



## New emergency response app launched for Ladysmith and area

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), its partner municipalities and First Nations have launched a new and improved system to send emergency alerts and advisories to residents and visitors to the Cowichan region.

Cowichan Alert is a robust yet easy-to-use platform for ensuring the timely delivery of information to residents, covering everything from fires and floods to road closures.

As we enter an important period for wildfire awareness, this is an opportunity to ensure we are prepared to protect ourselves, our family and our community during an emergency.

Through the Alertable app, users have the ability to personalize their notifications by type, severity and location, ensuring they are only receiving information that is relevant to them.

“This new system will improve the ability of local governments and emergency agencies in the Cowichan Valley to get critical and timely information into the hands of residents,” said Mayor Aaron Stone. “It is our hope that every resident and business owner signs up so they can stay informed about what’s happening in our communities, avoid dangerous situations and potentially even save lives.”

Cowichan Alert is a tool provided under the regional

emergency program service. Staff from all partnering local governments and First Nations have the ability to provide alerts and notifications specifically to their residents, as well as send region-wide alerts as required.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Alertable has been used by local governments for contact tracing, closures, physical distancing reminders, PPE donation drives, community surveys and more.

To sign up for Cowichan Alert and download the Alertable app, go to [www.cowichanalert.ca](http://www.cowichanalert.ca).

## 2020 Annual Report now available

The 2020 Annual Report is now available through the Town’s website. The document provides a summary of Council’s achievements over the last year on its four strategic priorities: Infrastructure, Waterfront, Community and Economy.

It also includes a copy of the Town’s 2020 Financial Statements and Statistical Information.

New for this year is a COVID-19 timeline showing how the Town adapted to the impacts of the pandemic to support the community and local businesses.





## Downtown Public Washroom now open

The Downtown Public Washroom is officially open.

Located between the Ladysmith Health Food Store and Ladysmith CrossFit, the accessible facility has been donated to the Town by the Ladysmith Kinsmen and includes all touchless fixtures, a change table, hand sanitizer station and water fountain.

A huge thank you to all the community contributions and people involved in making this possible:

• David Stalker Excavating • Fortis BC • FMI • Ladysmith & District Credit Union • Mike Richardson Construction • CE Spray Foam • Spyder Graphix • Wiersma Masonry Ltd. • AYPQ Architecture • Mosaic Forest Management • Eagles Aerie 2101 • Heart Lake Roofing • Cedar Grove Roofing Supply • Ladysmith Chronicle • Rotary Club of Ladysmith • Ladysmith Lions Club • Home Hardware Ladysmith • Sawmill Direct • Lewkowich Engineering Assoc. Ltd. • Wolseley • Benjamin Moore • Goodman Plumbing • Ladysmith Downtown Business Association • Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce • 49th Parallel Printers • Carmen, Liam & Josh • Umbrella Welding • Ladysmith Maritime Society • Gord Carlson • Bedrock Concrete • Howie Davis

## Sustainability Ambassadors leading outreach initiatives

The Town of Ladysmith is pleased to introduce its two Sustainability Ambassadors Gwen and Chloe who will be leading community outreach initiatives this summer.

The sustainability program supports Council's strategic goals for mitigating the impacts of climate change as we work together as stewards of our environment. A key focus is partnering with the community to improve waste disposal education and recycling efficiency. Recent data showed many non-recyclable items or garbage are ending up in the recycling system.

Additionally, the Ambassadors will use their knowledge of green initiatives to increase awareness among residents and businesses about water conservation and our distribution system.

Have less than 5 minutes to spare? Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera and take our Sustainability Survey!



Also, watch for Chloe and Gwen out in the community this summer and find out more about what they're working on by visiting [www.ladysmith.ca/sustainability](http://www.ladysmith.ca/sustainability).

## Fire Ban now in effect

The hot, dry weather is creating significant forest fire hazards with the fire danger for our area currently rated as extreme. Therefore, campfires and cooking fires will not be permitted across BC in order to reduce risk.

This fire ban will be in effect until October 15, 2021.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions>



## Salish Wind restoration

The Salish Wind canoe at Transfer Beach Park has been removed in order to complete important restoration work over the coming months. The project is being completed in collaboration with Stz'uminus First Nation, Kinsmen Club of Ladysmith and the Town.

We're grateful for the work of Stz'uminus master carver Manny Sampson, brother Elmer and artist Edward Joe who all had a hand in creating the Salish Wind and look forward to the preservation of this important representation of Coast Salish cultural heritage.

A new shelter that is part of the Transfer Beach improvements through the Tourism Dependent Community Fund will now be constructed to protect the canoe from the elements.

## Ongoing Water Restrictions

The Town of Ladysmith is observing a high rate of water consumption among property owners early in the summer.

We encourage you to find opportunities to conserve water during these hot and dry months. Your help ensures our reservoir levels remain high in case of a fire.

For information on current water restrictions, visit <https://www.ladysmith.ca/our-services/water>.

## Official Community Plan Review public engagement

The Town of Ladysmith is updating its Official Community Plan (OCP) to help manage growth and change in a way that helps our community meet its goals.

An OCP is a policy document that influences how we live, gather, work, learn, recreate, shop, and move around the community. At its heart, an OCP is about managing land use and the physical growth of the town.



Over the coming months we will complete the public engagement phase of the OCP review and be asking for your input.

Right now you can get involved by completing our OCP Launch Survey and our 'Show 'n Tell while Oot and Aboot' visual mapping survey.

What's your big idea for Ladysmith? What makes our community special? Where do you see our Town in the next 20 years? Your input throughout the OCP Review process will help shape the final plan. Visit [www.ladysmith.ca/ocp](http://www.ladysmith.ca/ocp) to learn more.

## Utility Bill payments due August 27, 2021

Utility Bills for April to June are due Friday, August 27, 2021. 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 bill, please call 250.245.6400 or email: [billing@ladysmith.ca](mailto:billing@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 Letter 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)

## SIGN UP FOR OUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Want to stay connected? .... Sign up for our newsletter and make sure you are always in the know. Click the button on our website ([www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca)), call City Hall at 250.245.6400, or email [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca) to be added to our mailing list. You can choose to receive Council News, Parks, Recreation & Culture News and/or Town News, including emergency information, right in your e-mail inbox.

## TOWN NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Graffiti Removal Rebate Program** - Council has approved a new Graffiti Removal Rebate Program that runs now until September 30, 2021. A one-time rebate of \$50 is available to all property owners to cover the cost of removing graffiti. Please complete a form available at City Hall or my emailing [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca) and submit it with photos of the work to be completed.

**Holland Lake Intake at Chicken Ladder** - Town crews completed the dredging of the Holland Lake intake at Chicken Ladder over three days in late June. The work ensures the intake basin is clear of sediment buildup - particularly fine sand - which causes added maintenance at our Water Filtration Plant.

**Art Donation** - Council approved a public art donation request from Duck and Tracy Paterson for 13 signed, original, limited edition Roy Henry Vickers art prints that are currently on display in the City Hall Council Chamber. Vickers is a well-known BC artist who is beloved for his colourful landscapes. Thank you Duck and Tracy for your generosity.

**Pet Responsibility** - We encourage community members to be responsible pet owners and please pick up after your animal(s) when out walking on sidewalks, trails and visiting parks. Properly disposing of your waste bags by using the nearest available trash is helping to keep our public spaces enjoyable for everyone. We appreciate your cooperation.

**Yard Waste Pilot Project** - The Town's Yard Waste Pilot Project took place over two weeks in the spring and was highly successful. A report will be brought to Council in the fall with recommendations for potential future initiatives. In the meantime, you can always bring your yard waste free of charge to the CVRD's Peerless Recycling Depot.

**Aggie Hall being used as a COVID-19 Vaccination Site** - The Town of Ladysmith continues to support Island Health in facilitating a COVID-19 immunization clinic at Aggie Hall. All appointments for vaccinations must be pre-booked. For information on eligibility and how to register: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>