

Ashcroft, a Year in Review

It's hard to believe that 2019 is almost over and Council has served the Village as public servants for a full year. The year has been busy with many changes including staff changes due to the retirement of CAO Michelle Allen, welcoming Anne Yanciw as the new CAO. Deputy Corporate Officer Wayne Robinson accepted a position as CAO in Valemount causing further changes at the Village office with his replacement, Daniela Dyck.

2019 saw the completion of two major water and sewer projects. Did you know that the work to construct the new Water Treatment Plant began in 2002? Ashcroft completed the construction of the long anticipated Water Treatment Plant in 2019. The plant is online and distributing potable water to all residents in the Village. The Province approved Council's request to utilize remaining grant funding to move forward with the River Intake upgrade and a back up generator—to be completed in 2020.

Emergency back up generators were purchased and installed at the Village office and at the # 3 Pump Station. 2019 also saw the completion of the Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades with the installation of the centrifuge. LED lighting was installed at Heritage Park, the lighting has made the beautiful light display possible at the park.

The Village has complied with all WCB requirements to upgrade and operate the Drylands Arena that were implemented after the Fernie Ice plant tragedy.

Staff secured grant funding and began developing a Housing Needs Assessment and Economic Development & Tourism Strategy, both to be completed in January. These strategies are to guide the Village in business retention, expansion and attraction, as well as tourist attraction.

Council hosted 2 Planning Sessions, 2 Community Forums and 1 Town Hall Meeting in addition to the Regular Council meetings to engage with community members, as well as attending conventions, meetings, committee meetings and Minister meetings to advocate for the Village of Ashcroft throughout the year.

2019 has certainly been a busy and productive year!



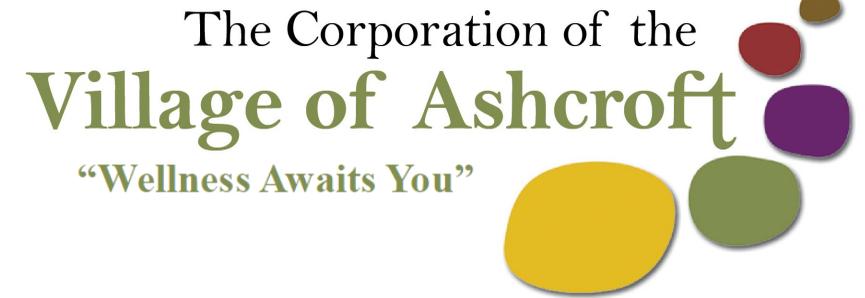
*Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year
from our family to Yours
Mayor & Council*

Your Mayor and Council:

Mayor: Barbara Roden; Councillors: Marilyn Anderson—Jonah Anstett—Nadine Davenport—Deb Tuohey
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December 2019 Newsletter



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Community Update

Mayor Roden and Council would like to take a few minutes of your time to tell you about a number of things they have been working on as well as some past community events:

- Council resolved to support a grant application to the Union of BC Municipalities for Firefighter Training;
- Council approved the closure of Railway Ave. for the Annual Santa Parade, sponsored the late night shopping event by providing “Ashcroft Bucks” as prizes to support shopping local utilizing NDIR “Love Ashcroft” funds and approved a Village float for the parade.
- Council endorsed an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) to fund a Grant Writer position in the Village.
- Council will consider participating in the Age Friendly Program during budget deliberations.
- Council resolved to support a grant application to NDIT to host an intern under the Local Government Internship Program.
- Council endorsed Policy 5.1, Declared Fire Operations Service Level.
- Council approved staff to estimate the installation and operational costs of a mosaic mural at the Museum.
- Council approved proceeding with the River Intake Upgrades and a Backup Generator to take advantage of the remaining Water Treatment Plant grant to fund two critical pieces of the Village water infrastructure.
- Council approved to include at the 2020 Budget discussions, consideration of a Trails Master Plan that could identify feasible trails and pathways for the development of a trail and walking path network in the Village of Ashcroft.
- Council will review and consider potential changes to committee appointments at a future meeting.
- Council approved a grant submission to UBCM to host a Community to Community Forum with Ashcroft Indian Band.

Did you know, you can watch Council meetings online? The HUB Online Network streams Council meetings on YouTube!

SIDEWALK SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 753, Ashcroft residents are reminded that it is unlawful for any person to permit any accumulation of snow or ice to remain upon any sidewalk in front of or abutting any premises owned or occupied by him/her after ten o'clock in any morning of any day.



Upcoming Community Events and Notices

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Jan 13—Council Meeting—4:30 pm

Jan 27—Committee of the Whole—6:00 pm

Jan 27—Council Meeting—7:00 pm

Feb 14—15—Digital Mammography screening call 1-800-663-9203 to book your appointment

THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT CHRISTMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE CLOSURE AND GARBAGE COLLECTION

The Village Office will be closed from noon on Tuesday, December 24th, 2019 until 8:00 am Thursday, January 2nd, 2020. There are no changes required to the Tuesday and Friday collection routes except to ensure that your garbage is at the curb by 8:00 am.

TNRD BUILDING INSPECTOR

The TNRD Building Inspector may be in Ashcroft on Tuesday, December 17th. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, January 7th, 2020. Please call the TNRD office directly at 1-877-377-8673 if you have any questions regarding inspections.

2019 TAX & UTILITY PAYMENTS

Payments on 2019 tax and utility accounts must be received in our office by 4:00 pm, Thursday, January 2nd, 2020 to avoid 2019 additional penalties and interest. Payments received on or after January 3rd, 2019 will be applied against applicable penalties and interest charges. ***SORRY, POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS DATE OF PAYMENT.***

2020 LICENCES

2020 Dog Licences and Commercial Vehicle decals will go on sale Friday, January 3rd, 2020. ***They will not be sold on Thursday, January 2nd, 2020.*** Business Licence renewal notices will be mailed out the first part of January.

ARENA HOURS OF OPERATION

The Drylands Arena will be closed between December 21 and January 2. However we are pleased to offer **free public skating** on December 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 and January 2 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Regular arena scheduling resumes on Friday, January 3rd, 2020. Please call the arena at 250-453-9545 to confirm schedule. In the event of snowfalls or other emergency these public skating times may be cancelled.

2020 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Copies of the Village of Ashcroft Council meetings for 2020 are available at the Village office during regular office hours or can be viewed on our website at www.ashcroftbc.ca/council_meeting_schedule