

APRIL 2023

LADYSMITH LINKS

COMING SOON: STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Stage 1 Water Restrictions will come into effect for Town of Ladysmith residents as of May 1, 2023. These annual restrictions are intended to help manage water usage during the warmer, drier months of the year.

Remember, being water-wise can also save you money.

To read more about full water restrictions, visit our website at: <https://www.ladysmith.ca/our-services/water>.

LADYSMITH RECEIVING \$3.4-MILLION FROM PROVINCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITIES

The Province announced in early March that it is transferring \$3,406,000 to the Town of Ladysmith as part of the Growing Communities Fund.

The funding is intended to allow the Town to address the unique demands of our infrastructure and amenities.

At the most recent Union of BC Municipalities conference, Mayor Stone advocated for an increase in

funding that allows local governments greater flexibility in spending.

"We are very thankful for this allocation of funding that will help us deliver on our key infrastructure priorities in the face of rapid inflation and increasing demands due to growth and climate change," said Mayor Aaron Stone.

"We are prepared to meet the challenges ahead and this funding will help us deliver on what's most important for Ladysmith residents of today and for future generations."

The allocation of funds will align with Council's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan priorities, which are being finalized and will be presented at a future Council meeting.

TOWN OF LADYSMITH



LOT 108/FORREST FIELD AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Town is making improvements to the Forrest Field amenities as part of Lot 108 Park Plan Phase 1 implementation.

Work is scheduled to begin in April with an anticipated June 2023 completion date. Forrest Field will remain open with access from the northern entrances.

Over the coming months, the public will notice the following upgrades which support the growing community uses at the field:

- Construction of a practice/warm up pitch.
- Installation of the new scoreboard (purchased with funds donated by the Fraternal Order of Eagles #2101 Aerie and Auxiliary).
- 4th Avenue parking improvements next to pitch.
- Accessible walkway expansion.
- Installation of outdoor fitness equipment.

COLONIA DRIVE/ DELCOURT AVENUE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

The Town has broken ground on an active transportation project in the Colonia Drive/Delcourt Avenue area that will improve walkability and expand our existing active transportation network.

Stone Pacific Contracting Ltd., was retained to install 925 metres of concrete sidewalk, crosswalks, curbs, as well as bike sharrows and traffic calming measures.

The Town received a \$296,343 BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant to help partially fund the completion of this project, which will provide pedestrian connections to other nearby amenities, including schools, trails and the Frank Jameson Community Centre.

More specifically, the project is connecting the existing sidewalks along Colonia Drive from Malone Road to Davidson Road, and along Delcourt Avenue from Colonia Drive to Dunsmuir Crescent.

SIGN UP FOR OUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Call City Hall 250.245.6400, sign up on our website www.ladysmith.ca, or send an email to 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 email inbox in a safe, secure e-newsletter.



The Journey of our Generation Workshop was held in March as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy implementation. See the backpage of this insert for a project update.

A new solar powered flashing crosswalk will be installed in front of Kinsmen Park – encouraging both safety and sustainable modes of transportation for reaching this popular neighbourhood greenspace.

Parking in front of the park will be reconfigured to allow for on-street parallel parking and include a dedicated accessible parking stall.

Ladysmith's draft Official Community Plan highlights a goal of prioritizing green, safe, and convenient choices for getting around, including walking, cycling and transit.

The Colonia Drive/Delcourt Avenue active transportation project is anticipated to be completed in summer 2023.

SPRING YARD WASTE PICKUP MAY 15-19

The Town and Waste Connections are partnering to bring you a Spring **Yard** Waste Pickup during the week of May 15-19, 2023.

Visit the 'What's Happening' section on the Town's website homepage for more information.

SPECULATION AND VACANCY TAX

Effective January 1, 2023, Ladysmith is now included in the Province's list of areas where the speculation and vacancy tax applies.

However, property owners in Ladysmith will not have to declare until 2024.

The speculation and vacancy tax is an annual Provincial tax based on how owners use residential properties in areas in B.C. affected most by the current housing shortage crisis.

According to the Province, the revenue collected through the tax supports affordable housing in the areas where the tax applies.

Over 99 percent of people in British Columbia are exempt from the speculation and vacancy tax. Generally, an owner is exempt from the tax if the home is their principal residence.

The Town does not administer the tax and more information can be found on the Province of BC website.

UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE MAY 30, 2023

Utility Bills for January to March are due Tuesday, May 30, 2023. We encourage you to pay online or in-person through your financial institution. Payments can be made at City Hall using debit, cash or cheque, by mail or by using our after-hours drop box.

If you have questions about your bill, please call 250.245.6400 or email: billing@ladysmith.ca.



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UPDATES FROM THE TOWN

Annual Cemetery Clean Up - Town Parks crews are completing spring clean up work at the Ladysmith Cemetery as we work to keep the grounds beautiful.

Any floral tributes and trinkets found in an acceptable condition that are removed to allow for maintenance can be picked up by contacting Infrastructure Services at 250.245.6445.

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 and available/open ESS Reception Centres. To register: www.cowichanalert.ca.

Poverty Reduction Task Group - The implementation of the CommUNITY Together to End Poverty Hw-nuts'-ulwum (As One) Poverty Reduction Strategy has been ongoing since the start of the year.

Facilitated by Social Planning Cowichan and through support of a Council-appointed Task Force, film and discussion nights, cultural awareness workshops and a food equity fair have all focused on opportunities identified through the Strategy for reducing poverty in Ladysmith and Stz'uminus.

The Town received funding through the Union of BC Municipalities for this phase of the work and is applying for a grant to support the continuation of the project. Read more on our website: <https://www.ladysmith.ca/povertyreductionstrategy>.

Water Main Flushing Program - Each year, the Town of Ladysmith flushes water supply and distribution water mains. Regular water main flushing is an important part of a comprehensive water management program.

Potable water is flushed at a high velocity through the water mains to ensure all piping is refreshed and minor sediment within the pipe is removed.

This is one of the methods relied upon by the Town to help keep our drinking water safe and clean.

During this flushing period, water users may experience some discoloration of the water supply. Should this occur, running a cold water tap will help to restore water quality back to normal.