



District of Lantzville Community Update

Deferrals, Payments, 2020 Property Taxes, Home Owner Grant, Upcoming Meetings, Council Update, Construction Notice Phase III Sewer, COVID-19, Cut the Bloomin' Broom, Bylaw Reminders

COVID-19 = Unusual Times = Process Changes

Deferrals – Have you considered deferring your home property taxes? Tax deferral is a low interest loan program managed by the Province that helps qualified BC homeowners pay their annual property taxes on their principal residence. You may qualify for the Regular Program if you're 55 or older, a surviving spouse of any age, or a person with disabilities OR for the Families with Children Program if you're a parent, stepparent or financially supporting a child. **NEW** – Deferral applications are processed by the Province (not at Municipal Hall). Learn more about the property tax deferral program, including eligibility, at www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral, 1.888.355.2700 (toll free), or a Service BC Centre. **Note:** *To defer, you will still need to claim your Home Owner Grant first.*

Payments - Currently, the Municipal Hall is closed to the public; however, staff are available 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday, to answer your questions by phone or email, and to process your payments. We will publish a notice as soon as we know when and how a phased re-opening to the public can proceed. Until then, please pay your utility bill and property taxes by cheque (by mail or delivery through drop-box at Municipal Hall), or through on-line or telephone banking. Recognizing the current challenges for some Lantzville property owners, Council has adjusted penalty dates for both utility bills and property taxes.

2020 Property Tax Notices – Property tax notices will be mailed in late May. Property owners who do not receive their property tax bill by the first week of June – particularly new owners – should call **250.933.8086**. Property tax payment and your completed Home Owner Grant, if applicable, are due July 2, 2020. A 5% penalty applies on any outstanding balance at the end of October 1st and November 15th. The municipality has no authority to waive or modify these penalty amounts, which are required by law.

Home Owner Grant – After you receive your property tax notice and if you qualify for a Home Owner Grant, you can claim your Home Owner Grant online by visiting the District's website at www.lantzville.ca, or complete the Home Owner Grant portion of your 2020 Property Tax Notice and deliver to Municipal Hall by July 2nd. A payment is not required to apply for your Home Owner Grant. Home Owner Grant applications must be completed each year to receive the grant. **NOTE:** *Your bank cannot process your Home Owner Grant application.*

Utility Payment Penalties – The March 31, 2020 utility bill was due and payable April 30th. Property owners are encouraged to pay their bill if possible; however, no penalties will be imposed on utility bills issued from January 1st through June 30, 2020. For details, please see insert with utility bill.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Monday, May 4th** – 7:00 pm Special Council
- **Monday, May 11th** – 7:00 pm Regular Council
- **Monday, May 25th** – 7:00 pm Regular Council

Agendas are posted (District website and bulletin board) by the Friday before the Monday meeting. Until further notice, Council meetings are held electronically and closed to the public; email, mail or drop off agenda item input by 12:00 Noon on Council meeting days. Visit www.lantzville.ca and click on the calendar to access agenda, agenda package, minutes, and video recordings of meeting; OR view the agenda posted on the bulletin board at Municipal Hall.

Council Update – In April 2020, Council:

- adopted Miscellaneous Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 231 to remove the 10% penalty on unpaid water and sewer usage fees for the first two quarterly billing periods in 2020
- approved the audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019, as presented by MNP LLP
- adopted Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 230, 2019-2023 Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 217, Sewer Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 227, Public Works Facility Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 236, and Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax and Assessment Roll Preparation Amendment Bylaw No. 237
- selected Option 5 in the Village Commercial Core Revitalization Project options, to proceed with the ICET grant application, undertake the additional design work required by ICET (maximum of \$60,000 to be funded from Gas Tax not already allocated to the reserve), and proceed with streetscape improvements in the priority section between Caillet Road and Dickinson Road for a total project budget of \$400,000
- approved Road Naming Policy No. 3004-5, as amended
- approved seeking input from the Lantzville development community on the draft Community Amenity Contributions document
- approved amended Memorial Bench Policy No. 4002-2
- cancelled advisory committee meetings until after normal operations resume post COVID-19 response
- authorized preparation of the 2020 Tax Rate Bylaw using the same distribution of property taxes among property classes as in prior years, with a due date of July 2, 2020, and penalty dates relaxed to October 1 and November 15, 2020 for all property classes (not July and September as in prior years).

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Under Construction – Phase III Sewer Project

Construction to extend sanitary sewer service to 307 properties in Upper and Lower Lantzville started in April, with a Spring 2021 estimated project completion and connection date. The engineering inspector (survey crew) is consulting with each Phase III Local Service Area property owner about the most convenient location for the sewer connection to their property line. The contractor assigned to each area (IWC Excavation Ltd. for Upper Lantzville and Knappett Industries for Lower Lantzville) is delivering a notification to residents prior to work proceeding on their street, providing contact and construction schedule information. Expect construction noise and temporary traffic disruptions and detours and parking restrictions at times. Motorists are advised to watch for crews and machinery on the road, obey all signage and follow the instructions of traffic control. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this upgrade. Questions? Contact fspears@lantzville.ca or 250.933.2250.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response Update

- Municipal Hall remains “open for business” with staff working on site, but is temporarily closed to the public
- contact District staff by telephone, email, mail or drop off in the mail slot at Municipal Hall
- Council meetings are held electronically and closed to the public; email, mail or drop off agenda item input by 12:00 Noon on Council meeting days
- Tennis courts and parks with playground equipment (Huddlestone, Copley and Rotary) are closed to the public
- Emergency Operations Centre continues to operate at Level 1 during regular office hours, and monitors and responds to the Provincial and Federal COVID-19 updates and directives
- check www.lantzville.ca regularly for updates.

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. 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! 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. 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. Your help will be appreciated. This is something we still can do! Contact Sharon at sahokas@shaw.ca to make arrangements. Visit www.broombusters.org to view ‘How to Cut Broom’ video.

Statutory Holiday Closure

Municipal Hall is currently closed to the public, but staffed to respond by phone and email, except for the statutory holiday on Monday, May 18th. Staff will again be available to respond to your calls or mail, starting at 8:00 am on Tuesday, May 19, 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.

BYLAW REMINDERS

Burning Ban in Effect – 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 to 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
- 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
- NO LANDCLEARING FIRES ARE PERMITTED AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR – except for ALR lands.

The Fire Protection Service Bylaw prohibits Open Air burning (fire piles on the ground) and Incinerator Fires from April 16th to October 14th. Watch for notice of a Campfire ban if hazards increase. For more information, visit www.lantzville.ca or contact the Fire Chief at nrukus@lantzville.ca & 250.390.2811.

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions – Effective May 1st

Under the watering restrictions, in Stage 2, sprinkling is permitted between the hours of 7:00 am to 10:00 am **OR** 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm for a **maximum of 2 hours every other day** on the following days:

- Odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days
 - Even-numbered addresses on even-numbered days
- Sprinkling includes watering lawns, ornamental shrubs, flowers and trees and use of pop-up spray, rotors and sprinklers. Putting in a new lawn? Apply for a new lawn permit. The following are permitted at any time in Stage 2: hand-watering (trees, shrubs, vegetables) drip irrigation, and micro irrigation (check regularly for leaks); washing vehicles, boats, and houses (siding) if using a hose with a shutoff device; filling fountains, pools, or hot tubs; pressure washing walkways, driveways and siding. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all watering restrictions but watering in the early morning or in the evening is recommended – less evaporation.

Illegal Dumping – Remember each property owner is responsible for disposing of your own grass clippings and yard waste on your own property through composting, contracting with a private recycling service to pick-up, or taking it to a recycling depot or the landfill. It is illegal to dump your yard waste on rights of ways, public property or private property owned by others.