

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At its July 28, 2025 meeting, Council accepted Councillor Lambert's resignation and directed staff to initiate a by-election, appointing Daniela Dyck (CAO) and Kris Hardy (EA) as election officials. Council proclaimed September 15–21, 2025 as Rail Safety Week, approved a \$319 sponsorship for the Courageous K9 program, and directed staff to prepare a pre-budget submission to MP Caputo highlighting key infrastructure priorities. Council also endorsed providing a letter of support to the HomeZero Collective for its funding application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. As always, Council meeting agendas and minutes are available for detailed review on the Village website at www.ashcroftbc.ca.

Village of Ashcroft

Mayor and Council:

Mayor:

Barbara Roden

Councillors:

Jonah Anstett

Jessica Clement

Nadine Davenport

Doreen Lambert

Detailed Community Update

Recently, a resident reached out with questions about several key community services. While some of these areas fall outside the Village's direct mandate, Council continues to advocate on the community's behalf. In responding, we realized many other residents may share the same questions — so we're using this newsletter to provide those updates to the whole community.

Rail Safety and Noise Mitigation

The Village is awaiting the next intake of the federal Rail Safety Improvement Program before moving ahead with a controlled rail crossing in North Ashcroft. The cost of this project is beyond the Village's budget without grant funding or significant taxation. Once funding opportunities are available, we will survey residents on whistle vs. bell use during closures. In the meantime, Council continues to promote rail safety and maintain dialogue with CN Rail and CKPC Rail.

Public Safety and Fire Services

Recent actions include Fire Hall upgrades, acquiring a 'new-to-us' fire tender truck, securing a \$40,000 annual firefighter training grant, updating the Emergency Response & Evacuation Plan, enhancing Emergency Operations Centre training, and acquiring a mobile EOC kit. We are also developing a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and exploring lower municipal speed limits.

Health Care Services

The Urgent Primary Care Centre provides in-person, phone, and video appointments with three physicians, among other services including X-ray and Lab services. Residents without a doctor can register with the UPCC and they will do their best to meet your medical needs. Council continues to advocate for improved services and staffing and participates in the Health and Wellness Action Coalition.

Flood Mitigation and Infrastructure Planning

Flood risk mitigation work includes engineering studies on rainfall runoff and drainage hazards. Funding applications have been submitted for a full flood risk plan and a second treated water reservoir.

Housing and Community Planning

Following our Housing Needs Assessment, Council is advocating for IHA and RCMP staff housing, updating the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw embedding FireSmart principles into both bylaws, and working with developers to bring new homes and subdivisions to Ashcroft.

Water Conservation and Metering

Our water license limits how much we can draw from the river. Conservation is vital during summer. A \$2.7M provincial grant will fund universal water metering, helping us manage supply and secure future grants.

Community Clean-Up and Unsightly Properties

We continue our annual spring clean-up program and are developing a Good Neighbour Bylaw to address property maintenance issues. The Good Neighbour bylaw will also have FireSmart principles embedded into the regulations as an added community safety measure.

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Tourism

We're improving visitor experiences with new wayfinding signage, downtown enhancements, and investor outreach for more accommodations. Future plans include seeking funding for downtown revitalization and ongoing Hotel development attraction.

Advocacy and Representation

Mayor and Council communicate with provincial representatives and other levels of government to ensure Ashcroft's needs are heard.

Transparency and Communications

Council agendas, minutes, and updates are on the Village website. Key documents will be posted online and at the Village Office, with monthly newsletters delivered to all post office boxes.

The projects and updates outlined above reflect only a fraction of the work that Council and staff undertake beyond the Village's daily operations. Council's primary responsibility is to provide governance and set policy, while staff manage the day-to-day functions, maintain essential services, and bring forward ideas and recommendations for Council's consideration. Council also values its role in engaging with residents, hearing their ideas and concerns, and advocating on their behalf. Working together, this partnership drives Ashcroft's progress and helps ensure a strong future for our community.

Ashcroft is Having a By-Election!

The Notice of Nomination will appear in the Journal on August 14 and 21, 2025, and can also be found on the Village website under the By-Election tab.

The Nomination Period runs from September 2 to 12, 2025. During this time, Nomination Packages for the position of Councillor can be picked up at the Village Office during regular business hours or downloaded from our website.

We encourage community participation in this democratic process and invite any questions before Nomination Papers are submitted.

Daniela Dyck, CAO and Kristine Hardy, EA are the appointed election officers, please feel free to contact them at 250-453-9161 with your questions.

Farewell to Councillor Lambert!

At the July 28th Council Meeting, Councillor Doreen Lambert announced her resignation with heartfelt regret. Having recently relocated to Vancouver Island for personal reasons, both Council and Councillor Lambert agreed that moving forward with a by-election was in the community's best interest.

This marked Councillor Lambert's third time serving on Council, beginning with her election in a 2013 by-election, followed by a full term starting in 2014. After taking a break to focus on other priorities, she returned to public service in the 2022 civic election, once again earning the trust of residents.

Councillor Lambert's passion for Ashcroft and its people has been unwavering. Her dedication to the community, its residents, and countless service groups has been nothing short of exemplary. Known for her candid nature and heartfelt commitment, she will be deeply missed at the Council table and throughout the community she has long called home.

We thank Councillor Lambert for her years of service and wish her nothing but happiness and success as she embarks on this new chapter in her life.

2025

Upcoming Council

Meetings

Aug. 25: Regular 6 pm

Sept. 8: COTW 5 pm

Sept. 8: Regular 6 pm

Council at UBCM

Sept. 22-26

JOIN COUNCIL AT THE COMMUNITY FIRESMART



**Saturday, August 23rd
11:30 am to 3:00 pm**

Ashcroft Pool Park

**FREE
HOT DOGS
BURGERS
DRINKS**

**FUN
BOUNCY CASTLES
FIRE TRUCKS
FREE SWIMMING**

**FIRESMART INFO
WATER METER INFO**

**BRING YOUR OWN
LAWN CHAIR!**

