



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council’s last meeting of the year was on December 8, 2025. Here are some highlights of these meetings:

- ⇒ Council endorsed sending a letter to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs in regards to Bill M-216—2025 Professional Reliance Act requesting the Minister reconsider Bill M216 and engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities.
- ⇒ Council approved the *2026 Council Meeting Schedule*, which has been posted to the Village web-site.
- ⇒ Council has begun budget discussions and completed two sessions during open Council meetings guided by CFO Bhalla. The first was a high level project specific discussion where critical items were highlighted and proposed budget allocations were presented; the second was a line by line budget discussion of all accounts revenues and expenditures with all changes from last years budget highlighted and discussed.
- ⇒ Council approved the submission of the Grant Writer funding application to NDIT.
- ⇒ Council discussed the proposed Mesa Park Playground replacement proposed by the Parks and Rec. working group.
- ⇒ Council approved the request presented by Councillor Tedford to install *Seniors Only Parking* signs in front of the Village office on Saturday afternoon from 1-4pm.

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

2026

Upcoming Council

Meetings

Jan. 12th—6 pm

Jan. 26th— 6 pm

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW—BUILDING A STRONGER ASHCROFT

In 2025, the Village of Ashcroft made meaningful progress on key priorities aimed at strengthening community well-being, improving infrastructure, and planning responsibly for the future. Guided by Council’s strategic direction and supported by dedicated staff, the year focused on foundational work that will benefit Ashcroft for years to come.

Planning for the Future

A major milestone in 2025 was the launch of the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw update. This comprehensive review is designed to guide future growth, land use, housing, and economic development while ensuring alignment with provincial legislation and community values. Public engagement formed an important part of this work, helping ensure the updated plans reflect local priorities.

Council also advanced new regulatory tools, including the Good Neighbour Bylaw and the Notice of Enforcement Bylaw, modernizing how community standards are addressed and improving clarity, fairness, and consistency in bylaw enforcement.

Investing in Water & Infrastructure

One of the most significant accomplishments of the year was securing 100% provincial funding for universal water metering, totaling approximately \$2.7 million. This achievement positions Ashcroft to better manage water use, plan for long-term infrastructure sustainability, and meet provincial requirements without placing the financial burden on local taxpayers.

Following the grant award, the Village advanced the project through contractor pre-qualification and procurement work, laying the groundwork for implementation in the coming year. Transparency and community engagement has been a driving factor in this project, as such Council, staff and the project team continue to share information and host public information sessions when new information is available to be disseminated to residents.

Enhancing Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Community safety remained a priority in 2025. Village staff completed Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training, strengthening local preparedness and response capacity for emergencies and natural disasters. The project also included a grant funded purchase of equipment for a fully functioning and deployable EOC.

Traffic safety improvements were also implemented, including the installation of speed bumps on Ranch Road near Desert Sands Community School, following recommendations from the Street Safety Working Group. These measures were taken to improve safety for students, pedestrians, and residents.

Supporting Community & Local Organizations

Council continued to support community vitality through Grant-in-Aid funding for local organizations and events, helping sustain programs, services, and celebrations that bring residents together.

The Village also promoted grant-writing support for non-profit organizations, assisting community groups in accessing external funding and building local capacity.

Governance & Civic Engagement

In October 2025, Ashcroft successfully held a by-election to fill a vacant Council seat, ensuring full representation and continuity in local governance. Cam Tedford was elected to the vacant seat.

Improvements to community communications were also made, including upgrades to the Village’s LED sign, enhancing the ability to share timely information about events, notices, and local initiatives.

Looking Ahead

While 2025 focused heavily on planning, preparation, and securing resources, the work completed this year sets the stage for tangible on-the-ground improvements in 2026 and beyond. Council and staff remain committed to transparency, collaboration, and responsible stewardship as Ashcroft continues to move forward.

AFTER CELEBRATING 37 YEARS WITH THE VILLAGE – KRISTINE “Kris” HARDY is RETIRING

Kristine Hardy (Kris) celebrated an incredible milestone with the Village of Ashcroft—**37 years of service, to the very day**. Kris’s first day at the Village was **December 19, 1988**, and fittingly, her last day in the office was **December 19, 2025**.

For many years, Kris was a key part of the Village’s day-to-day administrative operations and a familiar, welcoming face at the front counter. She greeted residents with a smile and was always ready to help often while sharing a story or two along the way. Kris had a deep knowledge of the Village’s history and records, and her willingness to dig through files to find answers was always appreciated by Council, staff, and the public.

In the final years of her career, Kris stepped into the role of Executive Assistant, finishing her time with the Village in a position that supported succession planning and knowledge sharing with new staff. Her experience and historical perspective were invaluable in helping ensure a smooth transition and continuity within the office.

On behalf of Council, staff, and the community, the Village of Ashcroft thanks Kris for her many years of service and the unique mark she leaves behind. We wish her a happy and well-deserved retirement filled with fishing trips, camping adventures, time in the garden (and the canning kitchen), and most importantly more time being fully present with her family as she enjoys this next chapter.

HAPPY RETIREMENT KRIS, ENJOY EVERY MOMENT!



FIRESMART IN ASHCROFT: YEAR ONE COMPLETE—YEAR TWO AHEAD

Ashcroft’s parade float this year proudly showcased our FireSmart commitment! Sponsored by FireSmart, the float featured a FireSmart-ready home and yard — complete with *Ember the FireFox* — helping spark conversations about wildfire preparedness in a fun and engaging way.

As we wrap up our first year of FireSmarting, we are thrilled with the strong community interest and support. Planning is already underway for our second year funding application, which is expected to include private property assessments, rebates for FireSmart remediation (rebate amounts are still to be determined), and the early stages of assembling a structure protection trailer.

As climate change continues to impact wildfire seasons, improving our preparedness for interface wildfire threats remains a top community safety priority. While adopting FireSmart principles on private property is voluntary, some Village bylaws do include FireSmart-related requirements, and those regulations must be observed.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Village will adopt its Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP), recruit FireSmart volunteers and neighbourhood champions, hire seasonal staff to help support vulnerable residents with FireSmarting their homes — and much more.

Stay tuned — there’s more to come!



As 2026 begins, Council and staff of the Village of Ashcroft wish everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year. May the year ahead offer new opportunities, steady progress, and a shared sense of purpose as we continue building a strong and connected community.



SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

If you have sidewalks in front of your home or business, please ensure they are cleared of snow by 10:00 AM on the day following a snowfall.

Thank you for helping keep our sidewalks safe and accessible for everyone!

