

JANUARY 2017

## LADYSMITH LINKS

## A NEW PLAN FOR THE WATERFRONT

An exciting community project has started and we want to hear from you! You are invited to be part of the planning and design project to create a visionary strategy for developing our waterfront. There are several opportunities and events planned for early 2017 – check the [project page](#) on the Town's website, Facebook page [Facebook.com/LadysmithBC](https://www.facebook.com/LadysmithBC), and Twitter feed [@TownOfLadysmith](https://twitter.com/TownOfLadysmith) for ways to have your say!

The Town of Ladysmith and the Stz'uminus First Nation are working in partnership to develop the plan for the Ladysmith Waterfront Area, in the spirit of reconciliation, with both of our communities.

Over the next year, we will be working together to create this new and exciting plan with a strong focus on implementation. It builds upon past work, will consider the new lens of the environmental and geotechnical studies, will reflect our reconciliation work and will culminate in an up-to-date Waterfront Area Plan, which is critical for ensuring that our directions for land use, development, and design help bridge vision and reality.

Public and stakeholder engagement is an integral part of this process! You might have seen the Waterfront Area Conversation Boards at various locations in late November and December where we were able to connect with groups and passersby and start to learn about your aspirations for the waterfront. We would like to thank LAFF, Ladysmith Seniors, LSS Leadership class, 49th Café, Ladysmith and District Credit Union, the Ladysmith Library and the Island Savings Credit Union for hosting the boards.

We hope you will get involved in this vital project for the future of our community. Stay tuned and watch our website and Facebook page for news, or call us at 250.245.6400.

## A NEW WATER FILTRATION PLANT FOR LADYSMITH

Island Health requires the Town of Ladysmith to construct a Water Filtration Plant to ensure that we continue to provide reliable, quality drinking water and comply with the terms of our Water System Operating Permit. The construction costs are estimated to be \$13.3 million. We have \$8.8 million in grants from the federal and provincial governments, and will borrow our share of building costs, up to \$6 million.

Benefits of this new plant include offering quality water, and ensuring that Ladysmith offers up-to-date, infrastructure to serve current and future generations of residents and other areas that the Town services.

This in turn will lay a solid framework for us to manage community and economic growth in a way that is in keeping with Ladysmith's Sustainability Vision. [See inside for more information...](#)

**CONTACT US** 250.245.6400 / [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca)

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## LADYSMITH'S NEW WATER FILTRATION PLANT: FAQs

### Why Water Filtration?

Island Health requires the Town of Ladysmith to build a Water Filtration Plant to ensure that we continue to provide safe, reliable drinking water and comply with the terms of our Water Supply Operating Permit.

### What happens if we don't build a water filtration plant?

If we do not build the Water Filtration Plant, we won't meet the terms of our Water Supply Operating Permit. This could lead to penalties imposed on the Town by Island Health of up to \$200,000 per day.

### How much will the water filtration plant cost?

The total cost of building the plant is estimated to be \$13.3 million. A significant grant of \$8.8 million from the federal and provincial governments will greatly offset costs, but we need to borrow up to \$6 million to fund the Town's share of construction costs.

### What is the Town's plan for borrowing and what are the tax implications for residents?

We will borrow up to \$6 million of a 25 year term. Spreading the repayment of the debt over a longer period of time better reflects the longevity of the new infrastructure, more fairly distributes the cost to all users over time, and keeps the annual costs lower. The cost of borrowing this money will mean an increase in the annual parcel tax for residents, and was included in the adopted 2016 to 2020 Financial Plan.

### How does the Town get approval for long-term borrowing?

Even though we must build a new water treatment plant in order to meet BC water quality standards enforced by Island Health, the provincial legislation requires that municipalities must obtain approval from electors (residents) for long term borrowing. Council has decided to do this through an *Alternative Approval Process (AAP)*.

### What is an AAP?

AAP is the process most commonly used by local governments in British Columbia for approval of borrowing bylaws. It is less costly and takes less time than a referendum, given that it is important to start construction of the new plant as soon as possible. The AAP is expected to take place over a 30 day period in February and March.

In an AAP, people who do not support the borrowing must sign and submit an 'elector response form' indicating their opposition. If 10 per cent or more of the eligible voters submit such a form, the AAP is deemed to have failed. In such a situation, the bylaw must be taken to Referendum within 80 days, and succeed, in order for it to be adopted.

### Our water has always been fine. We don't even have boil-water advisories. Why do we need to meet these water filtration standards now?

It's important to note that our water quality has not changed, but the science that measures water quality and sets safety and quality standards has advanced.

Ladysmith draws our water supply from Holland and Stocking Lakes – this is considered a surface water supply. For surface water sources, the BC Ministry of Health has developed strict guidelines for parasites, viruses, turbidity and treatment.

In our regular testing, Ladysmith's water has been found to exceed permitted turbidity levels on certain occasions. (Turbidity is the amount of organic matter in the water, which usually gets stirred up during a heavy rain.) We are fortunate that we have not had to issue boil water advisories, but most important of all is to make sure that Ladysmith's water is reliable, safe and secure at all times and that it meets the government's quality standards. Our new filtration system will ensure that.

### Want More Information?

Check the Water Filtration page at [www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca) often -- we will post updates and more information regularly. If you have questions, please call City Hall at 250.245.6400, or e-mail [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca).

# TALKING TRASH

## What You Need to Know in 2017

### SOLID WASTE COLLECTION. New Schedules & Information

In December, we delivered your 2017/2018 Waste Collection Schedules, along with an updated Organic Bin Sticker. Please peel the back off of the sticker and attach it to the top of your Green Bin. It will help remind you of some changes to the acceptable materials going into your Green Organic Bin and Curbside Recycling.

The most important thing to remember is that all milk, cream and, ice cream cartons and other containers made of waxed cardboard are now to be rinsed and put in your curbside recycling. Recent environmental studies show that these containers take longer to break down than originally thought. Recycling them in the paper products stream is much faster and better for the environment.

If you did not receive a Collection Schedule, you can find your route information on our website at [www.ladysmith.ca/our-services](http://www.ladysmith.ca/our-services), or pick up a schedule at City Hall or the Frank Jameson Community Centre.

### PRIORITY ONE: MOVE COMPOSTING FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Finding both short and long-term solutions for the composting smell at our Public Works Yard is a top priority for Council and staff, and we are making progress. The Town is very pleased to confirm that we have secured a property in the industrial zoned area in south Ladysmith. We will build a new enclosed bio-solids composting facility at this new site, complete with bio-filters to prevent odour.

In the meantime, securing an interim solution is now our main focus. We continue to hold advanced discussions with other operators to take our waste until we can move the operation. However, until we have a firm commitment for a temporary new location, we will have to continue the composting operation at the Public Works Yard. We continue to do everything we can to mitigate the smell at the Public Works Yard, and continue to do the worst work at night.

The bio-solids are the byproduct of our Waste Water Treatment process (sewage plant), and the Town is responsible for managing them. Composting is a viable and beneficial option for responsible bio-solids management. The Town must comply with regulations laid out in the Organic Material Recycling Regulation and these activities are authorized by the Ministry of Environment. We do not mix household compostables in with the bio-solids. The final product is a high-quality top soil that meets Class A standards.

Composting of Waste Water Treatment Plant bio-solids has been carried out at the Town of Ladysmith Public Works Yard since the 1990s. However, the secondary sludge produced by our new Waste Water Treatment Plant, which came on-stream last summer, is significantly more odorous than the primary sludge produced by our old facility. Council therefore voted last year not to construct a new composting building at the Public Works site, and put a priority on moving the operation completely.

For regular updates and timelines, visit the Sewage Treatment and Biosolids pages on our website at [www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca), or call City Hall at 250.245.6400.



## SIGN UP FOR OUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

Call City Hall 250.245.6400, click the button on our website [www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca), or send us an e-mail to [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca) to be added to our electronic newsletter mailing list. You can choose to receive City Hall News, Parks, Recreation & Culture News and/or Emergency Information right in your e-mail inbox in a safe, secure e-newsletter.

## SNOW & ICE REMOVAL. What happens when it snows in Ladysmith?

After a snowfall, the first priority for the snow snowploughs is to clear access to public buildings such as the Community Health Centre, RCMP Station, Ambulance Station and Fire/Rescue Station. We then clear and maintain all main roads on a 24 hour basis as the snow continues to fall. At this time our chief concern is keeping the main roadways open to traffic. These main roads include Fourth Avenue, First Avenue, Dogwood Drive, Davis Road and Chemainus Road.

Weather permitting, next we clear snow from the main hills throughout the Town, and focus on widening the roads we have already cleared to make room for traffic, as well as the possibility of another snow fall. Local neighbourhood roads will be cleared after the main roads (listed above) are completed. Through roads will be cleared first, and then cul-de-sacs. It takes about 48 hours to clear all 60 km of roads in Ladysmith. If the snow continues, or starts again before all roads have been cleared, the crews will return to the priority main roads. We hope you will be patient if this happens.

Remember that it is your responsibility to shovel the sidewalk in front of your house by 10:00 am after a snowfall. This helps to ensure the safety of your neighbours and other pedestrians. We also provide a free salt/sand mixture at the Public Works Yard (Roberts St. & 6th Ave.) to help keep your sidewalks free of ice.

## BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN DISCUSSIONS. JOIN US

*Council will be setting the 2017 budget in January and February. Give your input and ask questions:*

**Budget Workshops:** Monday, January 23 and Monday, January 30 (times to be confirmed)

**Presentation of the full 2017 - 2010 Financial Plan:** Monday, February 20 (7:00 p.m. Council Meeting)

## WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK. CONNECT WITH US

Successful civic engagement ensures that our citizens' and stakeholders' views, values, needs and concerns are identified before and during decision making. Being a part of this two-way process gives our residents the opportunity to contribute and connect with the Town. We encourage our citizens to engage their family, friends and colleagues in discussions and actions that improve our community.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, we want to hear from you. Send an e-mail to [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca) or call City Hall at **250.245.6400**.

✉ Send an E-mail to [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca)

✉ Mail a Note to Town of Ladysmith City Hall, 410 Esplanade, Box 220, Ladysmith, B.C. V9G 1A2

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