

It's hard to believe another year has gone by and we are nearing the holidays. As usual, its been another busy year! There were many projects, staffing changes and accomplishments, some of which I would like to share.

2023 was a year of wrapping up ongoing projects and planning for new ones. A new strategic plan is being developed to guide Council and staff for the next three years and beyond. The Plan envisions what we want Ashcroft to be like 5, 10 or 20 years from now which begins with strategic planning and includes projects to improve the quality of life for the residents of Ashcroft including Village operations. It was great to see so many residents participate in the process and share their ideas. The future looks bright! The new Strategic Plan will be finalized in early 2024!

The two major planning projects this year were the revitalization of the front end of Heritage Park and the complete upgrade of Mesa Park into a fully accessible and inclusive green space for the community. Grant applications have been submitted and we hope to begin the work next year.

The largest of our projects in 2023 was the renovation of the Fire Hall. The project is wrapping up, siding is being installed and the interior is at the deficiency stage. Once completed and the department has everything organized, Council will host an open house in the spring for everyone to come and see the improvements. Another project completed this year was the installation of the hot tub which was operational during the pool season much to the delight of the pool patrons.

There were many other projects and tasks completed as well as day to day operations, but through it all, our goal is always to provide excellent service in administration and operations for the Village.

*From our family to yours,
Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!
Village Council and Staff*



*CPKC Holiday Train 2023
Photo Credit: Josh White*



A Christmas Message from Mayor Roden

As I write this, the CPKC Holiday Train has been and gone for another year. It's one of the highlights of the Christmas season for many, and this year more than 1,000 people came out to see it. In addition to enjoying the gaily-decorated train and the performers, attendees donated 670 pounds of food, and more than \$1,600, to the South Cariboo E. Fry Society Food Bank.

It shows the giving spirit of the residents of Ashcroft, and those in Cache Creek and the surrounding area, who came out to the event. It's one of the things that makes me proud to serve as the Mayor of Ashcroft, and to tell people where I'm from: the best little town in B.C.

I'm excited about the new Strategic Plan that council is developing, which will shape how the town looks for those who are here now and those who will come, and am looking forward to sharing those details when the plan is finalized. In the meantime, on behalf of Ashcroft Council, I'd like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and all the best for the upcoming year.



CHRISTMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Closure

The Village Office will be closed from noon on Friday, December 22nd until 8:00 am Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.

Garbage Collection

Tuesday, December 26th pick up will be picked up on Wednesday, December 27th. Please have your garbage out by 7:00 am.

2023 Tax & Utility Payments

Payments on 2023 tax & utility accounts must be received in our office by 4:00 pm, Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024 to avoid 2023 penalties & interest charges. Payments received on or after Thursday, January 4th, 2024 will be applied against applicable penalty & interest charges. **Postmarks are not accepted as date of payment.**

2024 Licences

2024 Dog Licences will go on sale Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024. **They will not be sold on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.** Business Licence renewal notices will be mailed out the first part of January.

2024 Council Meeting Schedule

Copies of the Council Meeting Schedule for 2024 are available at the Village Office and viewable on our website at www.ashcroftbc.ca

PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT

1500 Government Street

A Public Hearing will be held on January 22, 2024 at 6 pm to discuss the OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 864, 2023 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 865, 2023 pertaining to the addition of a new 37 unit apartment building at 1500 Government Street.

MESA PARK GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION

Council approved supporting a grant application for \$997,316.86 to revitalize Mesa Park into a fully accessible and inclusive space; Council to leverage the project cost by 35% (\$349,000) as per program requirements.

CHRISTMAS BREAK ARENA SCHEDULE

FREE PUBLIC SKATING

12:30 pm—2:30 pm
Saturday, December 23
Wednesday, December 27
Thursday, December 28
Friday, December 29
Saturday, December 30
Regular Arena Scheduling Resumes on Tuesday, January 2, 2024

STICKS & PUCKS

9:30 am—11:30 am
Wednesday, December 27
Thursday, December 28

****Reminder****

In the event of snowfalls or other emergency these times may be cancelled.

A Christmas Poem

(A "Twas the Night Before Christmas" parody)

*T'was the night before Christmas, and throughout the town,
public works is busy bustling around.*

*Streets are all plowed, the garbage is hauled, water is
pumping, and the arena 's ice cold!*

*The office is finishing all the last tasks, ensuring the budget
is balanced at last!*

*Reports are final and plans are in place, to guide us through
next years ambitious phase!*

*Council is busy with planning and such, to move Ashcroft
forward and not run a muck!*

*As the holidays near, and we all nestle in, we wish you a
MERRY CHRISTMAS with all of your kin!*



2023 Ashcroft Indian Band Christmas Tree Lane—Village's Bird Friendly Christmas Tree