

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

This month had Council meetings on November 12th and November 25th. Here are some highlights of those meetings:

- ⇒ Council listened to two delegations this month, the first was Mohammad Hasani, Quality Manager, Dawson Road Construction regarding Winter Maintenance Plans & Activities in the Ashcroft area this winter; the second was Debra Tedford & Gwen Dost of the Ashcroft Hospice Society who proposed installing a “Wind Phone” in the Ashcroft Cemetery to support grieving individuals. A Wind Phone is a phone booth (without connection) designed as a space for reflection and remembrance of lost loved ones
- ⇒ Council has begun preliminary budget discussions for the 2025 Budget
- ⇒ Council approved a \$500 grant in aid to the Ashcroft & Area Community Resource Society Christmas Hamper fund
- ⇒ Council approved the OCP and Zoning Bylaw Update Work Plan as presented and directed staff to proceed with signing the contract with Urban Systems Ltd. to initiate this project
- ⇒ Council directed staff to prepare an amendment to the Dog Control and Pound Operation Bylaw to replace the annual dog licensing system with a one-time lifetime \$25 fee licensing system for dogs
- ⇒ Council approved the Ashcroft HUB’s request to close the streets for the Santa Parade to be held the evening of Friday, December 6th. Streets will be closed between 2nd and 7th Streets for the parade.
- ⇒ Council and Staff have been invited to visit the Ashcroft Curling Club any Tuesday to see the newly renovated Lounge.

### Village of Ashcroft

Mayor and Council:

**Mayor:**

Barbara Roden

**Councillors:**

Jonah Anstett

Jessica Clement

Nadine Davenport

Doreen Lambert

### LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?

Come check out our new “swag” with our new logo at the Village Office!



## INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES DAY—A Look at Our Village’s Efforts

December 3, 2024, marks International Disabilities Day, a time to reflect on how our Village is addressing the needs of individuals living with disabilities. Let me share some of our recent initiatives aimed at fostering inclusivity and accessibility.

In line with provincial legislation, all municipalities and regional districts in BC, including ours, are required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). This committee must include members who are individuals living with disabilities, representatives from organizations supporting people with disabilities, and Indigenous peoples. The AAC’s mandate is to:

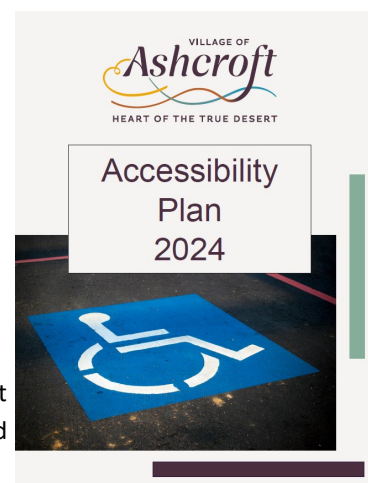
1. Identify physical barriers within Village buildings and lands,
2. Address communication barriers, and
3. Develop a community feedback mechanism to enable residents to report accessibility challenges.

### What Have We Accomplished So Far?

- **Accessibility Plan:** The committee has developed an Accessibility Plan, which is available on the Village website or at the Village office.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** A feedback form is now accessible online or can be picked up at the Village office, allowing residents to report areas of concern.
- **Next Steps:** We are progressing towards one of our top priorities—an assessment of all Village-owned properties by the Rick Hansen Foundation. This evaluation will identify barriers and provide actionable recommendations.

Once the assessment is complete, the Village will prioritize these recommendations and seek grant funding to implement necessary changes. Council is committed to making our community more inclusive and accessible, and we will continue removing barriers as resources permit.

If you’re interested in joining the AAC and meet the membership requirements, please contact the Village office at 250-453-9161. Together, we can build a community that is welcoming and accessible to all.



## EXCITING NEWS: LIFETIME DOG LICENSES ARE HERE!

Big changes are coming for dog owners in Ashcroft! The Council has approved a shift from annual dog licenses to **lifetime licenses**, making it easier and more convenient to keep your furry friends safe and registered.

Here's what it means: With just a one-time fee of **\$25**, your dog's license will be valid for their entire lifetime, as long as they reside in Ashcroft. No more yearly renewals—just peace of mind knowing your pet is covered.

Why license your dog? It's not about generating revenue; it's about keeping pets safe and helping them find their way home if they ever get lost. Your license ensures we can reunite you with your beloved pet quickly and easily.

Starting **January 6, 2025**, Lifetime Dog Licenses will be available at the Village Office. Show your love for your dog and be a responsible pet owner—drop by to get yours! Let's work together to keep Ashcroft a pet-friendly, safe community.



### 2024

#### Upcoming Council Meetings

December 9 Regular 6:00 pm

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE**

December 24—Noon

Re-open January 2—8:00 am

**Arena is OPEN!**

Public Skate Hours

Mon. & Wed. 3:30—4:45

Friday 7:00—8:30

Saturday 3:30—5:00

Sunday 5:30—7:00

**SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER—** If you have sidewalks in front of your businesses or homes, it is your responsibility to clear the snow by 10:00 AM on any given day following a snowfall. We appreciate your dedication in keeping our sidewalks safe for all users.

## WORKING GROUP UPDATES:

During October, the Village conducted a road safety survey to gather community feedback on proposed speed limit changes and to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. We are pleased to share the survey results with you.

### **Street and Safety Working Group Community Survey Results:**

- Increase the 30km/h speed limit on Tingley and Mesa Vista Dr. to 50km/h?—83% of respondents voted **NO**
- If **NO** what are your concerns?— **The most common concern reported is pedestrian safety, proximity to parks/playgrounds and lack of sidewalks.**
- Would you prefer an alternate speed limit? - **84% of respondents prefer 30km/h**
- Do you believe a 50km/h on Mesa Vista Dr. impacts pedestrian safety? - **95% YES**
- Are you in favour of extending the 30km/h speed limit on Elm St. past the pool park towards Desert Hills? - **74% YES**
- Are you in favour of extending the 30km/h speed limit on Government St all the way to the 3-way stop at Ranch Rd? - **90% YES**
- Do you believe this change would improve safety and consistency in the area? - **87% YES**
- Do you agree with posting 30/50 km/h signs on Government and Hollis St. 50km/h vehicles, 30km/h commercial and transport vehicles? - **73% YES**
- Do you think 50km/h is appropriate for regular vehicles? **63% YES**
- Do you think 30km/h is appropriate for commercial/transport vehicles? - **100% YES**
- Do you think the speed limit should affect e-bikes? - **91% YES**
- Do you notice more pedestrians and children in areas throughout the community? - **68% YES**



We extend our gratitude to everyone who participated; your input will play a crucial role in shaping decisions that enhance safety for all road users in our community. The working group will carefully review the survey results and comments before drafting a recommendation for Council's consideration. Council is expected to address these matters during the Regular Meeting on December 9, 2024.

