

APRIL 2020

## LADYSMITH LINKS

### PAYMENTS DUE JUNE 26, 2020

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic is creating challenges and stresses for residents. With that in mind, Council has extended the due date for the current utility bill by one month, to June 26. Decisions about the 2020 budget and property taxes will be made in the coming weeks, and we will provide detailed information when it is available. Payments for the enclosed utility bill can be made by cheque using our after-hours drop box at City Hall, by online banking, or by mail. Please note that new utility rates came into effect January 1, 2020. If you have questions about your invoice, please call 250.245.6400 or email: [billing@ladysmith.ca](mailto:billing@ladysmith.ca).

### COVID-19 - TOWN STAFF SAFELY SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The Town of Ladysmith is committed to safely providing services to the community as we prioritize physical distancing in the workplace.

Some staff across all our departments are continuing to perform regular duties from home and others are completing on-site duties while respecting Provincial Health Officer's orders to stay a minimum safe distance of two metres from others.

During these extraordinary times, we ask that members of the public do not approach staff who are performing duties and that you respect the requirements for physical distancing.

Until the COVID-related provincial health orders have been lifted, our offices and facilities will remain closed as we serve the community remotely and respect the health and well-being of our residents.

Staff can be reached during regular business hours by calling City Hall at 250.245.6400, or by emailing questions or concerns to [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca). If you need to report a road, sewer or water emergency after hours, please call Infrastructure Services at 250-245-6445 and press 5 to be redirected.

### Parks, Trails and Playgrounds

Staying healthy and breathing in fresh air by participating in activities that promote safe physical distancing is important for the mental and physical well-being of all Ladysmith residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We all have a civic duty to protect the health of our families and neighbours and help stop the spread of COVID-19. Stay connected, stay apart and self-isolate as we all follow the Provincial Health Officer's mandatory orders.

When you do leave home to get some fresh air, all community members must continue to obey orders to stay two metres from others at all times and not gather in groups, especially in parking lots, trail heads and viewpoints.

All playgrounds in our public parks as well as the skatepark at the Frank Jameson Community Centre will stay closed. We look forward to reopening these gathering places for children, teens and families when it is safe to do so.

The Town may also continue to close the parking lots at Transfer Beach Park, the Dogwood Dip and other locations, as we cannot guarantee that the health orders are being followed when people are gathering in one place.

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Consider walking on sidewalks or choosing wider trails, such as the north side of the Holland Creek Trail, so you can pass by others while maintaining a safe distance apart.

## Backyard Burning

A reminder to all residents that backyard burning of yard or garden waste is not allowed in Ladysmith at any time. Please, for the sake of your neighbours and to avoid undue pressure on our health care system at this critical time, do no burn waste in your backyard.

At the time of printing the Utility Bills, contained campfires not exceeding 0.5 meters in diameter and 0.5 meters in height using seasoned wood, charcoal briquettes, propane or natural gas as fuel were permitted in Ladysmith.

However, we ask that out of respect for residents with respiratory issues that you refrain from campfires and help others breathe easier during this challenging period. Your neighbours with breathing difficulties will thank you for this.

You also can help out by piling yard waste and other items from spring cleaning at home instead of taking them to the Peerless Road Recycling Centre.

The Peerless Road facility continues to operate on winter hours (Wed, Sat and Sun, 9 am to 5 pm) and access is currently limited to 10 vehicles on site at a time.

Keeping yard waste and other items at home for now helps to ease the burden. Please hold off visiting if you can.

## GARBAGE, RECYCLING AND ORGANICS PICKUP

Garbage, recycling and organics collection is continuing to be carried out by our contractor, Waste Connections.

The Town will keep residents updated about any changes to collection schedules through our website and social media accounts. We understand that you also want to show your appreciation for our solid waste collectors but ask that you do not approach them and practice physical distancing.

We also know that you may have bulk items that were set aside for the annual Spring Clean Up that was postponed earlier in April at the request of our garbage contractor.

Thank you for understanding this postponement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping our wonderful solid waste collectors safe and healthy.

The Peerless Road Recycling Centre continues to operate on winter hours (Wed, Sat and Sun, 9 am to 5 pm) and access is limited to 10 vehicles on site at a time.

If your trip to Peerless is not necessary, we ask that you hold items at home, including yard waste, for the time being to help ease the burden. Free stores are also closed until further notice.

All payments for disposal must be made with a debit or credit card.

## SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTERS

Want to stay connected? .... Sign up for our newsletter and make sure you are always in the know. Click the button on our website, call City Hall 250.245.6400, or email [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 and Culture News and/or Emergency Information right in your e-mail inbox.





## COUNCIL CONFIRMS THE ELECTED FIRE CHIEF

Ladysmith Council has confirmed the results of a recent election of officers held by Ladysmith Fire Rescue, and appointed Chris Geiger as the new Fire Chief.

The Town and Council would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to outgoing Fire Chief Ray Delcourt for his outstanding service to the Ladysmith community over the past 22 years.

"On behalf of Ladysmith Council, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to outgoing Fire Chief Ray Delcourt for his tireless service—our town is a safer place because of Ray's dedication to emergency preparedness, community safety and fire prevention," said Mayor Aaron Stone.

"Ray has been on call 24/7, 365 days a year for over two decades. He was the first to answer the call whatever time of day and respond to hundreds of emergencies, helping to save residents' lives, and their homes filled with many precious possessions. He is a hero in the eyes of the community and well respected by young and old alike. We look forward to honouring Ray in a big way after the COVID-19 crisis."

Delcourt was named Ladysmith's Citizen of the Year in 2018 and has helped lead much of Ladysmith Fire Rescue's community outreach, such as fundraising for

Muscular Dystrophy and Tour de Rock Cops for Cancer.

In light of provincial health orders to limit public gatherings and practice physical distancing, the Town, Ladysmith Council and Delcourt's colleagues at the Fire Hall look forward to honouring his service to the community at a future date.

Geiger's appointment to Fire Chief was effective as of April 1.

Geiger is born and raised in Ladysmith and has served with CFB Esquimalt Fire/Rescue since June 2018. He has been a member of Ladysmith Fire Rescue since 2007, serving as Lieutenant, Captain and most recently holding the position of Chief Training Officer prior to his appointment as Fire Chief.

A married father with two teenage children, Geiger has experience as an instructor and evaluator for the Justice Institute of British Columbia. He is also looking forward to continued opportunities teaching with Vancouver Island Emergency Response Academy and CF Responder Training.

"I am honoured to have been elected to lead this exceptional team," said Geiger. "I am very proud to be a member of this department, and I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellent service this community has become accustomed to from Ladysmith's volunteer firefighters."

## SPRING CLEAN UP CANCELLED

At this point, we are hoping the large item pick-up will take place in the fall. Also, please note that no donations are currently being accepted by any organizations, so please hold on to your goods until later in the year. Thank you for understanding this postponement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping our wonderful solid waste collectors safe and healthy.



## EMERGENCY AND ROUTINE NOTIFICATIONS THROUGH THE CVRD

Have you signed up for the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Emergency Alert Registration service to receive emergency alerts for the area, including Ladysmith? This free service provides information on: Evacuation Routes, Alerts and Orders, available/open ESS Reception Centres, and lets you know when it's safe to return to the affected area.






To register: <https://www.cvr.bc.ca/2276/Emergency-Notifications>

## STAGE 1 WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Please note that regular stage 1 watering restrictions will come into effect May 1st for the Town of Ladysmith, and for all of the Cowichan Valley Region. These regular annual restrictions are intended to help control water usage as we start watering lawns and gardens during the warmer, dryer weather.

Remember, being water-wise throughout the year can also save you money. With a little effort, we can reduce the amount of water we use at home by as much as 40 per cent! For water-wise tips, visit our water conservation page at [www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca)

### WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY. CONNECT WITH US:

-  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
-  Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/LadysmithBC](https://www.facebook.com/LadysmithBC)
-  Follow us on Twitter [@TownOfLadysmith](https://twitter.com/TownOfLadysmith)
-  Follow us on Instagram [ladysmithbc](https://www.instagram.com/ladysmithbc)

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

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[www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca)

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