

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I feel a bit like “eating the frog” and opening this message with one of the most difficult items your Council faces, budget deliberations. This year’s situation is no different, we are looking to balance our needs against our wants, while remaining fiscally prudent. Council acknowledges there are those in our community who have financial struggles. There are no vanity projects Council looks to include in our budget.

Council budget discussions begin with items that we are committed to but have no budgetary control over, such as inflation, honoring our collective agreement with District employees, RCMP contracts, and so forth. These items alone will result in a tax increase of 6.7%. Council is also looking at adding an asset management levy in preparation for the replacement of our aging infrastructure. This will ensure we have some funds in the reserve to cover off on our needs. Currently, the Lavington Pool needs repair, as do the tennis courts at Kalavista Park.

Although we do not have the final tax increase numbers for 2026, Council is looking to add 1.5% towards asset management, 0.5% to the RCMP reserve to support an additional member, and 0.25% towards a lake access improvement reserve. As part of the budget planning process, we will be providing an opportunity for public input for you to have a look at the details and ask questions.

Council received a great deal of input for improving lake accesses. I suspect we would look to make some suggested improvements in phases and avoid sticker shock by doing all the suggested improvements at once. I sincerely thank everyone for their valued input. Council looks to include some of those projects in the 2026 budget, such as the replacement of the Kal Beach washrooms.

The Provincial Government continues to challenge communities, such as ours, by imposing targets for housing and other proposed changes to the land use planning processes. We have updated the District Zoning Bylaw to meet the new Provincial requirements and are working through the necessary updates to the Official Community Plan, but we are met with capacity challenges on the infrastructure front. Council also has serious concerns over Bill M 216 - 2025 Professional Reliance Act, which proposes to reduce local government oversight by removing its technical approval authority for planning and development – what we were elected to do. Working with our partners and neighbouring local governments, we look to lobby against this bill.

I wish to thank the community for their ongoing support, by providing a great deal of input towards our Official Community Plan. This document will provide Council with guidance towards their decision making in the years to come. The next phase for Coldstream will be to look at some neighbourhood planning.

Council looks to provide transparency in our budget process and does welcome input. We cannot satisfy everyone and are always looking to the big picture and future planning. Please do not hesitate to contact our District staff with your questions. Myself, I am always happy to meet with residents.

I want to send season’s greeting to all and all the best for the upcoming New Year!

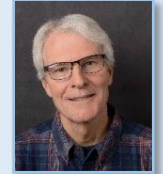
Warm regards,

- Mayor Ruth Hoyte

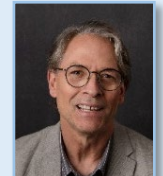
YOUR COUNCIL



Mayor Hoyte



Councillor Dirk



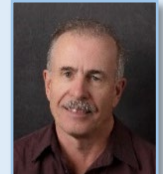
Councillor Garlick



Councillor Hoffman



Councillor Levy



Councillor Cochrane



Councillor Runyan

[www.coldstream.ca/
mayor-council](http://www.coldstream.ca/mayor-council)

COUNCIL

Union of BC Municipalities Convention

Council representatives attended the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention to voice concerns to the Provincial Government on important local and regional matters. Council met with the Minister of Environment and Parks, where discussion focused on clarifying responsibility for approving septic systems to ensure they don't pose a risk to local drinking water sources.

Council met with the Minister of Forests to discuss early wildfire detection technology and its role in protecting Coldstream homes, parks, and the environment.



*Cllr. Runyan, Cllr. Garlick, Mayor Hoyte,
Cllr. Cochrane & Cllr. Hoffman*

Discussions were also had with BC Assessment regarding the farm class, where Coldstream suggested that consideration be given to splitting the class between light/hobby and industrial farm uses.

Council & Committee Meetings in 2026

Council meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Monday of each month, while Committee of the Whole meetings are usually on the first and third Monday. In 2026, some Committee of the Whole meetings will be replaced with Finance Committee meetings. All meetings begin at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers at 9901 Kalamalka Road. When a meeting falls on a statutory holiday, it will be held on the next business day.

Council meeting exceptions for 2026:

- No Committee of the Whole meetings on January 5, July 6 or August 4
- Council meetings on March 9 and September 28 will be at Lavington Fire Hall, 9739 School Road
- No Council meeting on September 14 or December 28

The public is welcome to attend a meeting in person or virtually. For details and updates, visit:

www.coldstream.ca/council-meetings

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

2026 Financial Planning Underway

The District is in the midst of its 2026 financial planning process. Residents are encouraged to get involved and share their input as the District develops the budget and sets priorities for the year ahead.

Opportunities for in-person consultation will be available—details will be shared on the District website and social media. Be sure to subscribe to District News:

www.coldstream.ca/subscribe

PARKS & TRAILS

Vi Morphet Dog Park

Earlier this year, the District completed upgrades to the stair access at Vi Morphet Dog Park.

The previous staircase posed challenges for visitors and their dogs. The new, improved stairs now offer a safer and more accessible entrance to the park, helping to make visits more comfortable for all users.

This work is part of the District's ongoing efforts to enhance and maintain community parks, ensuring they remain safe, welcoming, and enjoyable spaces.



Residents and their canine companions have been making good use of the upgraded access, and the District appreciates the community's continued support as park improvement projects move forward.

Uplands Drive

The road rehabilitation from Rockland Drive to south of Upland Place is now complete. Additional drainage improvements, from Rockland Drive to Scenic Drive, finished at the end of October and paving over the culvert trenches was completed early in November.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

The District Municipal Office will be closed:

December 25, 2025 to Monday January 5, 2026

For after-hours emergencies, please call (250) 545-5304.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Kalamalka Lake Access Points

Over the fall, residents were invited to share their perspectives on Kalamalka Lake access points through survey, written responses, and at an open house. The response was strong, with 399 surveys submitted and 76 residents attending the open house.

From the feedback gathered, several key themes emerged:

- Lake access and usage
- Improved amenities
- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Environmental concerns
- Zoning and dog areas

Residents also provided detailed input on what they appreciate, what could be improved, and ideas for the future of each individual access point along the lake. This valuable community insight will help shape upcoming planning efforts, ensuring future decisions reflect local needs, recreation priorities, and environmental stewardship.

Council has referred the discussion to an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting for further review and direction.

Tree Replacement at Cenotaph Park

Two large box elder trees at the entrance to Cenotaph Park were heavily pruned this summer. This work was done by BC Hydro's contractor to protect power lines throughout Coldstream. To prevent future conflicts, Council has approved BC Hydro's plan to remove the two trees and replace them with more suitable species, likely Honey Locust or Azur Maple, with all costs covered by BC Hydro.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Protecting the Lavington Wetland

Coldstream has been awarded a Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant through the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The grant is supporting a project to develop a plan to protect and strengthen the Lavington Wetland, helping it better withstand future flooding events.

Environmental experts from Associated Environmental have prepared an Existing Conditions Review Report, which was presented to Council on December 8, 2025. This

project is an important step in keeping our local wetlands healthy and resilient for years to come!

Community Hall Solar Panels

The solar panels are now installed on the roof of the Community Hall. The system is awaiting inspections and signoff from BC Hydro before they can be switched on and start generating clean energy.

Once operational, in a typical year with average sunshine, the panels are expected to offset up to 90% of the Community Hall's annual electricity use.

This sustainable upgrade was made possible thanks to funding from the Local Government Climate Action Program and a \$25,000 rebate from BC Hydro.

Learmouth Road

The Learmouth Road water transmission line upgrade is now complete. This important project strengthens our community's water infrastructure, helping ensure a reliable and safe water supply for everyone.



Aberdeen Road Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main

Work on the sanitary trunk sewer along Aberdeen Road is wrapped up for the season. The mainline has been laid from Selkirk Drive to just north of Venables Drive and paving was completed in November. This is slightly later than the originally planned wrap-up due to some unexpected rock removal at the Selkirk Drive intersection. We appreciate everyone's patience during this time.

Construction will pick up again in early spring 2026, with the project expected to be completed by September 30, 2026. Ensure you receive news on this project and other important District information directly to your email inbox by subscribing to the District News: coldstream.ca/news

Stay up-to-date on these projects and more:

coldstream.ca/district-projects

Help Reduce Wildlife Conflicts

Coldstream has a Wildlife Feeding and Attractant Regulations Bylaw to help keep both residents and animals safe. Learn how you can reduce conflicts and do your part in protecting local wildlife at: coldstream.ca/wildlife

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Open Burning Permit Season: What You Need to Know

Open burning season runs from November 1 to April 30, offering eligible landowners a safe window to manage land-clearing debris and agricultural materials. Find out if your property is eligible at: coldstream.ca/open-burning.

A key part of safe burning is choosing the right time and weather conditions:

- Burn only between one hour after sunrise and no later than 4:00 pm, and only on days when the Ventilation Index is above 55 for the Okanagan region.
- Always check the Ventilation Index before starting your burn at: coldstream.ca/open-burning.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Coldstream safe, breathable, and responsible during burning season!

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

Official Community Plan

The District has recently completed updates to its Official Community Plan (OCP) to align with the latest planning legislation in British Columbia. These updates ensure that Coldstream's growth and development continue to follow the Province's current regulations and best practices.

The OCP provides a long-term vision for land use, housing, transportation, and community services, helping guide sustainable growth while protecting the character and environment of our community. Coldstream has followed the proper legislative process, and the updated OCP has been approved in principle, pending approval from the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).

This update positions the District to continue making informed, community-focused planning decisions, ensuring that Coldstream remains a safe, vibrant, and well-planned place to live, work, and play.

Time to Renew Your Business License

Business licenses are due for renewal in January. If you run a business in the District, having a valid license is a must. Licenses run from January through December, with payments due by February 15 each year. For details and the renewal application see: coldstream.ca/businesslicense.

Development Cost Charges Bylaw

The District of Coldstream is updating its Development Cost Charge (DCC) Bylaw to better reflect the actual costs of building and infrastructure in 2026. DCCs are fees collected from new development to help cover the costs of essential services such as roads, water, sewer, and drainage that support growth in our community.

Updating the bylaw ensures that new developments contribute fairly to the infrastructure that keeps our community safe, functional, and sustainable. These updates also help the District plan for future growth while maintaining the quality of services residents rely on every day.

By keeping our DCCs current, Coldstream can continue to invest in strong, reliable infrastructure that supports both existing and future residents.

BYLAW COMPLIANCE

Snow Removal on Sidewalks


Keep our community safe this winter by clearing snow and ice from the sidewalks next to your property. Residents are required to:

- Clear sidewalks within 24 hours of each snowfall, any day of the week.
- Avoid pushing snow onto the road or onto neighbouring properties.

Snow Plowing & Road Safety

The District asks for your help to keep roads safe and snow removal efficient:

- Park vehicles, trailers, and other items off the street
- Clear sports equipment—such as basketball hoops and hockey nets—off the road
- Keep a safe distance from snow-removal equipment
- Do not pass moving snowplows
- Remove rubber curb driveway ramps



Stay Aware & Plan Ahead

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY
NOTIFICATIONS FROM THE DISTRICT OF
COLDSTREAM

[WWW.COLDSTREAM.CA/EMERGENCY-NOTIFICATIONS](https://www.coldstream.ca/emergency-notifications)