Monthly Review FEBRUARY 2026

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council met on February 9th & 23rd — below are some highlights from these meetings:

- ◊ Council adopted the Water Regulations Bylaw No. 881, 2026.
- ◊ Council adopted the Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 882, 2026 (Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste)
- ◊ Council adopted the Notice of Enforcement Amendment Bylaw
- ◊ Council revised the Travel Reimbursement Policy to include use of the Electric fleet vehicle—Kia EV9
- ◊ Council approved Councillor Clement to attend the 2026 LGLA Leadership Forum and authorized related expenses.
- ◊ Council approved the BC Drag It Challenge request to host their event in Ashcroft on June 21st approving a road closure on Railway Ave between 4th and 7th St.
- ◊ Council approved the BC Epilepsy Society request to light up the Old Fire Hall in purple on March 26th to recognize Epilepsy Awareness Day
- ◊ Council approved the recommended edits to the Accessibility Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference and appointed Marvene Layte and Julie Ells to serve 2 years as committee members.
- ◊ Council recognized the Ashcroft & District Lions Club for an amazing 75 years of community service

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
Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole
Mar. 9th — 5 pm

Regular Meetings
Mar. 9th — 6 pm
Mar. 23rd — 6 pm

WATER METER PROJECT PREP:

In preparation of scheduling water meter installations efficiently, the Village kindly asks residents to contact the Village Office and provide their preferred contact information (phone number or email). This will allow staff and the contactor to coordinate an installation time that works best for everyone.—THANK YOU! Installation will begin in April.

PUBLIC MEETING REVIEW

The Village of Ashcroft hosted a well attended public meeting on Tuesday, February 24th to share updates on several key initiatives shaping the community's future. The evening brought together residents, planners, engineers, and contractors for open conversation, information sharing, and hands-on learning.

One of the most discussed topics was the upcoming installation of residential water meters. Neptune, the contractor responsible for the work beginning in April, was on site to answer questions and demonstrate a sample meter. Their display allowed residents to see exactly what the equipment looks like once installed and to learn how the cellular connection functions. Many attendees took the opportunity to speak directly with Neptune staff and gain clarity on the installation process. Engineers from Urban Systems were also present to provide technical insight and respond to project related questions.

Urban Systems' planning team was on hand as well to present the proposed updates to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaws. Storyboards placed throughout the hall highlighted notable changes, including the integration of FireSmart principles, the introduction of a new Comprehensive Development Zone, and the consideration of allowing cannabis retail establishments within the downtown commercial area. These displays generated thoughtful discussion and helped residents better understand how the proposed changes support long-term safety, growth, and land-use planning.

The final station highlighted the work of the Streets and Safety Working Group. A short presentation shared the results of the community survey conducted in the fall and invited attendees to discuss speed limits and overall safety in the Village. A new survey was also available, giving residents another opportunity to share their perspectives. At this stage, the working group is focused on gathering input and encouraging community conversation, and no decisions have been made about potential speed limit changes.

Throughout the evening, conversations flowed easily as residents asked questions, shared ideas, and engaged directly with Council and staff. It was a strong reflection of what makes small rural communities unique—people coming together, talking openly, and working collectively toward a sustainable, safe, and thriving future for Ashcroft.

Below are images of the sample installed water meter and a group shot from the meeting.

FEBRUARY 2026

ASHCROFT & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB CELEBRATES 75 YEARS— Mayor Roden

A small article appeared in the Ashcroft Journal's issue of March 1, 1951. The headline was "Ashcroft forms Lyons [sic] Club," and it read "At a meeting of interested citizens at the home of Mr. H.H. Gallagher, it was decided to form a Lyons Club in Ashcroft. This was done, so now we have a new organization called Ashcroft and District Lyons Club. Mr. Ray Freeman, special representative of the Lyons of Vancouver, was in town Wednesday night and organized the club. It devotes its time to services to the community and especially to the children."

From that humble mention sprung a mighty organization which has, for the past 75 years, been one of the backbones of our region. "Where there's a need, there's a Lion" is the club's guiding motto, and members of the Ashcroft and District Lions Club take that motto to heart.

Whenever and wherever there is a need in the Ashcroft-Cache Creek region, the Lions Club is there, whether it's serving up pancake breakfasts and burger lunches to appreciative crowds or rolling up their sleeves and pitching in to provide support and assistance after a disaster. They organize the annual Skip's Run, provide assistance at other events, and provide bursaries for graduating students at Desert Sands Community School.

Lions Club members are tireless, selfless, and dedicated, and local volunteers from the club have enriched our communities for three-quarters of a century. On behalf of the Village of Ashcroft I would like to recognize the Ashcroft and District Lions Club for their 75 years of service, and thank all their many volunteers for giving of themselves and their time so freely and generously to help make our communities the strong, thriving places that we are proud to call home.

COUNCIL CORNER—COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS

Last Tuesday evening, we gathered at the Community Hall for our Public Meeting, and I want to start by saying thank you. It was great to see so many community members come out, take a seat, and lean into conversations about where we're headed as a Village.

We covered important updates, including proposed changes to our Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw. These documents shape how Ashcroft stays safe, grows, and evolves — from housing and FireSmart planning to land use and long-term development. I appreciated the thoughtful questions, completed surveys, and one-on-one feedback. Engagement like that ensures our decisions reflect community needs and values.

We also had a firsthand look at the new water meters. Having the contractor on site made it easier to understand how they work and what residents can expect. There were great questions about installation, billing, and long-term benefits. These upgrades help protect our water system and support responsible planning.

Another meaningful discussion focused on the proposed community wide 30 km/h speed limit, a concern raised by community members and feedback received from a community survey Slower speeds are being considered with safety in mind, and I value the balanced perspectives shared.

Evenings like this remind me why I enjoy serving as a Councillor. We have a community that shows up, dedicated staff working behind the scenes, and a Council table grounded in respect and collaboration. There is always more work ahead, but I'm proud of how we move forward together.

Thank you for staying engaged and helping shape the future of our Village.

Respectfully—*Councillor Nadine Davenport*

BRITISH COLUMBIA FireSmart™ Village of Ashcroft

Did you know that this is a great time of year to start making your home and property more resilient to wildfire? And with a chipper at our disposal April 20-22, there's no reason not to! Stay tuned for more information.

For a Home Ignition Zone Self-Assessment, download the FireSmart—Begins at Home app or stop by the Village office for a paper copy. Here are some simple but effective steps to take to get started.

Here's a simple checklist you can use to drastically reduce your property's risk.

- ☐ Clean and maintain gutters and roofs
- ☐ Keep grass and weeds cut below 10 centimetres
- ☐ Relocate propane, firewood and other fuel sources 10 to 30 metres away from structures
- ☐ Prune trees to create a two-meter clearance from the ground to the lowest branches
- ☐ Reduce the flammability of your landscaping and plant wildfire resistant vegetation
- ☐ Clean under your deck to remove any combustible material. Establish a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around the perimeter of the house and deck

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