or to book a facility tour, contact 236-600-0030.