



# DISTRICT OF PORT EDWARD NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I hope this message finds you all well.

The year is soon ending, and we are working to close the gaps in recruiting staff, both in our office and with public works. It is a challenge finding staff with the skill sets required to support municipal functions. We are not alone. Mayors I talk to from all over BC have the same issues.

We have hired a recruitment firm to fill the town manager's position (CAO) and it closes this month. We are still recruiting for another position with water and sewer experience at public works.

We are prepared for winter, public works assure me we have enough sand and salt for the worst conditions.

Most of you will notice that a new work camp is being constructed across from Kristoff's trucking. The camp will be housing AltaGas contractors that are building a new propane export facility on Ridley Island. The project projected cost is 1.2 billion. This is a major investment which will employ over 200 jobs during the construction phase. There will be about 40 permanent jobs when it begins operations in late 2027. There will be significant tax benefits to Port Edward and Prince Rupert from this development.

The Postal strike is causing some issues for some of you, and I am hoping it can be solved quickly.

This is my last message before Christmas. I wish you all the best to you and your families over the holidays and in the New Year.

## UPCOMING DATES

- Council Meeting 12/10, 7PM
- Close at noon on Tuesday, 12/24, 2024.
- Remain closed on Friday, 12/27, 2024.
- Reopen on Monday, 12/30, 2024, and close at noon on Tuesday, 12/31, 2024.
- Resume regular operations on Thursday, 01/02, 2025. s



**Quote of the month:** Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it. Henry David Thoreau.



## NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE

We're thrilled to announce that our upgraded website now offers enhanced functionality for residents. You can now access and submit forms and applications online, with bylaw, policy, agenda, and minutes search features expected to go live by mid-December. Additionally, online payment capabilities are on the horizon, making it easier than ever to interact with municipal services.

# COMMUNITY UPDATE



## NEW TERRACE HOSPITAL

The new state-of-the-art hospital in Terrace has been gifted the Tsimshian name Ksyen Regional Hospital, recognizing the territory where it stands and the region it serves. Ksyen (KUH-see-yen) is the Sm'alg yax name for the Skeena River, reflecting the deep cultural roots of the Ts'msyen people.

Collaboratively named by Kitsumkalum and Kitselas First Nations, alongside municipal leaders and Northern Health, this name celebrates Indigenous history and contributions. The hospital will honor Dr. Stanley Mills with a history wall and the naming of the ambulatory care unit. Final preparations for the hospital's opening are underway, ensuring it is culturally safe and welcoming for all.

## UMO CARD IS HERE

Starting December 1st, we're excited to introduce the UMO system as our new bus transit platform. Traditional bus tickets will be discontinued, and riders can manage fares using the UMO app or a re-loadable UMO card available at the Municipal office. This new system offers a simple, secure, and efficient way to travel, enhancing your experience in line with BC Transit's commitment to better public transportation.



## SANI DUMP CLOSED

The SANI Dump is now closed for the winter season and will reopen in Spring 2025. We thank all users for their cooperation and look forward to serving you again next year. Stay tuned for updates on the reopening date!



The District of Port Edward is seeking a motivated individual to join our team as Clerk I. If you're organized, detail-oriented, and eager to contribute to our community, we'd love to hear from you! Please send your resume and cover letter to [info@portedward.ca](mailto:info@portedward.ca). For more details about the position, visit our website. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of our dynamic team

The Municipal Office will be closed on December 24 at noon

# COMMUNITY UPDATES



## LEARN ABOUT INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Feeling festive? Creating décor from items found in nature is the perfect way to accessorize while keeping expenses low! But consider your materials - some plants, although pretty, can do a lot of harm. Some of the most popular festive flora comes from invasive species - and these cause big problems in our communities!

English holly, often found in winter wreaths, is easily recognizable with its glossy, spiny leaves and red berries. This plant grows in shade or sun, crowding out native plants, and hogging groundwater. Its berries are poisonous to humans, but birds love them. As an alternative to English holly, consider using a species native to B.C. such as Oregon grape which has similarly spikey evergreen leaves.

English ivy, with its waxy, leathery leaves, may look nice wrapped around pillars or baskets. But this hardy, dense groundcover and climber smothers native trees and shrubs. It grows year-round, and even a small piece dropped on the ground could become a new plant. As an alternative, choose red elderberry's long tapered leaves, or the glossy, oval leaves of sala - both beautiful B.C. plants - in place of English ivy.

If you discover invasive plants in your holiday wreaths and decorations, be sure to dispose of them properly. Do not compost them or leave them on the ground. The safest way to dispose of invasive plant material is by bagging plant material and disposing of it at a landfill or incineration station.

Want to learn more about great alternatives to invasive species?

## DOG LICENCE REMINDER

In the District of Port Edward, all dogs must be kept on a leash or within a fenced yard at all times to ensure the safety of pets and residents. If a dog is found running at large, please contact the District office for assistance.

The District Animal Pound, located at 100 Boundary Road, manages impounded dogs and applies fees in accordance with Bylaw 519 - Animal Control:

- \$50 basic fee (plus a license fee if the dog is unlicensed)
- \$10 for each 24-hour period the dog is held beyond the first day
- For vicious dogs (as defined by Bylaw 298), a \$200 basic fee, plus \$10 per 24-hour period

For more information or to review the full bylaw, visit our website. Let's work together to maintain a safe and pet-friendly community!



Building Skills and Bridging Cultures: November Highlights in Microsoft 365, PADM, and Cultural Humility Training for Staff and Council



Construction Progress

## REEF CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

November 20, 2024

Uplands Updates

·Overburden Removal: Overburden removal is progressing and 130,000 cubic meters of overburden have been hauled to-date.

- Blast Contractor: Blasting is underway, progressing in the RRUC as well as the jetty abutment area.

·Permanent Concrete Works: Rail offloading foundations is progressing and 100% of rebar cages are tied and 33% of the bases are poured.

·Power Line Relocation: Preparation for 2025 start is underway, with tree removal complete.

·Permanent Operations Office/Warehouse Area: Tree falling 95% complete in the SARA 2 permit area and mulching will begin next week.

Marine Updates

·Currently we have 4 rigs mobilized and we are installing temporary piles/frames and permanent jackets/piles.

·The majority of the work to-date has been focused on Piers 02 through 07, with permanent piles completed at Pier 03.

·The 5th rig will mobilize in late November.

### HOW TO LAY A FORMAL COMPLAINT

Residents are reminded that complaints must be submitted through the official Complaint Form available on our website. While we welcome your feedback via email, telephone, or text, these do not constitute a formal complaint. Completing the online form ensures your concern is documented and addressed appropriately. Visit our website today to access the form and help us serve you better.

### NEW PHONE EXTENTIONS

We've upgraded our phone system to make it easier for you to reach the right department! When calling our temporary number: 250-900-7399, simply dial the extension for the person or department you'd like to speak with:

- Reception: 109      Public Works: 107
- Finance: 101      CFO: 104      Mayor: 108
- DCO: 102      CAO: 103

Thank you for your patience as we transition to this improved system!

### WHAT DOES THE CAO DO?

You might have heard of the term "CAO" before and wondered, "What exactly do they do?" The CAO, or Chief Administrative Officer, is like the head coach for our District. They make sure everything runs smoothly behind the scenes so that Port Edward can be the best it can be!

Here's how they do it:

- They take the ideas and decisions from Council (like new projects or rules) and make them happen.
- They keep things organized, managing staff and making sure everyone is on track.
- They help plan and oversee the budget to make sure your tax dollars are spent wisely.
- They also give advice to Council so they can make the best choices for our community.

Think of the CAO as the person who keeps the engine of the District running while ensuring the community gets the services it needs. They're here to make sure Port Edward is a great place to live, work, and play!



### CONTACTS

DISTRICT OF PORT EDWARD: 250-628-3667

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

@DISTRRICT\_PORT\_EDWARD

