DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM

September 2026

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all. I hope you all have had a good summer. We were lucky not to have a wildfire in our community, dodging a bullet this year. Our hearts go out to the surrounding communities, especially to the Okanagan Indian Band with the loss and devastation they have experienced.

This season's drought led to some very acute challenges regarding water supply. Our agriculture community needs became very urgent within a short period of time. The District, along with stakeholders, worked with Greater Vernon Water to increase supply to our agricultural users, such as transferring water allocations and accessing reclaimed water from the City of Vernon. We also met with the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to discuss opportunities to relax certain regulations to improve access to water for agricultural users. These discussions resulted in some positive outcomes, not only for this year but also in helping to plan for and secure agricultural water access into the future. Water is certainly a complex concern and has become an important focus as we work to ensure we have an adequate supply, along with the infrastructure needed to support it. There is still more work to be done in developing a longer-term plan and preparing for potential future drought conditions.

Your Council kept busy with several key issues including: secondary dwellings on smaller agriculture properties, recognizing existing secondary suites, updating Development Cost Charges, developing a Night Sky Policy and regularly reviewing our priorities and Strategic Plan. We asked the community about their thoughts regarding the future use of the "Log House" parkland property on Kalavista Drive and look forward to receiving that feedback at an upcoming Council Meeting.

The Pumphouse Beach dog friendly pilot project has resulted in the permanent allowance of dogs at the beach, but a fence will be installed to separate regular beach goers from dogs. This change was not unanimous vote at the Council table, so we looked to strike some sort of balance.

Traffic and speeding are one of our biggest community issues as far as safety goes. We took some initiatives to provide some traffic calming along Kidston Road, while Mt. Ida Drive, Aberdeen Road, Coldstream Creek Road, Middleton Way, and several other roads seem to be experiencing a high level of speeding. We will continue to look at traffic calming throughout the District. It can be so exasperating, please just slow down.

We do have an Active Transportation Plan for our community and have recently signed on to the Provincial E Scooter pilot project. The RCMP and School District have been working together on this, ensuring users are aware of traffic rules. Education on safe use is imperative. Yes, the District is aware of anecdotal incidents and continue to work with RCMP on this. Keep safe and follow the rules of the road when you ride an E Scooter.

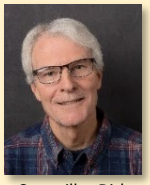
Council also approved a pay bump for our Councillors so they could at least meet 50% of average remuneration with comparable communities. The Mayor's remuneration remains the same.

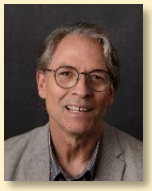
I continue to meet with residents on a number of concerns and "coffee with the Mayor" I will deem a success. Our District is open to hearing from you.

Warm Regards, *-Mayor Ruth Hoyte*

COUNCIL

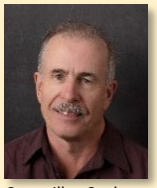

Mayor Hoyte


Councillor Dirk


Councillor Garlick


Councillor Hoffman


Councillor Levy


Councillor Cochrane


Councillor Runyan

coldstream.ca/mayor-council

2026 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTION

On **Saturday, October 17, 2026** the District of Coldstream will hold General Local Elections where eligible voters will elect:

- one (1) Mayor to the District Council;
- six (6) Councillors to the District Council; and
- one (1) Trustee to the School District No. 22 Board of Trustees.

Key 2026 Election Dates

Advance Voting Days	October 7, 14 & 15
General Voting Day	October 17
Inaugural Council Meeting	November 2

Voting Locations

Advance Voting

- District Municipal Office, 9901 Kalamalka Rd

General Voting Day

- Lavington Elementary School, 9715 School Rd
- Coldstream Elementary School, 10104 Kalamalka Rd

Voting Hours: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

For more election information, inclulding a list of candidates, please visit: coldstream.ca/2026election

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES & PROJECTS

School Road Rehabilitation

Construction is underway on School Road. In addition to road base repairs, drainage improvements, and a new asphalt surface, the road has been widened to improve safety for pedestrians. Pedestrian, emergency services, transit, and school access are being maintained throughout the project. *Project Timeline: July 6 to October 2, 2026*

Drivers are asked to obey traffic control personnel, use caution, and slow down when travelling through the construction area.

Aberdeen Road Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main

Construction on the Aberdeen Road Sanitary Sewer Project continues to progress, with work advancing north along Aberdeen Road.

The sewer installation from Wisbey Drive to Rendell Drive is complete, while the construction of the remaining sewer mainline, from Rendell Drive to north of Venables, is progressing.

Aberdeen Road remains closed to through traffic between Highway 6 and Kalamalka Road. Local traffic access and a pedestrian route are being maintained.

Stay informed through the District Projects webpage at coldstream.ca/district-projects.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Preparing for Emergencies

British Columbia experienced a significant and challenging wildfire season this year, reminding us how quickly conditions can change and how important it is to be prepared.

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility. Taking a few simple steps before an emergency can help residents, families, neighbours, and emergency responders when it matters most.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Create an emergency plan: preparedbc.ca
- Register for Emergency Support Services (ESS) in advance of an emergency: ess.gov.bc.ca
- Sign up for emergency notifications through Alertable: coldstream.ca/emergency-notifications
- Register livestock and poultry through B.C. Premises ID: gov.bc.ca/premisesid

A little preparation today can make a significant difference when an emergency occurs.

Fire Department Supports Provincial Response

This summer, members of the Coldstream Fire Department were deployed to support wildfire response efforts in communities across the province. Their willingness to leave their own community to help others during a time of need is a tremendous example of public service, courage, and commitment.

While members and apparatus were deployed, Coldstream's fire halls continued to provide emergency response coverage to our community, ensuring residents continued to have local protection.

The District extends its deepest thanks to all Coldstream Fire Department members who deployed this season. Their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to helping communities across B.C. are something Coldstream can be incredibly proud of.

STAY INFORMED *Subscribe to email updates through the District website www.coldstream.ca*

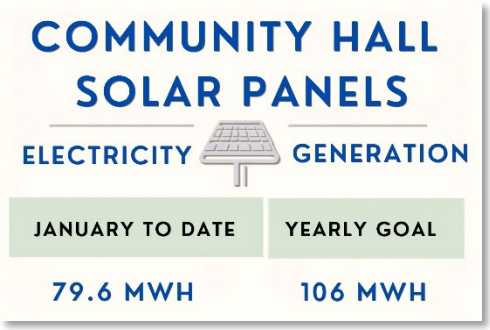
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Secondary Suites Certification Program Rollout
The rollout of the District of Coldstream's Secondary Suites Certification Program has been postponed to 2027 with an anticipated start in January 2027.

Many homes in Coldstream contain suites that were created without going through the building permit process. The District's certification program is intended to provide homeowners with a straightforward opportunity to have these existing suites reviewed for basic life-safety requirements and formally recognized for emergency response purposes.

Residents with existing unauthorized secondary suites will have the full two-year period to participate in the program and address any identified requirements.

More information about the program will be provided in the New Year, so please subscribe to District News: coldstream.ca/news so you do not miss important notifications.



BYLAW COMPLIANCE

Wildlife Awareness & Safety
Bear sightings continue throughout Coldstream, and wildfire activity may be causing wildlife to move into new areas in search of food, water, and shelter.

Residents are reminded to:

- Secure garbage, fruit, and other attractants.
- Keep pets indoors at night and supervised outside.
- Never approach or feed wildlife.
- Keep children and pets safely away from wild animals.

For more information on reducing human-wildlife conflict, visit coldstream.ca/wildlife.

Okanagan Indian Band

EN'OWKIN - COLLABORATION

Water is essential to everyone who lives in the Okanagan, and this summer's drought and wildfires have highlighted the importance of protecting our watersheds and water resources for generations to come.

The Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) and the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) are leading important work to protect water, restore ecosystems, and advocate for long-term watershed health throughout Syilx Okanagan Territory. The ONA is working with Syilx and non-Syilx governments and other partners on the siwɬkʷ Responsibility Action Plan, a collaborative, long-term approach to watershed stewardship.

In May 2026, the Syilx Okanagan Nation declared a Watershed Emergency, and in August called for immediate water conservation after high water-scarcity levels were established across all five assessed areas of the Okanagan watershed. The Nation noted that ongoing drought and wildfires are placing additional pressure on already limited water supplies.

This year has also brought significant challenges to the Okanagan Indian Band community. The Bradley Creek wildfire resulted in widespread evacuations and devastating impacts to homes and community members. The District of Coldstream extends its support and solidarity to the Okanagan Indian Band, its leadership, and community members as recovery continues from the Bradley Creek wildfire. We recognize the strength and resilience of the community and the continued leadership of OKIB in caring for the land and water that sustain communities throughout the Okanagan.

ROAD USE & SAFETY

Back-to-School Road Safety: Share the Road

With students heading back to school, the District reminds drivers, cyclists, and e-bike riders to slow down, stay alert, and share the road.



For cyclists and e-bike riders:

- Ride on the *right side of the road*, in the same direction as traffic.
- *Stop at stop signs and red lights* and yield as required.
- Use *hand signals* when turning or changing lanes.
- Ride predictably and avoid weaving between traffic or parked vehicles.
- Wear a properly fitted *helmet*.
- When using a crosswalk, *walk your bike* unless the crossing is specifically designed for cyclists.

For drivers:

- Slow down and watch carefully for cyclists
- Give cyclists plenty of space when passing and *do not pass when it is unsafe to do so.*
- Be patient and remember that cyclists and e-bike riders are legitimate road users.

Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project

Coldstream is now participating in the Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project. Under the pilot, riders 16 years and older can use electric kick scooters in Coldstream in accordance with provincial regulations. The provincial pilot is currently scheduled to continue until April 5, 2028.

- Concerns and reports regarding unlawful use of scooters on public roadways should be reported to the local RCMP detachment.
- *School District 22 prohibits electric kick scooters on all school properties.*
- Learn more about the program at: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/electric-kick-scooter-rules

	WHERE CAN I RIDE?	HOW OLD DO I NEED TO BE?	MAX SPEED LIMITED TO
LIGHT E-BIKE (PEDAL ASSIST ONLY)	Anywhere where bicycles can ride!	14+	25 km/h
STANDARD E-BIKE (PEDAL ASSIST OR THROTTLE)	Anywhere where bicycles can ride!	16+	32 km/h
E-SCOOTER	On roads 50 km/hr or less in a cycling lane or on your right as safely as possible	16+	25 km/h
MOPED/LSM	On public roadways only	16+	70 km/h
E-DIRT BIKE	Not on roads, sidewalks or bike lanes	Not legal at any age on public roads	Not permitted on public roads
MINI-MOTORCYCLE	Not on roads, sidewalks or bike lanes	Not legal at any age on public roads	Not permitted on public roads