



DEENA BEESTON SWORN-IN AS MAYOR OF LADYSMITH

Tricia McKay, who had been acting mayor since October following the resignation of Aaron Stone in September, will resume her duties as councillor.

The Town of Ladysmith officially has a new mayor.

Deena Beeston was sworn-in as the Town of Ladysmith's newest mayor at a ceremony held during the Inaugural Meeting of Council at the Ladysmith Seniors Centre on Tuesday, March 18.

Beeston, who received the highest number of votes in the 2025 mayoral by-election, becomes the 23rd mayor in Ladysmith's history and only the second woman to hold the position.

"It is truly an honour and a privilege to be Ladysmith's mayor. I am committed to working tirelessly to meet our community's needs and build a future that reflects our shared values and aspirations," says Mayor Deena Beeston.

Beeston will also serve as the Town of Ladysmith's Director on the Cowichan Valley Regional District board for the 2025 term after being appointed by Council during Tuesday's meeting.



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SPRING CLEAN UP WEEK 2025

From Tuesday, April 22 to Monday, April 28, the following additional oversized items will be picked up as part of your regular collection day:

- Furniture (wooden or fabric-covered wood)
- Washers, Dryers, Stoves
- Carpets, Rugs and Mattresses*
- Barbecues
- Toys and Bicycles

**For the health and safety of the Collector, mattresses must be fully contained in plastic and taped/sealed.*

All items must be placed at the curbside the day BEFORE your regular collection day. Please Note: If items left at curbside are not on the list they will not be picked up. It is your responsibility to dispose of any items that are not picked up.

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Peerless Road Facility has expanded the list of acceptable items. For more information, please visit the CVRD's website at www.cvrld.bc.ca or call toll-free 1-800-665-3955.

NEW RATES EFFECTIVE 2025

The Utility Bill enclosed with this newsletter covers the period January to March 2025. You will notice your bill is calculated based on the new water rates that came into effect January 1, 2025. The rate increase helps to cover the rising costs of providing safe, reliable drinking water and treating our waste water. The funds also go towards building reserves for future improvements to our sewer and water supply systems.

The new (single unit) water rates per quarter are:

- Base Rate to 25 m³ \$ 64.01
- Next 26 m³ to 50 m³ \$ 1.1646 per m³
- Next 51 m³ to 75 m³ \$ 1.3762 per m³
- Next 76 m³ to 100 m³ \$ 1.6935 per m³
- Next 101 m³ to 125 m³ \$ 1.2230 per m³
- Over 125 m³ \$ 2.9640 per m³
- Remember - water usage over 200 m³ from Apr-Sept is charged at a higher rate.

The residential sewer rate is \$32.83 per month. Ladysmith uses a block rate structure for water billing, meaning the more water you use, the higher the charge per cubic metre (one cubic metre is 220 gallons.)

STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS BEGIN MAY 1, 2025

Stage 1 Water Restrictions will come into effect for Town of Ladysmith residents as of May 1, 2025. These annual restrictions are intended to help manage water usage during the warmer, drier months of the year.

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



FIRESMART REBATES NOW AVAILABLE FOR LADYSMITH, DUNCAN AND CVRD ELECTORAL AREAS

Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC), on behalf of the CVRD, the Town of Ladysmith and the City of Duncan, will be launching a FireSmart Rebate program to support homeowners in performing Firesmart activities on residential properties.

The Cowichan Regional FireSmart Resiliency Program is designed to help homeowners and communities reduce the risk of wildfire damage. Wildfires are a natural occurrence, but they can also be devastating to homes, businesses, and communities. A Wildfire Home Assessment, available free from EMC, will help home owners identify easy steps and actions to reduce their property's risk to wildfires. In 2023-2024, more than 200 homes were assessed in the Cowichan region. Recommendations in FireSmart home assessments can now be funded for eligible applicants under this rebate program.

“The frequency and intensity of wildfires have increased, making it more important than ever to take steps to protect our community,” said Chris Geiger, Town of Ladysmith Fire Chief. “This rebate program will provide funding to families who want to take steps to protect their home from wildfire, making us more resilient in the future.”

Applications for rebates of up to \$4,000 opened on March 19, 2025 at a limited amount per community. To be eligible for a rebate, homeowners in the Town of Ladysmith, the City of Duncan and the Electoral Areas of the CVRD must have a free FireSmart Home Assessment completed, and be willing to complete approved FireSmart work within 90 days of the application approval.

All information regarding the rebate program and home assessments, including Terms and Conditions, how to apply, and FAQs can be found online at <https://emcowichan.ca/programsresources/fire-smart/>.

UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE MAY 29, 2025

Utility Bills for January to March are due Thursday, May 29, 2025. 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. **Please remember in the event of a postal disruption, you are still required to ensure the Town receives your payment before the due date to avoid penalties.**

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

COMING THIS MAY: Spring Yard Waste Pickup - The Town and Waste Connections are partnering again to bring you a Spring Yard Waste Pickup during the Month of May.

Visit the 'Latest News & Information' section on the Town's website homepage for more information in the near future.

Annual Cemetery Clean Up - Town Parks crews are completing 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.

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.

Residents who are dependent on medical equipment that uses water, or who have any questions regarding the flushing are invited to call Infrastructure Services 250.245.6445 for specific flushing dates.