



District of Lantzville Community Update

COVID-19 Pandemic Response, Playground Closures, Emergency Plan, Volunteer for Minetown Day, Cut Bloomin' Broom, Neighbourhood Grants, LVFA Garage Sale Cancelled, Water Main Flushing

Statutory Holiday Closure

Municipal Hall is currently closed to the public, but staffed to respond by phone and email. However, it will be closed and not staffed from Friday, April 10th to Monday, April 13th, inclusive. Staff will again be available to respond to your calls or mail, starting at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Call **1.888.826.8271** to report any after-hours Public Works emergency, and they will contact on-call staff on your behalf. For other emergencies, dial **911**.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

The District of Lantzville is, on a daily basis, monitoring the Province of British Columbia's COVID-19 updates, and adhering to all Provincial directives, orders and guidelines. The Municipal Hall remains "open for business" with staff working on site, but is temporarily closed to the public. Residents are encouraged to contact District staff during regular business hours concerning any Municipal-related business or information that may be needed. Information is presently received and disseminated via email, telephone and the municipal website. "Public engagement is a key component of our governance model, but COVID-19 has forced us to re-evaluate how we will responsibly carry out our business over the next few weeks and possibly longer," advised Mayor Mark Swain. "We are asking members of the public to stay home and watch the Council meetings once they are posted on the Municipal website. This will allow us to adhere to the Province's social distancing orders while conducting our business within the confines of a small Council Chamber," he added. Residents and businesses are encouraged to continue to provide Council with their input on Council agenda items either by email or mail, or drop their comments in the mail slot at the Municipal Hall by 12:00 pm on Council meeting days. "We appreciate the public's patience while we navigate through this difficult time," said Mayor Swain. "We are committed to carrying out our work in the best interests of our community, but must not compromise the health and safety of our residents, our staff or our community." The public is encouraged to follow the Province's guidelines to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19: use hand hygiene, maintain social or physical distancing, and stay at home if you are sick or at high risk for serious illness. Visit the Government of British Columbia's website, to stay current on the Provincial Health Officer's orders in place, e.g. restricting travel, mass gatherings, operation of bars, clubs, and restaurants and indefinite suspension of school classes. The orders are a last measure to protect British Columbians and slow the transmission of this virus. More information on COVID-19 can be found at: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19, or by calling 1.888. COVID-19 (1.888-268.4319).

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, April 6th – 2:00 pm Special Council

Tuesday, April 7th – 6:00 pm Economic Development and Sustainability Committee *CANCELLED*

Thursday, April 16th – 4:45 pm Parks and Trails Select Committee *CANCELLED*

Monday, April 27th – 2:00 pm Special Council

Council Update – In March 2020, Council:

- prohibited the public from recording any live, in-progress meeting or portion of a Council meeting, except as authorized by Council
- adopted Council Procedure Bylaw No. 141 and Zoning Bylaw No. 180
- consented, on behalf of the electors, to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board adopting: Regional Parks and Trails Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1231.07; Regional Growth Management Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1553.04; and Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1556.04
- awarded Phase III Sanitary Sewer Project Contract #1 to IWC Excavation Ltd. (\$5,404,842.97) and Contract #2 to Knappett Industries (2006) Ltd. (\$2,365,445.88)
- gave Council Procedure Bylaw No. 141, 2020, Amendment Bylaw No. 230 first three readings
- authorized a Letter of Intent with the Province for BizPaL, an online for permit and licence information for business
- authorized a Fall 2020 community consultation on Home Business regulations in the Zoning Bylaw
- appointed Nelda Richardson as Deputy Director of Corporate Administration
- requested a report investigating potential temporary waiver of financial penalties for utility fees non-payment.

Lantzville Playgrounds Closed to Public

The District of Lantzville is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our Community. Effective Saturday, March 21, 2020, all parks with playground equipment were closed to the public, including Huddlestone Park, Copley Park, and Rotary Park. The Tennis Courts have also been closed. We will continue to assess COVID-19 and its risks to the public, and comply with all Federal and Provincial guidelines. If you have questions or need assistance from the District of Lantzville, staff are available to respond by phone or email.

Meet with the Mayor

Call the Municipal Hall at **250.390.4006** if you wish to book an appointment to meet with Mayor Swain.

District of Lantzville 7192 Lantzville Road, PO Box 100, Lantzville BC V0R 2H0

Phone: **250.390.4006** Fax: **250.390.5188** General Email: district@lantzville.ca Web: www.lantzville.ca Twitter: [@DOLantzville](https://twitter.com/DOLantzville)

Emergency Plan Implemented

On March 18th, the Province declared a state of emergency to support the province-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 26th, the Province also issued an order that all local governments activate their emergency plan. The activation of local EOCs is a proactive measure to ensure operational readiness, centralize communications, and ensure resources and a coordinated local plan to support the Province's response plan. The District of Lantzville has activated a virtual EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) at Level 1 with Chief Administrative Officer Ronald Campbell as the EOC Director, operating during regular office hours from Municipal Hall. The current role of the EOC at this point is to monitor the local COVID-19 situation, and to gather and share vital information quickly. The District is not the lead agency on COVID-19 and will continue to take direction from the Province and Island Health. For local response information and links, visit www.lantzville.ca/COVID-19.

Lantzville Minetown Day September 12, 2020!

Cautiously optimistic planning has started for the 2020 Minetown Day event, which is subject to changing COVID-19 restrictions. If you would like to be part of the planning group or involved in the event, in the parade, as a vendor, or in any other way, please email julia.ohly@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

Cut the Blooming Broom...but not together!

The District of Lantzville has partnered with the Broombusters Invasive Plant Society again this year to assist in controlling the alien invasive plant Scotch broom in our community. Broom spreads quickly, prevents forest regrowth, crowds out native species and is a serious fire hazard. We don't want broom in Lantzville! (Nanaimo and Parksville have Invasive Species Bylaws which include broom.) This year is unique, as social distancing requires that we stay apart. But perhaps you have more time this spring, and you would love to get outside and tackle the broom on your own! Please help us figure out how to best support you as you support the health and wellbeing of Lantzville and our island ecosystem.

If Broombusters' loan you a lopper, could you help cut down the broom near your home? You can go out whenever you have an hour to spare. Other people will be working on the same areas, but on their own time. Our goals had been to cut the broom in late April and May, on Lorenzen Lane, Aulds Road, Sunbury Road and Northbound on Highway 19 through Lantzville. Do you have time to work there on your own or with a friend? Your help will be appreciated. This is something we still can do! Contact Sharon at sahokas@shaw.ca to make arrangements. And check out the Broombusters' website (including a 'How to Cut Broom' video) at www.broombusters.org.

Neighbourhood Small Grants for Lantzville

Apply to the Nanaimo Foundation by April 30, 2020 for grants of up to \$500 to support projects that bring people together, share skills and knowledge, build a sense of belonging and responsibility, and respect and celebrate diversity. Visit www.nanaimofoundation.com or call 250.734.3971.

BYLAW REMINDERS

Open Burning – The Provincial government has issued open burning restrictions, effective March 26, 2020, for land clearing in much of the RDN including the District of Lantzville. No new fires may be initiated and no additional material may be added to existing fires.



Burning Ban in Effect to Oct. 14, 2020 – Category 2 OPEN FIRES are PROHIBITED, including burn barrels, backyard burning, incinerators, burn piles, burning grass, fireworks, binary exploding targets, sky lanterns, outdoor burning, etc. and are not permitted on private and public

property in the District of Lantzville. Small campfires used for cooking, heating or ceremonial purposes are allowed (except on beaches) subject to conditions:

- must be contained in a device or fixture
- campfire must be away from combustible materials and campfire must not exceed 0.61 m in size
- only propane, natural gas, charcoal or clean organic wood can be used; no branches, yard waste or construction materials
- responsible person must be in attendance at the campfire at all times, with a hand tool or at least eight litres of water available to property extinguish the fire
- ensure campfire is completely extinguished and ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area
- be considerate of neighbours when planning a campfire.

NO OPEN FIRES ARE PERMITTED ON ANY BEACH AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR - only portable propane campfire apparatus (CSA or ULC approved) are permitted on the beach between the hours of 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.

For more information, visit www.lantzville.ca to view Fire Protection Services Bylaw No. 185, 2019 or print the Outdoor Burning brochure, or contact the Fire Chief at nrukus@lantzville.ca or 250.390.2811.

Lantzville Volunteer Firefighters Assoc. Garage Sale

In light of the COVID-19 developments, we are regrettably cancelling this year's garage sale. Our primary function is the safety of the community and we do not want to expose anyone to unnecessary risks. We recommend following the BC Centre for Disease Control's advice regarding the virus.

Water Main Flushing Continues

Between March 16th and April 17th the District's water system will undergo annual routine maintenance, including flushing of waterlines to remove sediment and maintain good water quality, as well as fire hydrant maintenance. Flushing is achieved by releasing water in the mains through fire hydrants and stand pipes. This causes a bubbling of air which may discolour the water. No chemicals are added to the system. While this maintenance work should not affect the quality of drinking water, we recommend that laundry be done on weekends or evenings to avoid possible discolouration of clothes, etc. Our apologies for any inconvenience.