






## WANT TO STAY CONNECTED?

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## SIGN UP FOR OUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Call City Hall 250.245.6400, sign up on our website [www.ladysmith.ca](http://www.ladysmith.ca), or send us an email 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 email inbox in a safe, secure e-newsletter.

## TOWN NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Emergency and Routine Notifications through the CVRD** - Sign up for the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Emergency Alert Registration service to receive information on Evacuation Routes, Alerts and Orders and available/open ESS Reception Centres.

To register, visit: [www.cowichanalert.ca](http://www.cowichanalert.ca).

**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 container is helping to keep our public spaces enjoyable for everyone. We appreciate your cooperation.

**Online Crime Reporting** - Report an incident online, when the police are not required: <https://ocre-sielc.rcmpgrc.gc.ca/ladysmith/en>

**Water Restrictions** - The Town's water restrictions are actively changing as the amount of rainfall increases. Keep up to date with current restrictions and drought levels on our town website.

<https://www.ladysmith.ca/our-services/water>



OCTOBER 2024

# LADYSMITH LINKS

## FALL AND WINTER EVENTS IN LADYSMITH

As fall and winter approach, the Town will see the return of many of our favourite events such as the Monster Bash and Dive-In Cinema at the Frank Jameson Community Centre, Ladysmith Festival of Lights and Old Time Christmas. For details on these events and others, visit the Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce website: <https://www.ladysmithcofc.com/calendar>

## SMALL-SCALE, MULTI-UNIT HOUSING (SSMUH)

Following provincial regulation, Ladysmith is expanding housing options through the introduction of Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH), allowing homeowners to diversify their properties in various zones. In most "single-family" areas, you can now build secondary suites, coach houses, and duplexes. Townhouses and multi-unit dwellings are also permitted in R-2 and C-1 zones. However, navigating the regulations is crucial to ensure compliance and avoid potential issues.

Building without the required permits can result in severe consequences, including hefty fines, unsafe living conditions, costly demolitions, and challenges with financing or selling your property. For properties

located in designated extension areas, the number of units you can build is limited to what was allowed under previous zoning rules, with these restrictions in place until necessary infrastructure upgrades are completed or by December 31, 2030, whichever comes first.

Extension areas are temporary, but it's essential to check your property's status and plan accordingly. Homeowners planning to build SSMUH should contact Development Services early to determine the specific regulations and permits needed for their project.

For more detailed information on SSMUH, including zoning and eligibility, visit: <https://www.ladysmith.ca/business-development/ssmuh>.

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

410 Esplanade MAIL PO Box 220 . Ladysmith . BC . V9G 1A2

ladysmith.ca

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## FIREWORKS PERMIT PROCESS

Ladysmith residents interested in discharging fireworks on Halloween night must use the new application and permitting process that is being administered by the Town.

The Family Fireworks Permit Application fee is \$10. Separate permit classes, fees and insurance requirements apply for display fireworks and pyrotechnics.

The Family Fireworks Permit replaces the permit process previously overseen by the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Permit approvals are subject to the current Coastal Fire Ban and any corresponding restrictions.

You can obtain application forms at Ladysmith City Hall, located at 410 Esplanade, during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Forms are also available by emailing [info@ladysmith.ca](mailto:info@ladysmith.ca) or by visiting this link [https://www.ladysmith.ca/docs/default-source/bylaws-2021/fireworks-permit-application\\_2022\\_fillable.pdf?sfvrsn=77a7f4db\\_2](https://www.ladysmith.ca/docs/default-source/bylaws-2021/fireworks-permit-application_2022_fillable.pdf?sfvrsn=77a7f4db_2) Once completed, the forms can be submitted and paid for in person at City Hall.

Please note that all fireworks permit applications are due at least three business days before the event.

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Halloween is meant to be fun; it is also important to prioritize safety so that Halloween is a positive experience for everyone. Here are some essential tips to keep the spookiness safe:

- **Costume Visibility:** Pick costumes that are bright or reflective. If your child insists on a dark costume, add reflective tape or carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- **Adult Supervision:** Young children should always trick-or-treat with a responsible adult.
- **Stick to the Sidewalk:** Walk on sidewalks whenever possible and use crosswalks to cross the street. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic and stay as far to the side as possible.
- **Plan Your Route:** Map out a safe route in advance, avoiding streets with heavy traffic. Make sure children know to only visit well-lit homes and to never enter a stranger's house or car.
- **Check Candy:** Before indulging in treats, inspect all candy for signs of tampering, such as opened wrappers or unfamiliar brands. Discard anything suspicious.
- **Stay Alert:** Be extra vigilant and aware on streets - trick-or-treaters may suddenly appear.

## UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE NOVEMBER 28, 2024

Utility Bills for July to September are due November 28, 2024. We encourage you to pay online through your financial institution. However, payments can be made in person 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](mailto:billing@ladysmith.ca).



## DECOMMISSIONING OF MACKIE DAM POSTPONED

The Town of Ladysmith has decided to delay the decommissioning of the abandoned Mackie Dam until summer 2025 in order to protect salmon spawning on Holland Creek.

The decision to postpone the removal of the Mackie Dam was made after the Town received new information from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship (WLRs), which indicated that the timing of the removal posed a significant threat to salmon in Holland Creek.

While the risk of dam failure remains, it is not imminent, therefore protection of fish spawning is the higher priority. The Town initially planned to begin removal work on September 4, but now the 1.5-kilometre section of the North Loop of the Holland Creek/Heart Lake Trail that was slated to be closed during the removal process will remain open to the public until work begins in 2025.

The decision to remove the Mackie Dam stems from the 2023 recommendation from BC Dam Safety that determined decommissioning was the best option from a safety perspective.

This portion of the work is expected to cost an estimated \$600,000. There will be additional costs associated with the delay, however, those costs are unknown at this time. The project is being funded with a \$2.75 million grant that the Town received from the provincial government to remediate three additional weirs along Holland Creek, including the Mackie Dam.

## BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Council are reviewing the budget at meetings in the fall and winter before adopting the Financial Plan bylaws in early 2025. Citizens are invited to provide input into the budget by attending Council meetings at which the budget is discussed, or by writing to Council at any time.

November 5, 2024 - Water & Sewer - Operating & Capital.

November 19, 2024 - Introduction of General Operations.

December 3, 2024 - Introduction of General Capital Projects. Water & Sewer Rate Bylaws introduced.

December 17, 2024 - Anticipated adoption of Water & Sewer Rate Bylaws and early budget approvals.

## BE BEAR AWARE

Did you know that garbage and rotting fruit can attract bears to your neighbourhood? Please keep your garbage and compost contained indoors until your scheduled pick-up day and harvest any ripe fruit from trees. Report a bear sighting by calling: 1-877-952-7277.

A reminder that there is a 44lb limit on compost bins and garbage cans. A green bin full of fruit can easily put you over that limit.