

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings, the spring starts a busy year for our District. We have finalized the District's 2025 Financial Plan, and you will note, there is little waste and no vanity projects. Council remains fiscally responsible, and while Council would like to fulfill every request from our residents, we must prioritize our goals.

Work on the Aberdeen trunk sewer line will begin early spring to ensure that housing development along Aberdeen Road can move ahead without septic fields and the water tables will be protected from potential contamination. Council and I ask for your patience while this project is underway.

The District continues to work on the Official Community Plan (OCP) and the long-range planning process. To gather community input, the District held open houses and conducted surveys. In developing the OCP, Council will look at a number of issues, including Agri-tourism, viewsapes, housing, short term rentals, and a process to identify and legalize secondary suites. It's about safety folks, renters should feel comfortable knowing that all is up to code and not a safety hazard.

An important part of our long-range planning is the North End of Kalamalka Lake. You have given significant public input and challenged Council to consider those ideas and create priorities based on what the District can afford. This plan will be completed over time and tweaked as necessary. The Active Transportation Network Plan was presented at a Public Open House held on February 20, 2025.

The District of Coldstream actively seeks out grants for projects and considers long and short-term borrowing. This approach reduces the need for additional taxation for everything and avoids shocking increases. One option is implementing Local Service Areas for specific neighbourhood projects to pay for desired local projects. An example of that would be desired sidewalks within a specific identified neighbourhood area. There is a defined process for this, and those affected can petition, engage, and vote to fund these projects. Not long ago, we went through such a procedure regarding sewer extension to a defined neighbourhood, only to not proceed due to the lack of support from those residents. Not all were happy, but we respect the decision of the residents. One aspect of planning short or long-term, is the limits we have with funds and staff. After all, we are a small agriculture community with a small, dedicated and talented staff who work hard to serve you.

The District recently developed a comprehensive Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, with attention to residents living within the interface of crown land. This ties in with the updated Fire Protection Bylaw. One of the area's most valued treasures is Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park. While the park falls outside our jurisdiction, we are committed to working with the Provincial Government, particularly BC Wildfire, to reduce wildfire risks and establish a clear action plan should a wildfire occur.

As always, I am happy to engage with residents and listen to your concerns, input, and comments. Should you wish to have "coffee with the Mayor" you can contact me directly or through the District office.

- 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



Mayor Hoyte



Councillor Dirk



Councillor Garlick



Councillor Hoffman



Councillor Levy



Councillor Runyan



Councillor Cochrane

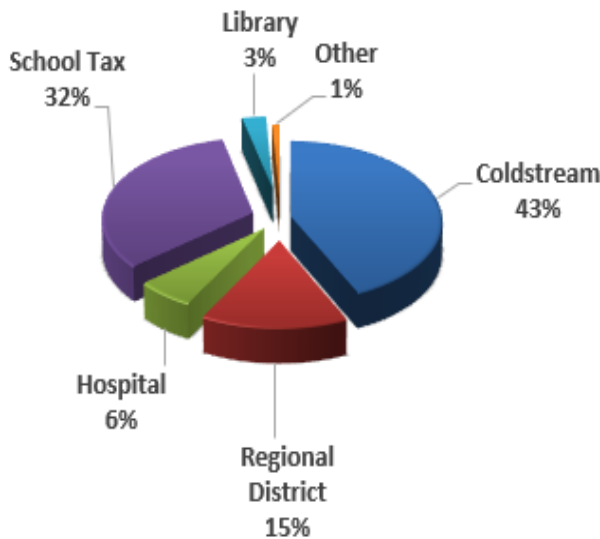
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Financial Plan (“Budget”)

The budget was adopted by Council on February 10, 2025. The District established a budget of \$15.5 million, which is balanced against expenses, reserve contributions and capital expenditures. Reserve contributions are savings for future years, for specific purposes such as roads or equipment.

The District has planned \$7.0 million in capital projects during 2025, the largest of which is a new sanitary sewer main along Aberdeen Road. This project is expected to carry forward and be completed in 2026. The District also looks forward to receiving its new fire department rescue truck, which was ordered in February 2024.

The result is a property tax increase of 9.44% on the typical single-family home (assessed at \$902,000) equivalent to \$165 for the year.



As depicted in the chart above, the District controls only a portion of the total property taxes that you pay. The District’s portion of tax represents approximately 43% of your total property taxes.

Online Accounts & Billing

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

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. Watch for further consultation opportunities this spring on our website and social media.

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 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 own or operate a business within the District, you are required to have a valid business license. Business licenses run from January to December with payment due by February 15th each year. Please see the District website for more information and an application form. If you have not renewed for 2025, please contact the District to do so.

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.

BYLAW COMPLIANCE

Kalavista Boat Launch

The Kalavista Boat Launch recently underwent dredging work. The purpose of this work is to maintain sufficient water depth at the launch site by removing sediment buildup that occurs naturally over time due to water flow and erosion. Whether your watercraft is equipped with an inboard direct drive, an inboard V-drive, or a forward drive,

you will now be able to launch with confidence knowing that the water depth will not damage your equipment.

Preventing Human-Wildlife Interactions

Spring brings a surge in wildlife activity in our neighbourhoods. The way we maintain our outdoor spaces significantly impacts the frequency of interactions between humans and wildlife. To reduce the chances of wildlife encounters on your property, consider implementing a few simple strategies. These adjustments can help create a safer environment for both you and local wildlife.

- Feed pets indoors and keep them inside at night.
- Place birdfeeders in a manner that it is inaccessible to wildlife and clean up any spilled birdseed off the ground/area below.
- Securely store garbage and composting bins until pick up day, so they are inaccessible to wildlife.
- Maintain fruit trees by cleaning up any fallen fruit.
- Keep your BBQ equipment and tools clean and free of residual food or grease.
- Report encroaching wildlife to the **Provincial Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line at 1-877-952-7277.**

These simple steps will also help reduce rodent/vermin infestations. If you have concerns about rodents or vermin, please contact the District of Coldstream or a pest control expert that specializes in rodent/vermin mitigation.

Noxious Weeds

This spring, you can play a vital role in preventing the spread of Noxious Weeds! These invasive plants, not native to our region, flourish here because they lack natural predators such as animals and insects that would typically keep their growth in check. Their rapid expansion can threaten local agricultural ecosystems by competing fiercely with native plants for essential resources like water, nutrients, and sunlight.

Informing the District about these plants promptly allows our Bylaw team to support property owners in removing them. The District's website features a section dedicated to Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants, providing guidance on identification, eradication methods, the effects on our ecosystem, and contact details for local services that specialize in noxious weed removal and prevention.

<https://www.coldstream.ca/community-services/bylaw-enforcement/noxious-weeds-invasive-plants>

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Parks & Trails

Coldstream Park will have the irrigation system in the ball field area upgraded in 2025. These upgrades will improve the water coverage for the park, making the fields more playable throughout the dry season. The ball field will be closed for bookings for 2025. The playground, picnic shelter, and bathrooms will remain open during construction.



Roads & Drainage

This year will see road and drainage upgrades on Upland Drive and Rockland Drive. Additionally, Kidston Road, from Kalamalka to Coldstream Creek Road, and Postill Drive, from Kalamalka Road to Kidston Road, will be treated with a sealing compound that will extend the life of the road and improve the driving surface. These works are planned for this summer and updates will be issued on our website. Please subscribe to receive these notifications

Rotary Pier



The District would like to recognize the electoral areas of Swan Lake/Commonage, Rural Lumby, and BX/SilverStar of the RDNO for contributing \$70,000 towards the reconstruction of the new Rotary Pier. The District also thanks the local Rotary clubs for providing a sign, along with mobility mats to provide greater accessibility to the water and the pier. The new Rotary Pier will open Spring 2025.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Spring FireSmart To-do List



Spring is coming and unfortunately, so is the risk of wildfire. You can significantly increase the safety of your property and reduce the risk of ignition due to sparks or embers through some simple steps:

1. Clean under your deck

The area beneath your deck can accumulate an abundance of branches, leaves, and other flammable debris throughout the year. To minimize the risk of fire for your home, take some time to clean all debris and flammable materials out from under your deck and properly dispose of any waste.

2. Clean your roof and gutters

Roofs and gutters are areas where debris and embers may collect. Remove leaves and other materials and keep gutters clear of debris.

3. Keep your lawn maintained

A well-maintained lawn is a fire-resistant lawn. Grass that is taller than 10cm is more likely to burn longer and carry fire farther, so it's important to mow your lawn on a regular basis.

4. Relocate combustible materials

We totally get it, keeping firewood, propane tanks, and even your kids' plastic outdoor toys close to the house is the most convenient storage option. Unfortunately, these items can pose a significant risk when exposed to wildfire.

5. Prune trees on your property Did you know that a FireSmart yard can include a variety of trees? Trees including poplar, birch, aspen, cottonwood, maple, alder, ash, and cherry are fire resistant and a good alternative to conifer species. Take some time to prune any branches

within two metres of the ground and remove any flammable debris that may have fallen from your trees.

6. Reduce Highly Flammable Plants

Just like trees, certain plants are more flammable than others. To learn more about FireSmart landscaping and plant care, take go to <https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub> for some helpful tips and information.

7. Create a Wildfire Evacuation Plan

Having a detailed plan is crucial for responding to a wildfire in a timely and effective manner. If you have not already done so, take some time to create a wildfire evacuation plan. Not sure where to start? Take a look at the BC FireSmart Last Minute Wildfire Checklist at <https://firesmartbc.ca> for some tips.



**Non-Emergency
Vernon RCMP
250-545-7171**

COLDSTREAM COMMUNITY HALL

Did you know that you can book the hall 23 months in advance? With the popularity of the Hall increasing, it is more important than ever to mark your special date in our calendar. More than just weddings and events – the Coldstream Community Hall is a stunning venue to host anniversary, birthday and retirement parties. Acoustically designed with a blend of modern and organic finishes, the hall is also a premier location for live performances, networking events, programs, meetings and more!

This spring, the Hall features the Coldstream Coffee House on March 22nd, the Vernon and District Game banquet on March 15th and Upper Room Missions Evening in Paris Spring Soiree on April 12th. Keep informed of upcoming events and performances by clicking "Subscribe to News" and selecting "Events Calendar" at www.coldstream.ca. For rental information or to book a facility tour, contact 236-600-0030.