



## FEBRUARY Project Updates:

- 1. Lift Station** - Contractors are back to finalize the project. Lift Station building and kiosk construction is expected to be complete towards the end of March.
- 2. North Ashcroft Drainage Study** - Engineers have completed site visit and are drafting the plan. Expect to have draft received at the Village early spring.
- 3. Water to AIB** - Discussions are ongoing to establish services, determine cost and required maximum daily. AIB is continuing to work towards securing grant funding.
- 4. Hot Tub** - IHA approvals are received, engineered drawings are complete, requesting quotes for installation.
- 5. Fire Hall #2** - RFP is concluded but came in over budget. Requested quotes based on design build to reduce costs and bring the project within allotted budget.
- 6. Economic Development & Tourism**—Working group is focusing on community profile development.
- 7. Heritage Park / Community Garden** - Work has resumed with warmer temperatures, tentative completion by June. Draft redesign of the front end of the park are received and being reviewed by the working group. This addresses the pond, water wheel and Harper Mill concerns.
- 8. Trail Master Plan** - Draft plan is received and will be reviewed by the working group.
- 9. Emergency Plan Update** - Working group to reconvene and move forward with editing and updating the plan.

## COUNCIL FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- ⇒ Council adopted the Fire Department Regulation Bylaw No. 848, 2022;
- ⇒ Council adopted Business Licence Bylaw No. 850, 2022;
- ⇒ Council updated Policy No. C-01-2022, Grants in Aid Policy for Organizations/ Individuals to include spring and fall intake application dates for consideration at the first COW meeting in March and September each year;
- ⇒ Council updated Policy No. C-06-2021, the Annual Unconditional Grants Policy requiring updated Agreements at maximum 5-year intervals as well as updating the CiB Grant to \$5,500;
- ⇒ Council approved the Ash-Creek TV Society request for a Grant in Aid of \$500.00 to help with repairs to damaged equipment due to vandalism;
- ⇒ Council endorsed the proposed collaboration between the Village and the Ashcroft HUB Society to provide ESS services and further supported the Village of Ashcroft application for Grant Funding to UBCM in the amount of \$11,128.51 to purchase the required supplies to establish this service;
- ⇒ Council approved letters be sent to MP Brad Vis and MLA Jackie Tegart to lobby for a review of the BC Wildfire and Forest Management practices;
- ⇒ Mayor Roden declared March 26<sup>th</sup> as “Purple Day” in support of Epilepsy Awareness Month
- ⇒ Council supported the Girl Guides of Canada’s Guiding Lights across BC initiative by lighting up the Old Fire Hall in blue lights for February 22<sup>nd</sup>;
- ⇒ Council supported the TNRD updating their Regional Growth Strategy;

## Village of Ashcroft

Mayor and Council:

**Mayor:**

Barbara Roden

**Councillors:**

Marilyn Anderson

Jonah Anstett

Nadine Davenport

Deb Tuohey

## 2022 UTILITIES

Just a reminder that the 2022 Utility Bill went out early February. You have until December 31, 2022 to pay tis bill. A **10% discount** is available to everyone who pays before **March 31, 2022**. We accept Cash, Debit, Cheque at the Office, or you can do Online and Telephone banking. If you have question, on set up, please call the Office at 250.453.9161 and we are happy to help you.

## Spring Special Yard Waste Pick Up

To aid Ashcroft residents with their **SPRING CLEANUP**, additional waste pick-ups will be provided **Wednesday April 27** and **Thursday April 28, 2022**. Branches less than 8” in diameter & 8’ in length; Leaves/Grass/Weeds/Twigs cannot be bagged; Non-Refrigeration Appliances; Old Tires (off rims only); Maximum weight of any single load or bundle is 100lbs. Garbage must be out where it can be picked up by equipment. Garbage **MUST NOT** be against fences, signs, buildings or retaining walls or it will not be picked up. Strictly Enforced!

## 2022 - Façade Improvement Grant is Open

The Business Façade Improvement program provides grants to property and business owners to assist with the costs to renovate, restore or redesign their facades. Eligible properties are those buildings zoned C1 within the Village of Ashcroft Development Permit Area #4. This area includes commercial properties located between the Thompson River & Railway Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street (including commercial properties fronting 1<sup>st</sup> Street) & 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The Village of Ashcroft is pleased to provide this program with funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust, which provides monetary assistance as an incentive to property and business owners as they improve the character and physical appearance of their establishments. The goal of the program is to encourage the downtown businesses to invest in upgrades that will create a more exciting, appealing and consistent downtown appearance. The Village of Ashcroft will provide a 50% approved reimbursement grant up to a maximum of \$5,000 per building/project to improve facades of downtown commercial/retail buildings. Projects must have a minimum total cost of \$1,500 in order to qualify. Buildings occupying corner lots are only entitled to one grant to a maximum of \$5,000 even if the eligible improvements occur on both streets.

### Voyent Alert

**Are you Registered?** We can help you register if you require assistance. Feel free to contact the Village office at (250) 453-9161 and we can arrange to get you registered remotely.

We successfully used Voyent Alert in 2021 to update the Community with Water Restrictions, Heat Wave Warning and updates about the Wildfires.

In times of crisis it is important that residents have access to trusted, timely and accurate information to ensure their own safety and that of their family and loved ones. In response to this need, the Village of Ashcroft has chosen Voyent Alert! as the communication service provider for these kinds of events.

Voyent Alert! is a multi-purpose communication service used to send alerts to residents, businesses, and visitors during critical events like extreme weather, fires or floods, etc. The service can also be used to communicate important information updates regarding local events and services.

Community members can register to receive notifications through a variety of methods including mobile apps, text, email, and voice calls. Registration is free and anonymous.

### Budget - 2022

February has been a busy month, Ashcroft's independent auditors from Grant Thornton LLP have been at the Village office reviewing the 2021 financials as required by legislation. The audit is in the final stages of completion and will be presented to Council in late March or early April.

Recently CFO Bhalla has directed his attention towards the development of the 2022 budget. The Community Forum that enables public input to the budget process has been scheduled for Monday March 28th beginning at 4:30 pm and the Town Hall presentation of the 2022 Budget and 5 Year Financial Plan will be presented to the public on May 9th beginning at 4:30pm. Meetings will be held in the village Council Chambers and streamed virtually through the HON Network. What is required of the Village during the budget process? First and foremost, municipalities can not operate with a deficit budget. The Community Charter requires the municipal budget to be balanced. The Village divides the budget into four (4) accounts: General Operations, Water Operations, Sewer Operations and Reserves. Fees collected for water and sewer services remain in the appropriate budget and must sustain the service. All other revenues remain in the General Operating fund, and the Asset Management Policy determines the allocation to Reserve accounts. By legislation, the CFO provides at minimum quarterly Budget and Variance reports to Council in open meetings and presents the budget annually to the community. CFO Bhalla provides these updates to Council for oversight and transparency purposes and in addition Council has access to the Village's finance portal where they are able to confidentially access the financial reports to provide the ongoing oversight.

### 2022 Events & Meetings

#### Council Meetings:

Meetings are Livestreamed on the HUB Online Network

March 14 - 6:00 pm

March 28 - 6:00 pm

#### Community Forum:

March 28 - 4.30pm

In person & Virtual



#### How to Register

##### Mobile App Users

Download and install the Voyent Alert! app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.



##### Email, SMS or Voice Dial Users

Register online to receive email, voice or text-based alerts at <https://register.voyent-alert.com>