

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

First the unpopular news... Council has been through a very tough budget process and is looking at a 9.7% increase. Throughout the budget process Council remained mindful of how tight family budgets have become and how we are all impacted by increased costs. Four and a half percent of this amount is attributed to items beyond Council's control, such as inflation, elevated police service costs, and WorkSafe BC premium increases. As the District begins bargaining for a new collective agreement with District employees, the District has factored in the potential for increased labour costs. Council has given careful consideration to all aspects of the budget.

Positive activity continues in Coldstream. I'm happy to share that our Community Hall has been hosting many successful events, including rotating art exhibits in the gallery. Approximately 120 people attended the recent Family Day event. The movie was funny, and the popcorn was delicious. Thank you to our sponsors (BC Government, Keith Construction, Maven Lane and Sun Rype Products), our volunteers and staff for a wonderful family friendly event.

The public works yard has begun the transition to make way for construction of a new public works building. Check on the District's website for time lapsed film showing the demolition of the dilapidated buildings.

Based on the new housing legislation from the Province, along with hard deadlines, Council and Administration have been working hard to meet the requirements imposed by the BC Government. The District will be doing an extensive housing regulation review with changes to the Zoning Bylaw, short term rentals, and our Official Community Plan (OCP). Although the Province will not permit the District to hold public hearings on zoning changes, we will be seeking input for the OCP this fall. The District has blended the Kalamalka Neighbourhood plan at the north end of the lake, with the bigger picture OCP. However, Council may opt to proceed with some items, such as traffic control.

The District has deferred the Aberdeen sewer trunk line but is going ahead with the reconstruction of School Road later this year. Coldstream continues to work with stakeholders at the Regional District on the Aberdeen watershed and Kal Park wildfire mitigation. The Greater Vernon Cultural Centre, is moving ahead. I remain optimistic.

I am always happy to meet with residents and remain open to "coffee with the Mayor" to hear your concerns and ideas. Please contact me directly or through the District office to set up a time. Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement, which demonstrates your passion for your community.

- Mayor Ruth Hayte

COLDSTREAM COMMUNITY HALL

The Coldstream Community Hall is a stunning, state-of-the-art meeting space and fully equipped event venue. Since opening in June 2023, the District has hosted a variety of family, private and commercial events including Family Day on February 19th. This community event was made possible thanks to the support of the BC Government, Keith Construction, Maven Lane and Sun Rype Products.

Do you have an event coming up? Let the District's events team put our 30+ years of experience to work for you! All-inclusive rentals make it easy to plan your private or public gathering.



For more information on rentals visit www.coldstream.ca or call (236) 600-0030.

DISTRICT STAFF

Since the December newsletter, the District welcomed new staff members, including: Bonny Cameron, Temporary Executive Administrative Assistant; Zoe Clark, RCMP Information Complaints Officer; and two Public Works Labourers – Alisan Fortier and Travis Churchill. Congratulations goes to existing staff members who changed positions in Public Works: Terry Segert, Dillan Davies, Bill Hartford, and Clint Clay.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Homes for People Plan and Coldstream

The Province of British Columbia has put a priority on having more homes built in BC. Through the Homes for People Program, the Province has enacted legislation that will change how all communities in BC grow and change. The District of Coldstream is bound by Provincial law, and must comply.

Most importantly for Coldstream residents is that starting no later than July 1, 2024, you and your neighbours will most likely have new development rights on your property.

- If you or your neighbour's property is a residential property, tied to District water and sewer service, you or your neighbour will most likely have the right to construct up to four residential units on the property.
- If you or your neighbour's property is a residential property on septic service, you will most likely have the right to a secondary suite in your home.
- If your property is a rural lot or a lot in the ALR, the new legislation does not apply.

You or your neighbour will also have the right to build homes much taller than previously, and no longer be required to provide as much parking on the property as you once did. You may also have additional rights to subdivide your property into two or more lots.

You will still be required to apply for and obtain a Building Permit and any other technical approvals, which might include costs for infrastructure upgrades; however, these building rights will not be subject to Council review. The District is now prohibited from holding public hearings on most matters relating to housing.

If you live in a neighbourhood with a design scheme established by a developer, you may wish to seek legal advice prior to applying to build a multi-unit building. Coldstream is not party to Building Schemes and can not enforce them.

The legislation requires that Coldstream Council pass new bylaws no later than July 1, 2024. You can follow the progress of these bylaw amendments through the District webpage, social media, or by attending the Long Range

Planning Committee meetings and to watch and listen to Committee deliberations.

In the near future, the District will also be announcing further initiatives to comply with Provincial legislation, which will include a mandatory Official Community Plan review and a review of infrastructure charges. These will include extensive opportunities for public involvement.

Like all local governments, the District of Coldstream is a creation of the Province and must comply with provincial law. The changes to housing regulations are being mandated by the Province through legislation.

If you have any questions, please contact the District's Development Services department via e-mail at planner@coldstream.ca. If you are interested in building under the new regulations, be advised that the District may only approve Building Permits once the regulatory changes have been fully implemented. Permits cannot be issued early or in anticipation of bylaw adoption.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Property tax due date

Property taxes will be due on or before **July 2, 2024**. A 10% penalty will be applied to outstanding balances, including on unclaimed Home Owner Grants.

Home Owner Grant

Eligible home owners can claim this grant, which is **\$770.00, or for aged 65 or older, the grant is \$1,045**. The home owner grant will not reduce property taxes below \$350.00.

Financial Plan ("Budget")

The budget is scheduled to be adopted by Council on April 8, 2024. The District has a budget of \$13.95 million, which is balanced with expenses and reserve contributions. Reserve contributions are savings for future years, for specific purposes such as roads or equipment. The District has planned \$16.8 million in capital projects during 2024, the largest being the new public works building that will replace several old structures originally installed around the 1960s. There are also several road projects planned for 2024, the largest of which is the work along School Road from Highway 6 to Lavington Way. The District is expected to spend almost \$3.26 million on road projects this year.

Business Licences

If you are operating a business in Coldstream, even a home based or agricultural business, you need to apply for a business license with the District. The easiest way to do that is to go to the website www.coldstream.ca and download a business licence application. Business licences run from January to December with payment due by February 15th each year.

PARKS & TRAILS

Coldstream & Lavington Parks

This spring, installation of the new irrigation system at Lavington Park will be completed. The final touches to the new play areas installed at Coldstream Park and Lavington Park will also be completed. Both new areas cater to the 5-years and under age group. Also coming this year will be the new pier at Kalamalka Beach.

ROADS & DRAINAGE

A Reminder about Boulevard Maintenance

Boulevard – means “the portion of a highway between the roadway or improved pathway and the boundary of a parcel of land adjacent to the highway.” In other words, the area of land between the property line and the edge of pavement, sidewalk, or another constructed pathway.

In general, the property owner or occupier is responsible to maintain to the back of a curb or sidewalk.

Maintenance includes, but is not limited to:

- mowing, pruning, line-trimming;
- keeping ditches clear;
- cleaning and maintaining driveway access culverts;
- clearing appropriate space around fire hydrants;
- ensuring that plantings do not interfere with signage or sight lines;
- ensuring residential water shut-off valves are accessible;
- ensuring safe and unobstructed passage on sidewalks and pathways for pedestrians and cyclists; and
- ensuring trees and shrubs do not extend over the sidewalk, pathway, or road at a height of less than 2.75 metres (Traffic and Highway Regulation Bylaw No. 1549 – Section 14, Trees, Hedges and Fences).

The District may require a property owner or occupier, within the boulevard adjacent to their property, to:

- remove any landscaping, plantings or additions located in the boulevard to facilitate work that the District deems necessary; and/or
- remove any landscaping, plantings or additions located in the boulevard that compromises the safety of the public or may cause harm to other infrastructure located within the boulevard.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Bicycle Safety



For more detailed information on Bicycle Safety visit the [Government of BC website](#).

1. Cyclists have the same rights and duties as motorists

Under BC law, a cyclist has the same rights and duties as the driver of a vehicle. That means you can use the road in the same way as the driver of a vehicle (with some limitations). As well, drivers must show you the same respect and courtesy.

Cyclists should:

- obey speed limits and stop at stop signs
- ride on the correct side of the road
- signal when stopping or turning

2. All cyclists must wear a proper bicycle helmet. A proper helmet is one that meets specifications set out in the law. (*Motor Vehicle Act, Chapter 318 Section 184*)

Generally, a bicycle helmet should:

- have a smooth outer surface,
- be capable of absorbing energy on impact,
- be strongly attached to a strap designed to be fastened under your chin and be undamaged.

3. Cyclists must stay as far to the right as practicable

Cyclists must ride as close as practicable to the right side of the road. Give yourself some room to manoeuvre around hazards. A good rule of thumb is one metre from the curb. If there's not enough space for you to ride safely between the rightmost traffic lane and the curb, you may need to take a lane on the road, by riding in the centre of the rightmost traffic lane. Taking a lane may not be appropriate on a high-speed road, or where you're riding more slowly than traffic. If you're uneasy riding in a traffic lane, consider planning an alternate route.

4. If you're riding before sunrise or after sunset, it can be difficult for others to spot you. Cyclists are required to use certain equipment to make themselves more visible.

5. You must use hand signals when turning or stopping. Here's how to signal as a cyclist:

- If you're turning left, extend your left arm out horizontally from your bike.
- If you're turning right, extend your left arm out and your forearm up, making a right angle. Or you can extend your right arm out horizontally.
- If you're stopping or slowing down, extend your left arm out and your forearm down.

Did you know you 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 ENFORCEMENT

Noxious Weeds

You can prevent the spread of noxious weeds by being on the lookout this spring! Noxious weeds are aggressive plants that are not native to our area; therefore, they don't have natural predators such as animals, insects, and diseases to keep them from spreading at an alarming rate. These alien plants invade our ecosystems and out-compete local vegetation for water, nutrients, and light. Typically, the best time to spray noxious weeds is between mid-May and mid-June. The District's website has an excellent section on Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants.

Preventing Human-Wildlife Interactions

Spring is right around the corner, which means there will be an increase in wildlife activity in our area. How we manage our outdoor living space has a great deal of influence on the number of human-wildlife interactions that occur. Here are some ways to lower the risk of having a wildlife encounter on your property:

- Feed pets indoors and keep them inside at nighttime.
- 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.
- Maintain fruit bearing trees by cleaning up any fallen fruit.
- Keep your BBQ equipment and tools clean
- Report wildlife to the **provincial Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)** line at 1-877-952-7277.

Dog License Renewals

With warmer weather just around the corner, taking your furry friend out for a walk will start to become more enticing! Here a few things to keep in mind:

- Renew or obtain your dog license(s) online at rdno.docupet.ca, by phone at 1-855-249-1370 or in person at the District of Coldstream Municipal Hall
- Dogs must always be leashed, except in areas designated as off-leash areas indicated by a sign posted by the District.
- Dog feces must be promptly removed and disposed of appropriately.

For more information on these topics, please visit the Bylaw Compliance section under Community Services at District of Coldstream's website www.coldstream.ca.

2023 – 2024 Open Burn Period
 The 2023 and 2024 open burn permit periods have been combined to run from November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. Apply for free at: www.coldstream.ca

Get to Know Your Council
 Find out how to contact or address Mayor and Council, visit www.coldstream.ca/municipal-hall/mayor-council









Mayor Hoyte
Councillor Dirk
Councillor Garlick
Councillor Hoffman
Councillor Levy
Councillor Runyan
Councillor Cochrane