



Water Treatment Plant Intake Chamber

You may have noticed the extra vehicles and commotion in the parking lot near the Water Treatment Plant (WTP), this is the next phase of providing potable water to the residents of Ashcroft. As you are aware, the WTP has been online for over a full year, at the completion of construction and bringing the system online, the Village received permission from the Province to utilize the remaining grant funding and construct a water intake chamber. So why do we need this intake chamber? The chamber will provide public works with safe access to a 30 inch casing that acts a sleeve for the pump and pipes that draw the water from the river into the treatment plant. If water levels are high staff will be able to pull the pipes into the chamber to access the pumps year round.

The project will span three months and should complete by the end of March. In addition to the chamber project, the Village will install sand separators before freshet this year to reduce the particulate amounts being pumped into the WTP. During the 2020 freshet, the sand levels being pumped into the plant caused the plant to clean the filters far in excess of the regular self cleaning schedule. The sand separators will mitigate this concern.

In keeping with the WTP, the yearly treated water consumption totals have been calculated. In 2020 the gross volume of water pumped was 962,670 cubic meters, up by over 116,000 cubic meters in 2019. This information serves as a friendly reminder that continued increased water consumption, may increase costs to deliver the water to you over time. Although it is only the end of January, lets start thinking about water conservation prior to summer, when water uses are often at a yearly high. If your tap drips—please fix it, only run the dishwasher when full, turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving. Install water saving flow restrictors. STOP AT THE VILLAGE OFFICE AND PICK UP A FREE WATER SAVING KIT!

Upcoming changes to the 2020 Home Owner Grants

The Province is taking on the administration of Home Owner Grants and is moving them to an online format. The Village has made a computer available in the reception lobby to assist residents. We will share information with you as updates are received at the office.

COVID-19

As this newsletter is being drafted we mark the one year anniversary of the COVID-19 virus in BC. Never could any of us imagine one year ago, the events that transpired over the course of 2020, and it seems that we are faced with some more hurdles to overcome.

The positive case numbers continue to be announced and as this virus continues to rear its ugly head, we must be diligent in our day to day lives. The Village office is open to assist you with mask requirements enforced. Hand sanitizers are situated outside the office door, please use the sanitizers prior to entering the office. The public works staff continue to provide all essential and other services to the resident of Ashcroft.

IHA has contacted the Village to begin the planning stages of vaccinations. The Village is collaborating with IHA to provide a vaccination venue and we will advise the community and surrounding area once plans and dates are finalized.

We realize that the past 12 months have been a hardship, tempers are short, people are frustrated and exhausted living with all the restrictions. Getting back to normal seems like an eternity away, please be diligent, protect yourself, your loved ones, your neighbours, your community. We will get through this and celebrate better times in happier days ahead. For now mask up, sanitize and social distance—Thank you!

Economic Development

With the holidays over, the Village encourages you to continue to shop local. The saying “if you don’t use them, you loose them,” is ringing true so often for businesses especially those in the service industry with the impacts of COVID-19. Ensuring the ongoing sustainability of Ashcroft’s business community relies heavily on locals shopping local.

Other ongoing initiative to support Economic Development and Tourism are promotional and marketing in nature. The Village has applied for various grants to support the business community to develop and install wayfinding signage, continue to promote Ashcroft with radio advertisements, develop marketing material and continue with the promotion of the Love Ashcroft brand.

Council recently dissolved the Select Committee of Council that acted as a steering committee for economic development and tourism and has re-focused the committee as a working group. The working group is comprised of the Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator, 1 staff member, 2 Council members and members from the business community may be invited to participate as needed. Our focus for this year will be to implement the grant funded projects, redesign the tourism and Ec. Dev. web pages, develop a community profile, network with neighbouring communities and promote Ashcroft.

Village of Ashcroft
Mayor and Council:
Mayor:
Barbara Roden
Councilors:
Marilyn Anderson
Jonah Anstett
Nadine Davenport
Deb Tuohey

Commit 2 Conserve



What has Council been up to?

- Council updated the Council Committee Appointments for 2021 and appointed Council members to the Strategic Priority Working Groups
- Council resolved to approve a \$707,000 grant application to retrofit/renovate the Fire Hall;
- Council approved the Economic Development and Tourism Strategic Plan;
- Council resolved to approve an application to the Flood Risk Assessment and Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning fund through UBCM
- Council approved the Community Resource Society request for free hall use in December 2021 for the Hamper Drive;
- Council approved advertising in the Yukon/BC Legion Military Recognition book;
- Council provided a letter of support to Ashcroft Indian Band for their application to construct a path along Cornwall Rd.
- Council approved to host the Licensing for Medical Cannabis Petition at the Village office.

Events & Updates

Council Meetings:

Feb. 8—6:00 pm
Livestream by HON
Feb. 22—6:00 pm
Livestream by HON
Feb 15—Family Day
Office Closed

Voyent Alert -

Mass Notification System Registration opportunities coming soon to a mailbox near you!

Fire Department Happenings

Fire department members are actively participating in training that includes Air Brake Endorsement, Wildland S-100, Exterior Operations, Hazardous Materials, Emergency Vehicle Operations and many more with the recently received grant funding from the BC Fire Commissioners Office and Red Cross.

Further grant applications have been submitted on behalf of the Fire Department for Highway Rescue equipment that includes: air bags to lift or secure vehicles as well as battery operated extraction tools. Most recently, the Village submitted an application to retrofit/renovate the fire hall totaling over \$707,000. The retrofit will extend the apparatus bays and back of the fire hall buildings, install showers, hose drying area, upgrade lighting, install windows and make the space more efficient, meet safety standards and serve as a better training and meeting space for the department members.

Council also identified the sustainability of the Fire Hall and its members as a strategic priority for 2021-2022. A working group will be established that will enable staff, Council and the department to collaborate, update the bylaw and constitution, provide administrative support and establish safe operating guidelines and practices. The village appreciates all the FD members do for the community and are excited to work together towards sustainability.

If becoming a Fire Department member appeals to you please send an email to: firedept@ashcroftbc.ca

Sidewalk Snow & 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. *Please, for the safety of pedestrians, be sure clean the sidewalks of all snow and ice. THANK YOU!*

Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Bylaw infractions and complaints are on the rise not only in Ashcroft but across the region. Council has partnered with the Villages of Cache Creek and Clinton to provide an inter-community bylaw enforcement service.

Ashcroft will have bylaw enforcement two days per week with an anticipated start date of mid spring. Over the past two weeks many bylaw infraction letters have been sent to residents as a precursor to the Bylaw Enforcement Officers' arrival. Residents that have received bylaw infraction notices; the Village implores you to work towards meeting bylaw compliance. The new bylaw enforcement service will have ticketing capabilities which we would rather not have to use, but will be available as a tool for enforcement when necessary. Recent notable complaints received include: RV's parked indefinitely on Village boulevards, cargo containers, unsightly yards, barking dogs, excessive vehicles and unlicensed vehicles on the boulevards.

The inter-community bylaw enforcement service will enforce bylaws under a "Bylaw Notice Adjudication" process, also known as BNA. All participating communities will develop a comprehensive bylaw that determines the scope of the service and each community will establish fees to be levied against bylaw infractions.

Under the BNA, residents are able to appeal their infraction citation through an adjudicator process as opposed to a court of law. Once the bylaw is established more information will be provided to each community for distribution to residents.

Bylaw enforcement is not a revenue source, nor is it intended to single out any particular property or infraction. The intent of Bylaw enforcement is to provide a service to the community that is fair in consideration of all residents and enforces the bylaws established by Council. The implementation of the Bylaw Enforcement service will move enforcement from the current complaint driven process to a combination of proactive enforcement and complaint enforcement.

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We're on the web!
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