

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring and greetings to all! Not only do I pray to have my tulips saved from the pesky neighbourhood deer, but it is also time for road construction. The Aberdeen Sewer Project continues in earnest. Our budget for this project is on track despite the construction timeline being slightly varied, as the drilling around the rail track took longer than expected. I, like many, are feeling inconvenienced by this long road closure but I do keep in mind, this project is much needed and will benefit our District.

Council has had a productive time with finishing up our Financial Plan, reviewing our capital needs and prioritizing our goals. We had significant input from our residents on several items, including the review of Kalamalka Lake accesses. Kalamalka Lake has 14 public access points along the Lake. As we looked at all the possibilities, we endeavored to strike a balance between best uses and cost, considering what would fit into our Financial Plan. Similar to the neighbourhood plan around the north end of Kalamalka Lake, some of this will be done in phases.

Council recently reviewed our bylaw on short term rentals (STR). Staff presented a great report on this item. In the end, Council decision was to keep the status quo. This means that STR's will continue to be permitted, when owner occupied, through a rezoning process to be approved by Council. A valid business license is still required to operate an STR, which is currently set at \$60.00. STR's generated some very good discussion, with alternatives being carefully considered. Ultimately, the final vote at the Council table was to maintain the permitting process that is already in place.

Our District is building partnerships and working together with our neighbours to ensure clean water for our area by participating in the Okanagan Similkameen Collaborative Leadership Table (the Table). The Table is a Syilx-led group that brings Syilx and municipal leaders together to tackle shared water challenges. This includes listening to the approach on Syilx forestry standards, as healthy forests contribute to healthy watersheds. The area covered is broad, from the lower Similkameen to the north. Our area includes the Aberdeen Plateau, which provides us with much of the community's drinking water. This group looks at the long term, and our vision is looking at success in 5, 10 or 25 years.

Success for our District, in my mind, includes salmon fry being released into Coldstream Creek; although, we have significant work to do on the Creek to have this happen. We look to identify priority waterways and develop action plans, with Syilx knowledge of systems and western science working together. I am very pleased to be a part of this group and I look forward to continuing to represent Council at this table. We recently hosted a meeting with this group at the Community Hall with great success. It is always nice to show off the District of Coldstream!

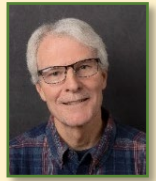
As always, I am happy to meet with residents and listen to their concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact the District or myself to set up a time.

Warm Regards
Mayor Ruth Hoyte

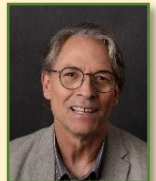
YOUR COUNCIL



Mayor Hoyte



Councillor Dirk



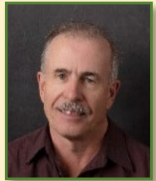
Councillor Garlick



Councillor Hoffman



Councillor Levy



Councillor Cochrane



Councillor Runyan

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

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

2026-2030 Financial Plan

On February 9, 2026, Council adopted the District's Financial Plan (budget) for the year. The 2026 Plan sets revenues at \$18.3 million and expenditures at \$17.7 million, including a capital program of roughly \$5.3 million. Key investments include:

- \$2.3 million – Completion of the Aberdeen Road sewer expansion project
- \$1 million – Fleet vehicle purchases and replacements
- \$870,000 – Annual road rehabilitation program

Property tax revenues are projected to rise by approximately \$980,000. After accounting for tax revenues from new developments, property tax rates are estimated to increase by 8.72%. For the average single-family home, this would equate to an additional \$155 per year, or just under \$13 per month.

The Financial Plan supports the District's continued investment in infrastructure and services while keeping residents informed of the impact on their property taxes.

PARKS & TRAILS

Pet-Friendly Parks in Coldstream

We love dogs in Coldstream—especially when their owners are responsible! Keeping your dog on a leash where required, picking up after them, and sticking to parks and designated areas helps make our community safe and enjoyable for everyone. Find out where you can bring your furry friend at www.coldstream.ca/parks-recreation

As part of the ongoing pilot project, Coldstream Council allows off-leash dogs at Pumphouse Beach. This is a chance for pets and owners to enjoy a special dog-friendly space while helping the District test how a designated pet beach works in our community.



Tree Replacement at Cenotaph Park

To prevent ongoing conflicts and ensure long-term safety, Council approved BC Hydro's plan and allowed the removal of two large box elder trees at Cenotaph Park - at no cost to the District. The trees have now been removed, and

new plantings are scheduled for the spring, when weather and soil conditions are most favourable.

Kalavista Area Update

The log house, which is located on parkland in the Kalavista neighbourhood, has now been demolished, and crews will restore the site with topsoil and grass seed this spring. Any additional improvements will depend on Council's future vision for the park.

As part of the broader planning, habitat enhancements for the Western Painted Turtle will be incorporated to support this important local species.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES & PROJECTS

Community Hall Solar Panels

The solar panels on the Coldstream Community Hall are now 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.

Savings and statistics will be shared through the community newsletter as they become available.

Discontinuation of Yard Waste Drop-off Program

After careful review, Council has decided that the spring and fall yard waste drop-off program at 10405 Middleton Drive will be discontinued. This decision is due to operational factors, including budget, staffing, and site management considerations.

Residents can continue to dispose of yard waste for free at the Greater Vernon Landfill, located at 120 Birnie Road.

School Road Rehabilitation

Design work is now underway for the rehabilitation of School Road between Jeffers Drive and Learmouth Road. With survey and geotechnical assessments complete, the project is moving into the next phase of planning.

The improvements will include targeted repairs to the road base, upgraded drainage infrastructure, and a fresh asphalt surface. To enhance pedestrian safety, the roadway will also be widened—mirroring the upgrades completed on the north section in 2024. Works are expected to be completed over the summer, with paving anticipated for October.

Aberdeen Road Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main

Work on the Aberdeen Sewer project resumed on February 2, 2026, with crews successfully drilling the sewer main—and a connection for a future watermain—beneath the CN Rail tracks.

The next phase of construction will be at the south end of the project area, near Whisbey Drive, and will progress northward, eventually tying in near Venables Drive.

Aberdeen Road will remain closed to through traffic between Highway 6 or Middleton Drive and Kalamalka Road until the end of the project.

Local traffic access is being maintained and a designated pedestrian route is being provided to ensure children can safely travel to and from school.

Construction is expected to continue into fall, with paving scheduled for late September. After paving is complete, crews will remain on site to finish driveway reinstatements, landscaping, and general cleanup.

To help residents stay informed, a dedicated project webpage is available: www.coldstream.ca/district-projects.

Updates will also be shared through the District’s social media channels and media releases.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Campfire and Outdoor Cooking Safety Tips

Small outdoor fires are allowed in Coldstream—but only if done safely:

- Outdoor fireplaces and small contained fires must never be left unattended.
- Portable campfires are allowed, following manufacturer instructions.
- Keep fires 1.5–3 m away from buildings, shrubs, and property lines.
- Use only approved fuels.
- Fires are not allowed in public parks, trails, or roads, except portable campfires used safely.



Find out more in the Fire Prevention Bylaw.



EN’OWKIN - COLLABORATION

The District of Coldstream is pleased to introduce this new standing feature in its Newsletters to share news, history and information related to the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB).

In this issue, Council is pleased to highlight their first Community to Community (C2C) meeting with the Okanagan Indian Band’s Chief & Council, which was held on January 6, 2026. The discussion was meaningful and constructive, and provided the opportunity to connect in a spirit of respect, learning, and collaboration.

C2C meetings create an important space for leadership from both communities to come together, share perspectives, and deepen understanding. They help strengthen government-to-government relationships, support open dialogue, and create opportunities to work jointly on shared priorities such as land stewardship, community safety, environmental protection, and long-term planning. By fostering trust and mutual respect, these conversations help ensure decisions are informed by the history, values, and aspirations of both Coldstream residents and OKIB members.

This growing partnership is an important step toward building a more connected, informed, and collaborative region—one where communities move forward together. The District and the Okanagan Indian Band continue to build a stronger, more collaborative future through these meetings and other collaborative initiatives.

For more information on the OKIB, visit www.okib.ca



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Spring FireSmart To-Do List

Spring is here—and so is wildfire season. Protect your home and property with these simple steps:

- Clear debris from under decks, roofs, and gutters.
- Maintain your lawn; keep grass short to reduce fire risk.
- Move combustible items like firewood, propane, and toys away from the house.
- Prune trees and remove flammable branches and debris.
- Limit highly flammable plants and consider FireSmart landscaping.
- Have an evacuation plan ready.

A little preparation now can make a big difference this wildfire season! Find out more: www.coldstream.ca/firesmart

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

Business Licence Renewals

Local business owners are reminded that 2026 business licence renewals were due February 15. If you haven't had a chance to renew yet, please take a moment to do so when you can.

Business licences are required for anyone operating within the District of Coldstream, including home-based and agricultural businesses, and help keep our local business community safe, fair, and thriving. You can find renewal information and application details at:

www.coldstream.ca/businesslicense.

BYLAW COMPLIANCE

Reducing Wildlife Conflicts in Colstream

Coldstream is home to a wide range of wildlife, and the District's Wildlife Feeding and Attractant Regulations Bylaw helps protect both animals and residents by reducing access to human-derived food sources. The Bylaw supports B.C.'s *Wildlife Act* by prohibiting the feeding or attracting of wildlife and outlines simple steps residents can take—such as securing garbage, cleaning up fallen fruit, storing compost properly, and keeping outdoor equipment free of food residue—to prevent conflicts. By minimizing attractants, we help



wildlife remain wild and reduce the risk of negative encounters. Find out more: www.coldstream.ca/wildlife

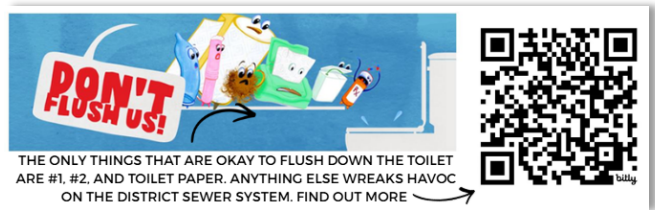


Help Stop the Spread of Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds and invasive plants spread quickly, crowding out native species and damaging local ecosystems. The District manages these plants on municipal lands. You may also see volunteers from the Invasive Species Council of BC in McKergow Meadows and other District properties this spring performing mitigation works on invasive species.

Residents also play an important role. If you spot invasive plants on your property, act early by pulling or digging them out, mowing before they go to seed, or using approved control methods. Early treatment helps protect Coldstream's parks, farmland, and neighbourhoods. Learn how to identify and control noxious weeds at:

www.coldstream.ca/noxious-weeds



Boulevard & Culvert Maintenance Reminder

Did you know that property owners are responsible for maintaining the boulevard area beside their home? Keeping these areas neat and well cared for helps create a safe and welcoming community for everyone. Please remember to keep grass, shrubs, and vegetation tidy, remove noxious weeds, and ensure plants don't block visibility for pedestrians, drivers, or traffic signs. To maintain clear sightlines, vegetation in boulevard areas must be kept under one metre in height.

Additionally, the maintenance of culverts under driveway access points are also the responsibility of the property owner. If you are having issue with drainage or clogs, contact us. The District can offer advice for troubleshooting an issue!