



DISTRICT OF PORT EDWARD

March 2024

DISTRICT UPDATE

CLEAN, NEAT & GREEN



Mayor's Message

I hope this message finds you all well.

We are now in the process of summing up the past year (2023) and preparing the budget for 2024. The project list is shrinking as we have had major capital projects over the past 5 years. Councilors will analyze the projects and determine the key areas that money should be allocated to. There will be a public comment period before the 2024 budget is adopted.

Last year's road work will be finished as soon as the cold weather is behind us. There is some work on Oceanview and Sunset. The work consists mainly of fixing driveways and sculping and landscaping. The contractor will be in contact with property owners.

The rehabilitation of the Fire Hall is almost complete. The work has consisted mainly of replacing the siding and the installation of a shower on the top floor. It is very important to maintain our physical assets in good condition to avoid costly repairs in future years.

We have good news from the Provincial Government. They have established a fund for northwestern BC to assist communities with money for capital projects. The fund is called the Regional Benefits Alliance (RBA) and allocates \$250 million to this region over the next 5 years. Over the next few months a committee will be working on a formula on how to divvy up the money. I will let you all know when we have received notification. This is a major milestone in our ability to provide ongoing services to residents. The negotiations with Province was over 10 years in the making. A major win for our area.

Have a great March, Spring begins at the end of this month.

Quote of the Month

OPPORTUNITY IS MISSED BY MOST PEOPLE BECAUSE IT IS DRESSED IN OVERALLS AND LOOKS LIKE WORK.
Thomas Edison – famous inventor.

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CONTACTS

- **Conservation Officer Services**
1-877-952-7277
- **RCMP**
250-624-2136
- **Emergencies**
911
- **District of Port Edward**
770 Pacific Avenue
Port Edward, BC
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250-628-3667

Highlights from February Council Meetings

Representatives from CN gave Council a presentation (via Zoom) regarding an update on CN and an overview of CNs Emergency Plan regarding rail cars.

Council made a motion to support the following:

- ◇ Skeena Taxi Ltd.- provided a letter of support for an additional wheel chair accessible taxi for our area.
- ◇ Prince Rupert Special Events Society- “31st Children’s Festival” – provided a contribution of \$500 towards this event.
- ◇ BC Hydro- North Coast BC Electrification- provided a letter of support.
- ◇ Grant Applications- Alwyn Lake & Wolf Creek Dams – two applications were supported one for the Operating, Maintenance and Surveillance Plan and a Dam Emergency Plan. A contribution of \$10K was also approved for each application.
- ◇ Waterfront Park- approve the application to Crown Land to secure the land for the proposed park.
- ◇ Grant Application- provided support for the grant application to Northern Development Trust Initiative - Community Places for the Port Edward Boat Launch.
- ◇ Building Inspection Agreement with City of Prince Rupert- approved the agreement for services to have the City of Prince Rupert conduct building inspections for Port Edward.
- ◇ Fire Hall will be getting new bathrooms for the volunteer firefighters.
- ◇ Urban Systems has been contracted to provide the District with a Climate Action Plan.
- ◇ Urban Systems have been contracted to update the Official Community Plan and Zoning bylaw.
- ◇ White House- staff to explore options to develop this property.
- ◇ Charles Hays Secondary School- approved a full page ad for \$250.
- ◇ Nisga’a North JANT- approved a contribution of \$500 towards this event.
- ◇ Waterline Right of Way- approved the registered a right of Way for a waterline.
- ◇ The 2023 Financial Report Update was provided by staff and approved.
- ◇ The 2024 Budget Schedule timeline was accepted and a workshop date needs to be determined.
- ◇ Staff follow ups- Digital signs along Skeena Drive not working, CN Rail cars near the old Kwinitza Station, Look into cost of “slow-down” signs.
- ◇ Resource Benefits Alliance – funding announcement of \$250 million over five years-send a thank you letter to the Province.



Council Meeting Schedule

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
MARCH 12TH MARCH 26TH

The District of Port Edward Mayor and Council meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; except for July, August, September and December when there is only one meeting.

Meetings are held in Council Chambers and begin at 7:00 pm. If you would like to bring a matter before Council, please submit your information in writing to the Municipal Office no later than 12:00 pm the Thursday prior to the Council meeting or contact the District office at (250) 628-3667.

All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend Council meetings either in person or via Zoom.

Zoom links are posted on our website as part of the Agenda.

Yearly Utility Billing—Due March 31, 2024

We would like to remind all residents that if you pay your Utilities for the year by **March 31, 2024** you are eligible for a **10% discount**.

Reminder Note: this is your last opportunity to **save 10%**.

Volunteer Needed

The District of Port Edward, the City of Prince Rupert, and the North Coast Regional District have formed an Accessibility Committee. This new Accessibility Committee, is part of the new Provincial Law, the Accessible BC ACT, will help identify, remove and prevent barriers to the full and equal participation of people with disabilities in BC.

The District of Port Edward is seeking a resident of Port Edward who is interested in being part of the Accessibility Committee as a representative of Port Edward.

The representative's goal is to help identify accessibility issues in Port Edward while working collaboratively with the Accessibility Committee being struck with our Regional Local Government partners.

Those interested please send an email to: info@portedward.ca by March 31, 2024

For more information, please contact Polly Pereira at 250-628-3667



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Municipal Office Reminders

The Municipal Office will be closed on Friday **March 29, 2024** for Good Friday and Monday **April 1, 2024** for Easter Monday.

The office will re-open on Tuesday **April 2, 2024**.

Refuse pickup will take place on Tuesday **April 2, 2024** instead of the regular day.

Please make sure to place your garbage on the curb, in a sealed, water tight container with a lid no later than 8:00 am.

We wish you all a great Easter long weekend!



Port Edward School - Kindergarten Registration

If your child is 5 years old by December 31, 2024, s/he is eligible to start school this coming September.

When registering for a Kindergarten program, please bring:

- Your child's Birth Certificate (or other proof of age such as a Provincial ID Card, Permanent Residence Card or Passport);
- B.C. Care Card;
- Immunization Records;
- Proof of address

Registration will take place at the Port Edward School from 9:00 to Noon, Tuesday(s) and Thursday(s) ONLY.

Parents may choose to defer their child's entry to school, based on readiness, for one year. Please contact your neighborhood school for consultation if you are concerned about your child's readiness.

Please contact Christine Hurlburt at the Port Edward School for more information **250-628-3551**

