



ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS - WATER PROJECTS

The Town of Ladysmith continues to place a high priority on investing in infrastructure to maintain a reliable water supply system for the future of our growing community, while also meeting the demands of climate change.

With this in mind, we are applying for a federal grant to help fund the completion of three major water projects: increasing storage capacity of the Holland Lake Dam, building a connection between Stocking Lake and Holland Lake and twinning the Stocking Lake Main.

The federal grant could fund up to 73.33% of the total \$23.22-million required for the three water projects, not including contingency costs. The Town's share of the grant, which we need to borrow, would be up to \$6.2-million.

The Town requires the approval of its voters for any borrowing that will be repaid over more than five years. Council has chosen to seek this electoral approval through an Alternative Approval Process (AAP).

Forms and additional information about this AAP can be found on our website: <https://www.ladysmith.ca/city-hall/elections-alternative-approval-referendum>

COUNCIL MEETINGS MOVING TO TUESDAYS

Ladysmith Council will now meet on Tuesday nights beginning this month, January 2020.

Council previously met on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Council also gathered as the Municipal Services Committee on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. unless there was no new business to discuss.

The change to Tuesdays improves overall efficiency for both Council and staff by eliminating the need to cancel meetings when they conflict with statutory holidays, such as the Civic Holiday and Labour Day.

By moving to Tuesday nights, Ladysmith Council meetings also no longer conflict with the schedules of neighbouring municipalities such as Nanaimo and Duncan. The extra day between agenda publication and meetings also offers more time for Council, the public and staff to conduct research and prepare.

As part of the changes, the Municipal Services Committee has been renamed to the Committee of the Whole (CoW). All of Council sit on the committee.

The Committee of the Whole will assemble on the second Tuesday of every second month, beginning in January. The full Council meeting schedule is also [online](#) and at City Hall.

TOWN OF LADYSMITH



TOWN WATERFRONT PLAN WINS 'REACH OUT' BROWNIE AWARD

The Town of Ladysmith has received national recognition for the successful public engagement that guided the creation of our Waterfront Area Plan (WAP) - the policies and objectives for transforming underutilized land on our local waterfront into a thriving attraction with key public amenities.

At an awards ceremony in Toronto on November 28, 2019, The Town was honoured to be recognized with a 2019 Brownie Award in the 'Reach Out' category for the communications, marketing and public engagement around the WAP.

Public engagement for the WAP was led by Town staff and the project team at DIALOG over the course of 2017.

Prior to Ladysmith Council adopting the WAP in 2018, extensive and thoughtful input was received at public events, a two-day design charrette, through online surveys, over a dozen stakeholder meetings and individual conversations.

All totaled, the WAP team received feedback in the form of over 1700 distinct participant interactions (completed surveys, speaker night attendees, mobile booth notes, etc.) from both Ladysmith and Stz'uminus First Nation community members.

Both Councils led and informed the planning process and their leadership on ecological rehabilitation, foreshore restoration and cultural representation

is reflected in the WAP.

Ladysmith Council has made implementation of the WAP a key strategic priority for the current term. More details can be found in Council's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.

The Town and Stz'uminus First Nation are continuing to seek grant opportunities for cleaning up Ladysmith Harbour. Immediate and ongoing action items for brownfield renewal and overall improvement of the ecological health of the waterfront include the 'wrap and cap' of Slack Point and general remediation from our industrial past.

The Brownie Awards provides a forum to celebrate the accomplishments of those who are transforming under-utilized properties across Canada (brownfields) into thriving community assets. The annual event is hosted by Actual Media in association with the Canadian Brownfields Network.

This year's category winners came from six provinces. Ladysmith's WAP and a pair of projects from Vancouver made up the representation from British Columbia.

DOG LICENCES

The 2020 dog tags are now available and eligible for an early purchase discount until the end of January.

Licences (tags) are available at City Hall, 410 Esplanade during regular office hours, Frank Jameson Community Centre, 810 6th Avenue and For Pet's Sake pet store, 416 1st Avenue.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN DISCUSSIONS - COMPLETE

Council has been busy with the proposed 2020 budget. Next, they will review grants-in-aid, and determine tax rates. The Financial Plan and Tax Rates bylaws must be adopted by May 15. To view all the budget presentations, visit: www.ladysmith.ca/discover-ladysmith/community-plans/our-financial-plan.



WATER MAIN PROJECT ON HOLLAND CREEK TRAIL

The Town of Ladysmith is relocating a section of water main off the Holland Creek Trail and the construction has meant the temporary closure of the trailhead and parking lot at Mackie Road.

The main pipe for distributing water in Town currently runs parallel to the trail between the Public Works building on 6th Avenue and the Arbutus Reservoir.

During the December 2018 windstorm, a section of the trail along a steep embankment collapsed due to erosion - highlighting the need to prioritize a previously identified project to relocate the water main.

Since late November, the Town's Parks and Infrastructure Services departments have been working with a contractor to complete the relocation of the water main to a higher connecting trail that runs between Mackie Road and Colonia Drive. The project is expected to be complete in approximately by the end of February.

The work requires the removal of trees and rock breaking. The resulting noise may cause a disturbance for neighbourhood residents.

Once the water main relocation is complete, the Town will be doing landscape and tree planting to restore the affected area.

The Town will also update the public through our website, social media and posted signage at the trailheads about any limited access to the Holland Creek Trail during the project.

TOWN'S REGULAR TESTING FOR LEAD CONFIRMS SAFE DRINKING WATER

The Town of Ladysmith wishes to confirm with residents that quarterly testing for lead and other heavy metals in the local water supply has consistently recorded levels that meet or beat the safety standards set out in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

Due to the recent increase in public awareness arising from reports related to changes in March to Health Canada's guidelines for acceptable levels of lead in potable water, the Town has now increased water testing to monthly, rotating each month to a different pair of our 10 testing stations.

The water we deliver to individual property lines is safe for consumption; however, it is possible that materials such as pipes, fittings or solders used within private homes and buildings could contain materials such as lead which may affect water quality.

As a precautionary measure, the Town tested samples from all 10 of the water testing stations during the week of November 11th, 2019. All samples are well within the safety standards set by Health Canada.

If you are concerned about detecting lead in your own water, we encourage you to get in touch with the Environmental Protection Officer with Island Health in Nanaimo at 250-755-6215.

PAYMENTS DUE

Utility bills for October to December are due February 27, 2020. Payments can be made in person at City Hall by debit, cash or cheque, by online banking, by mail or by using our after-hours drop box. If you have questions about your invoice, please call 250.245.6400 or email: billing@ladysmith.ca.



TOWN OF LADYSMITH 2020 - 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Have you seen the Town of Ladysmith's new 2020-2023 Strategic Plan? Council's key priorities provide a progressive vision for our community as a vibrant and sustainable West Coast town.

Read the entire plan at www.ladysmith.ca

BUSINESS LICENCE RENEWALS DUE BY FEBRUARY 28

The Town of Ladysmith offers inter-municipal business licences with Duncan, North Cowichan and Lake Cowichan. Your Ladysmith business licence is valid when you offer mobile business services within these three other communities. The cost of an annual business licence is \$100. Renew by February 28, 2020 to avoid a \$25 late payment fee. If you are a new business in Ladysmith and apply after July 1st, your cost will be prorated to \$50 for the balance of the calendar year.

Ladysmith business owners who carry out work in additional Central Vancouver Island municipalities can purchase an Inter-Community Business Licence for an additional \$170.00. Following are the participating municipalities: [Campbell River](#), [Parksville](#), [Qualicum Beach](#), [Courtenay](#), [Port Alberni](#), [Cumberland](#), [Duncan](#), [Lake Cowichan](#) and [Nanaimo](#).

WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM


Regular water main flushing is an important part of the Town's comprehensive water management program. Each year, between January and April, our Utilities Department flushes both water supply mains and distribution water mains. Potable water is flushed at a high velocity through the water mains to ensure all piping is refreshed and minor sediment within the pipes is removed. This is one of the methods relied upon by the Town to help keep our drinking water safe and clean.

During the flushing period, water users may experience some discolouration of the water supply. Running a cold tap for a short period will help restore water quality back to normal. If you or someone you know depends on medical equipment that uses water, please call Public Works at 250-245-6445 for flushing dates.

Yearly water main flushing is also a reminder to clean the screens on your faucets as well as the pressure reducing valve (where water enters the house). This should be done on an annual basis. Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

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

 Send an E-mail to 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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