Village of Ashcroft — Heart of the True Desert

Monthly Review APRIL 2026

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council met on April 13 & 27 — Council approved, endorsed, and directed the following:

- ◊ A Special Meeting of Council was scheduled prior to the Community Forum on April 13 where Council approved the submission of a grant application to the UBCM—Community Resiliency Investment fund in support to the continuation of the FireSmart™ program.
- ◊ Council hosted the annual Community Forum on April 13, 2026 to provide one final opportunity for residents to have input and ask question in regards to the proposed 2026 Budget and project list.
- ◊ Council received the 2025 Financial Report from Doane Grant Thornton LLP—receiving a clean audit opinion.
- ◊ Council moved to accept the 2025 Audited Financial Statements as presented.
- ◊ Approved first three readings of the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw, and Tax Rates Bylaw.
- ◊ Approved a grant application submission to NDIT for $10,000 for Marketing Initiatives Fund to offset economic development and tourism projects.
- ◊ Approved a Notice of Motion filed by Councillor Tedford to enable the public to ask questions of delegations prior to their dismissal from the meeting. The Council Procedures Bylaw will require a slight amendment to implement the change.

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

UPCOMING

Council Meetings

Town Hall

Present Final Budget

May 11 — 5:00 pm

Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

May 11 — 6:00 pm

May 25—6:00 pm

COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM - Monday May 11, 2026 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers for the final presentation of the 2026 Budget

Council and staff have finalized the proposed 2026 budget and project priorities and are ready to present it to the community. The budget was reviewed in detail during open meetings, and a Community Forum on April 13 provided an opportunity for residents to ask questions and share feedback.

FireSmart™ FREE CHIPPING DAYS HUGE SUCCESS

With another hot, dry summer on the horizon, Gwen Dost, the Village's FireSmart™ Coordinator organized a community chipping event to support residents in cleaning up their properties and improving wildfire resilience. Residents were encouraged to remove cedars and junipers, prune trees and shrubs, and take proactive steps toward FireSmart™ practices.

Funded through the Village of Ashcroft FireSmart™ program, Pine Valley Tree Service was contracted to provide a chipper truck and crew. Due to an overwhelming response, the three-day event was extended to four days. Between April 20 and 23, crews serviced 84 properties across the community, processing approximately 140 cubic yards of material—nearly 50,000 kg. The initiative also helped reduce the volume of yard waste requiring collection during the Village's spring clean-up.

The Village is encouraged by the strong community participation and remains committed to promoting FireSmart™ practices. Similar events are planned in the future to help build a more wildfire-resilient community.

Photo Credit—Dave—Pine Valley Tree Service

WATER METER PROJECT—INSTALLATION UPDATE

As you know, the water meter installation is underway, and the Village appreciates residents' patience as this work continues. While many installations are straightforward, some have been more complex, and a number of concerns have been raised, including impacts to interior finishes. All feedback is being taken seriously. Staff are actively reviewing each concern and will continue to follow up directly with the contractor, Neptune Group, to ensure deficiencies are addressed and installation practices meet expected standards.

The Village understands that some residents have questions or concerns and encourages respectful, direct communication with staff at the office so they can be addressed promptly. At the same time, it is important to be clear that water meter installation is a requirement under the Village's bylaws and is not optional. This program has been part of the community's long-term planning since 2014 and is a key step in managing the water system responsibly for the future.

For most homes, meters are installed indoors at a cost of just under $1,000. In some situations such as limited access or specific property conditions a pit meter may be required, with costs exceeding $11,000. Where a pit meter is required due to technical or site constraints, those costs are covered under the project grant. If indoor access is not permitted, alternative installation methods may be necessary, and any additional costs associated with those methods would be the responsibility of the property owner. Residents are encouraged to work with the installer to help avoid these added costs wherever possible. The Village thanks residents for their cooperation as this important work continues to support water conservation efforts, and a sustainable, reliable water system for the community.

APRIL 2026

MESA PARK INSTALLATION BEGINS

Exciting things are happening at Mesa Park! Public Works has completed the earth work in preparation of the new playground installation. The playground installers will be working at the park to install the play structures and rubber compound base. It looks like we are ahead of schedule for a soft opening in June! Stay tuned for further updates.

VOYENT ALERT- Emergency Test

With warmer weather approaching, the Village of Ashcroft encourages residents to be prepared. Voyent Alert provides free, real-time emergency updates, including evacuation alerts and orders. Register online or download the app, or call the Village office at 250-453-9161 for assistance.

As part of Emergency Preparedness Week (May 3–9), a system test will take place May 8 at 10:00 am—please ensure notifications are enabled.

In an emergency, rely on Voyent Alert, the Village website, and official channels. Taking simple steps now—like FireSmarting your property and preparing a grab-and-go kit—can make all the difference.

VOYENTALERT!
COMMUNITY MEMBER SUPPORT

STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Effective May 1 – September 30

LAWN & GARDEN WATERING

EVEN ADDRESSES	ODD ADDRESSES
Water on EVEN-NUMBERED DAYS	Water on ODD-NUMBERED DAYS

TIME WINDOWS

6:00 – 9:00 AM & 8:00 – 11:00 PM	AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS ONLY 12:00 – 6:00 AM

Applies to hose-supplied sprinklers. Underground automated systems allowed only between 12:00 – 6:00 AM.

WHAT'S ALLOWED

- Hand watering of flower gardens, vegetable gardens, decorative planters, shrubs and trees
- Drip irrigation or micro sprinkler irrigation for gardens and planters
- Washing of vehicles with an automatic shut-off nozzle
- Filling of swimming pools, hot tubs and decorative ponds or water features
- Use of sprinklers and water slides for children
- Watering of public spaces including parks, sports fields and cemeteries

REMEMBER

FOLLOW YOUR ASSIGNED DAYS & TIMES
Watering is only permitted on your designated days and times.

AVOID UNNECESSARY WATER USE
Use only the water you need. Let's work together to conserve.

Watering systems outside permitted times or days are a violation of Bylaw No. 799 and may result in fines.

VILLAGE OF Ashcroft HEART OF THE TRUE DESERT

Details from Water Conservation Bylaw No. 799, 2015

POOL OPENING DAY—May 16th !

The countdown is on—Ashcroft's outdoor pool opens May 16! Cool off, relax, and enjoy time with family and friends all summer long. Stop by for a swim, enjoy the hot tub, and say hello to the team.

A limited number of swim lessons may be offered, depending on instructor availability. The Village is also hiring lifeguards, instructors, and aqua fit leaders—apply to join the team!

Watch for theme nights and special events throughout the season. Here's to a fun, safe, and sunny summer at the pool!

MUSEUM OPENS—May 1!

Stop by the Museum and say hello to Peter, he will be working on a new feature display for 2026! The Museum continues to play an important role in preserving and sharing Ashcroft's story.

The lift remains out of service after being deemed non-compliant by WorkSafeBC. Improving accessibility is a priority, and the Village's Accessibility Advisory Committee has begun an assessment with the Rick Hansen Foundation to help identify solutions for the Museum and other public spaces.

Thank you for your understanding as this work moves forward.

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