

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council held meetings on October 14th and 28th. During these meetings, Council rescinded third reading of the Good Neighbour Bylaw No. 879, 2025 to include additional regulatory provisions for hens, bees, and pigeons. The Notice of Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 880, 2025 was also adopted.

Council appointed Councillor Davenport as Deputy Mayor from October 31, 2025, to November 22, 2026, replacing former Councillor Lambert.

Council endorsed a Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) grant application for the Downtown Revitalization Plan and will continue exploring separate funding opportunities for a Hotel Investment Study. Council also supported submitting an application to the NDIT Business Improvement Façade Program for \$10,000.

CFO Bhalla provided an update on the Village's financial position, noting that operating funds and revenues are tracking as projected, with the year expected to conclude in line with the approved Financial Plan. He also reported on Information System upgrades, including enhancements to the Asset Management System, development of cemetery and museum databases, migration of the VADIM financial system to a secure cloud environment, and modernization of Business Intelligence functions through Power BI and Python-based analytics to strengthen reporting and data accuracy.

The Bylaw Enforcement Officer provided a third-quarter update on active files and enforcement activities.

The Economic Development & Tourism Working Group has issued invitations for a Business Mixer on November 2, 2025. In addition, the group shared that *Home Town Takeover Canada*—a new HGTV series that revitalizes small Canadian towns (population under 20,000). Upon review Council opted to reassess next year and consider an application at that time, due to potential costs.

Council also proclaimed October as Foster Family Month in Ashcroft.

As a reminder, 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

Cam Tedford

THANK YOU!

Shout-out to the Ashcroft & District Lions Club for their ongoing commitment as an Adopt-A-Road participant, keeping Government Street clean.

Thank you as well to the individuals who cleaned up Evans Road to the Ashcroft Terminal.

We appreciate your efforts in keeping our community looking its best!



PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

The Village has been busy working with Urban Systems over the past few months to update our Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaws. These updates are part of the Province's new housing initiative and are being supported through provincial funding to help communities like ours plan for future growth and housing needs.

As we always do, we've brought community voices to the table. A working group was formed to guide the project, and our first public meeting took place on May 12, where residents shared ideas and priorities. Since then, we've continued conversations with local businesses, stakeholders, and residents to make sure the updated bylaws reflect what matters most to Ashcroft.

The bylaws are now nearing their final draft stage, and we'll be hosting one more public meeting soon (mid to late November) to share the latest version and hear your thoughts. The goal is to ensure our community vision—rooted in our shared history, values, and sense of place shines through in every part of the plan.

While reviewing the Zoning Bylaw, especially the downtown development guidelines, we realized it's the perfect moment to build on the excitement and apply for Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) funding to create a Downtown Revitalization Plan.

This new plan will help us imagine a vibrant, walkable, and welcoming downtown that reflects Ashcroft's unique character—the *Heart of the True Desert*. We'll be looking at ways to make our core more accessible, bike-friendly, shaded, green, and full of inviting gathering spaces and patios, with façades that honour our heritage while blending modern, fire-resistant, and climate-smart design.

Importantly, FireSmart principles are being embedded into both the OCP and Zoning Bylaw updates, and they'll also play a key role in shaping the Downtown Revitalization Plan. These measures will help make our community more resilient and safer for everyone.

There will be lots of opportunities to get involved as we move forward—your ideas, experiences, and creativity will help shape what our reimagined downtown can become.

Stay tuned for the upcoming public meeting date (mid to late November) and ways to participate. Together, we're building a strong, beautiful, and resilient Ashcroft—one that truly reflects the heart of our community. ❤️



WATER METER PROJECT UPDATE

The Village's water meter project continues to move forward behind the scenes, and we're pleased to share a quick update. The Request for Proposal (RFP) process has now concluded, and the Village is in negotiations with the preferred contractor to supply and install the new water meters. The proposal came in within the approved grant funding, with a healthy contingency allowance to cover any unforeseen costs — great news for our community.

While the specific make and model of water meters are still being finalized, important preparatory work is already underway. Brian and Yogi are out in the field GPS-tagging the locations of water isolation valves that connect to each property. This work is currently being completed for all commercial and public properties and will eventually include every residential connection.

As part of this process, we're also updating and digitizing our infrastructure mapping. Once complete, our staff will be able to access accurate water system information directly from mobile devices — a big step forward in our ongoing asset management and digital recordkeeping initiatives.

When the installation contract is finalized, we'll invite residents to a public information session to learn more about the program, the installation process, and what to expect at their property. We look forward to keeping everyone informed as we take this next step toward a stronger, smarter water system for Ashcroft.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR BYLAW

The Village's new **Good Neighbour Bylaw** is now in its final stages of adoption. Council rescinded third reading at the October 14 meeting to allow for a few final updates identified during the ongoing Zoning Bylaw review. These changes add more clarity and detail to several sections, including vehicles, the keeping of animals and noxious weeds ensuring the document aligns with both new provincial standards and local community needs.

Third reading was re-introduced and approved on October 28, and the bylaw is scheduled to return to Council for adoption on **November 10**.

Once adopted, the Good Neighbour Bylaw will bring together the majority of regulations that affect daily community life—such as property upkeep, noise, nuisances, and other neighbourly matters—into one easy-to-navigate document. This update will make it simpler for residents to understand and access the rules that help keep our community safe, respectful, and enjoyable for everyone.

CONGRATULATIONS CAM TEDFORD!



Our newest Councillor for the Village of Ashcroft!

We took a moment to ask Councillor Tedford some questions about winning the By-election:

- **How did you feel when you learned you had won the By-election?** "Honoured."
- **What motivated you to run for Council this time?** "22 years of attempting to run for Council however, as a village employee I couldn't because of conflict of interest and this is the first opportunity since I finished my employment."
- **Who was the first person you shared the news with, and what was their reaction?** "My wife, Deborah, and her reaction was, as it has been since I started campaigning, trepidation."
- **What do you hope your election says about the confidence the community has in you?** "I think what the results say is that people know me from business and village employment."
- **How does it feel being on the other side of the Council table after serving as a municipal employee?** "It feels entirely different sitting at the Council table as opposed to the Council gallery."
- **What perspectives or lessons from your time as an employee do you think will benefit you as a Councillor?** "More than anything, my knowledge of the infrastructure and the importance of our parks and recreation."
- **What do you anticipate will be the biggest adjustment moving from operational work to governance and policy-making?** "Learning to use a computer."
- **How do you plan to maintain positive and professional relationships with staff, now that your role has shifted?** "I believe my relationship with staff was solid and respected and I don't expect it to change now that I am on Council."

2025
Upcoming Council
Meetings

Nov. 10: 6 pm
Nov. 24: 6 pm
Dec. 8: 6 pm



REMEMBRANCE DAY
"LEST WE FORGET"
The Village Office will be closed Remembrance Day Tuesday, November 11, 2025