



# DISTRICT OF PORT EDWARD NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The typical winter weather is upon us. The good news is we have not had any major snowstorms. Public works crew have all the winter equipment ready on a moment's notice should we experience any winter weather. According to Environment Canada, the weather patterns we have experienced in the last month are predicted to remain for the foreseeable future.

We are still searching for a new town manager, CAO. We have interviewed several candidates to date. We are also searching for other positions including a public works manager and a Chief Financial Officer, CFO. We are intensifying our search for these staff positions to make sure we have the necessary resources to reach our goals. Our existing staff, as well as an acting CAO and CFO, have done a great job in providing the services we all depend on. Attracting qualified staff is difficult in northern communities and many communities are facing the same issues.

The council will be setting the capital goals for the coming year in the next few weeks so we can improve our roads and other infrastructure. We will keep you all informed as we move through the capital expenditure plans for 2025. If you have any thoughts on what you see as priorities, please let us know by email or via our website.

O'Brian's have started ditching along Skeena Drive to improve the drainage on the highway. This has been a long time coming. I urge caution as you approach the work zones.

The new fire truck will be arriving around January 26th. This is great news after almost 5 years of building. We will be having a celebration later on in February.

## UPCOMING DATES

- Council Meeting - 02/11, 7PM
- Office Closure, Family Day - 02/17
- Council Meeting - 02/25, 7PM



**Quote of the month:** Believe you can, and you are halfway there

## PORT EDWARD COMMUNITY SCHOOL



The success of our cherished Port Edward School, serving students from Kindergarten to Grade 5, hinges on community support. To continue operating successfully, we need just one more student to register this February.

We kindly ask for your help in spreading the word to families who may be considering enrolling their child. Together, we can ensure our school remains a vibrant and essential part of our community. Let's rally to keep the heart of Port Edward thriving!

# COMMUNITY UPDATES



## PORT EDWARD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT

In January 2025, the Port Edward Volunteer Fire Department (PEVFD) held a recruitment campaign to fill five vacant volunteer positions. As of January 14, 2025 all positions are filled and PEVFD now has a full crew of 15 members, with the majority of the members residing in Prince Rupert. The new probationary firefighters will begin a provincially regulated training program that will include, but is not limited to, exterior fire attack training, first responder medical training, and training in the use of auto extrication equipment. PEVFD will continue to hold practices every Tuesday, as well as, monthly maintenance nights, and participate in community events and fundraisers throughout the year.

## EXCITING LIQUOR POLICY UPDATES IN BC!

Two key changes are here to support businesses and event organizers: Bottle Service Approved!

1. Liquor Primary and Liquor Primary Club licensees can now offer bottle service, allowing the sale of whole bottles of spirits under specific conditions.
2. Outdoor venues can now apply for a Liquor Primary licence, eliminating the need for multiple Special Event Permits—even without permanent structures.

These updates simplify processes and enhance opportunities for the hospitality and event industries. Cheers to new possibilities! 🍷



## BOAT LAUNCH 2025

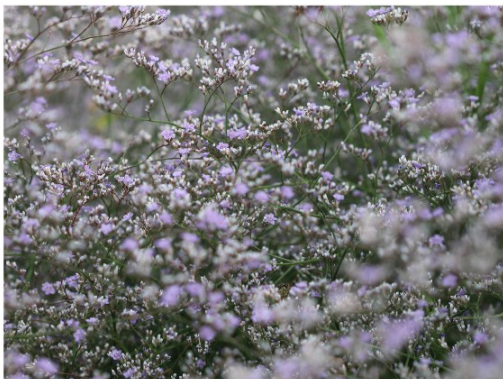
We are excited to announce that the District of Port Edward has successfully secured all the funding needed to complete the boat launch project in 2025. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous support of Prince Rupert Grain, Jack Rosenberger (Resident), and AltaGas. Their contributions have ensured that this much anticipated project will move forward, enhancing community access to our waterfront and supporting local recreation and tourism. We look forward to celebrating it's completion with residents in this coming year!



The District of Port Edward now accepts Interac e-Transfers at [payments@portedward.ca](mailto:payments@portedward.ca). To ensure your payment is accurately recorded, please include the business name, along with the reason for your payment, in the message section.

A friendly reminder to have your garbage placed at the curb by 8:00 AM every Monday!

# COMMUNITY UPDATES



## LEARN ABOUT INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

A long-standing tradition of Valentine's Day is giving flowers to express affection. Finding the perfect bouquet for the occasion is more than choosing beautiful blooms and shiny cellophane. Choosing non-invasive flowers shows a commitment to the environment as well as your beloved!

Baby's breath is a delicate plant often found in bouquets. But looks can be deceiving! This 'symbol of everlasting love' is a harmful invasive species in B.C. Producing up to 10,000 seeds per plant, baby's breath is aggressive, easily invading native grasslands and reducing forage for grazing animals and wildlife. This herbaceous perennial plant outcompetes native plants for space and resources.

Making the choice to leave baby's breath out of your bouquet is a simple action that can help B.C. maintain a healthy biodiversity.

A nature-friendly alternative to baby's breath is sea lavender, a beautiful non-invasive look-alike whose delicate flowers are loved by butterflies. Sea lavender's dramatic display of small flowers add texture and fullness to your bouquet, and can be saved for dry arrangements.

If you receive a bouquet containing an invasive plant like baby's breath, it's best to remove it from the bouquet, place it in a sealed trash bag, and properly dispose of it in the garbage. Do not compost it. The seeds of invasive plants can survive the composting process, continuing their spread when the compost is distributed to new areas.

## EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR NORTHERN BC ECONOMIC GROWTH

The British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA) and Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) have joined forces to create the Regional Economic Development Network (EDN-NDT)—a transformative platform for Northern BC communities to collaborate, grow, and thrive.

This initiative will:

- Foster collaboration between local, regional, and First Nation communities
- Provide free access to resources and professional development
- Build economic resilience tailored to the unique needs of Northern BC

"This partnership isn't just about building a network; it's about building capacity for communities to thrive," said Dale Wheeldon, President of BCEDA.

The program launches this month and promises long-term benefits for our region. Let's work together to build a stronger Northern BC!

The Municipal Office will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025, in observance of Family Day.

## REEF CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Updates as of January 20, 2025

- **Uplands Overburden Removal:** Continuing with overburden removal and fill placement, Continuing with drilling and blasting.
- **Rail, Road, and Utilities Corridor (RRUC):** Continuing with overburden removal, fill placement and beginning rock crushing activities.
- **Permanent Concrete Works:** continuing with rail offloading foundations work.
- **Marine Updates:** Four derricks are fully mobilized and operational. Crews are continuing with falsework frame installation on piers 6, 7 and 8. Nearing completion of Pier 2 falsework frame installation.
- **Night Shift Activities:** Due to weather conditions and unforeseen challenges, the REEF Construction Management Team is considering commencing night shift activities. Efforts will be made to minimize noise and light impacts to the District of Port Edward residents by focusing night shift activities to the west side of Ridley Island when possible. Overburden will continue to be disposed of in an organics disposal site on the island. **The potential start date for night shift activities is January 29, 2025, for approx. 6 weeks.**
- **Upcoming Events:** AltaGas will be hosting a career fair to connect local workforce with a wide variety of REEF Project subcontractors. The event takes place at the Highliner Hotel in Prince Rupert on Feb 26, 2025, from 4pm - 7pm.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

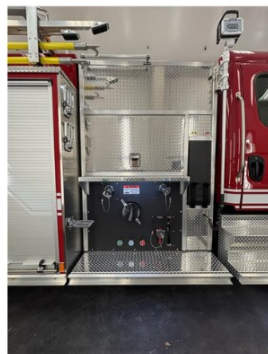
The District is committed to safety and resilience with a new Emergency Preparedness Plan focused on:

- **Climate Action:** Reducing emissions and preparing for floods, wildfires, and storms.
- **Indigenous Collaboration:** Partnering with Indigenous communities for shared emergency protocols and cultural safety training.
- **Emergency Response:** Clear evacuation routes, hazard maps, and communication plans.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** Identifying risks and building sustainable infrastructure.

We're preparing for the future—together!

## WE HAVE A NEW FIRE TRUCK

The District of Port Edward extends its heartfelt gratitude to the generous sponsors who made our brand-new fire truck a reality. A huge thank you to PRPA, Pembina, DP World, AltaGas, CN, and Trigon for your incredible support. Your contributions have significantly enhanced the safety and well-being of our community. Together, we are stronger and better equipped to protect Port Edward. Thank you for investing in our future!



## CONTACTS

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