

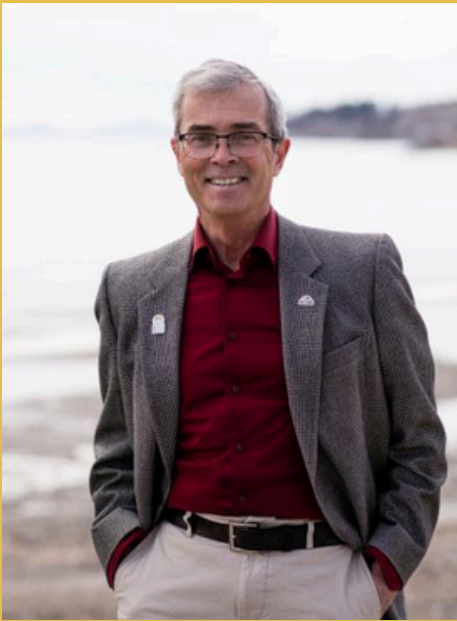
Fort Flyer

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT OF FORT ST. JAMES



Mayor's Message
Department Updates
Community Events
FAQs ...Plus NEW Sections!





Message from the Mayor

Welcome to summer. The rain last week was much needed, but the bush will soon be parched. The Weather Network's prediction of El Nino may lead to a hot, dry summer. Let's all be diligent and responsible in protecting our forests and community by following the BC Wildfire advice.

There will be a few projects going on again in the Community this summer and some are already underway. Phase 1 of Spirit Square Expansion will include fencing, electrical and plumbing install as well as the parking lot paving. As with most of our

infrastructure projects, they are grant funded are not always completed in one year.

Summer projects at the Fort Forum Arena include a few new tube heaters in the stands as well as the painting of the exterior. After to speaking with a few out-of-town parents, their kids said they wish this was their barn. The Curling Rink will also have the exterior painted.

The Welcome sign was refurbished and new lighting was installed. A big thank you to all the local artists and contractors for their hard work bringing the sign back to life.

The Marina project will begin later this summer. The old pilings which were no longer safe will be removed. The docks will be anchored with chains to rubberized concrete blocks, a breakwater system, and a new boat launch will be installed.

Year 4 of the waterline replacement project is underway with paving in August. The plan is that the entire community will be completed by Fall 2028.

Not all projects are visible, and the lagoon is one of those. Last year, desludging took place on 2 cells and the remaining 2 will be done in July. New aerators will be added to the system which will further improve the function of the lagoon and air quality.

As you are all aware, 2026 is a federal census year. Municipalities are reliant on the census to obtain funding. If grant funding was not available, taxes would need to be increased substantially, or no infrastructure projects would be completed. Grant funding is based on population totals from the census. For the continued betterment of our community, please take time to complete and return the census.

Only the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed. The rest is up to you.

Take care and enjoy,
Mayor Martin Elphee

Announcements

Summer Youth Recreation Program

Six weeks of fun exploring new ideas and activities, creating art, playing games with friends old and new. Along with a great team of leaders and community experts, learn and have fun this summer!

- July 13th – 17th **Summer Solstice Art**
- July 20th – 24th **Paleontology - Dinosaurs**
- July 27th – 31st **Science of Electricity**
- August 4th – 7th **World Foods**
- August 10th – 14th **Pottery**
- August 17th – 21st **Into the Wild**



Registration is open for children 6-12 years old. Pick up the registration package at the District Office or email recreation@fortstjames.ca

Community Markets are Back!



Every Friday from 11am – 4pm at Cottonwood Park!
All summer, May to September.

Come and check out local producers, makers, and vendors at Cottonwood Park and Beach. Live music and food trucks frequently make an appearance too!





Photo by Taylor Hansen

Public Works & Capital Projects Updates

The **Waterline Replacement project** is moving ahead as planned and on schedule. The contractor is giving Ash Street a bit more time to dry up, so they have moved to higher ground first to allow spring runoff to complete.

The **Spirit Square Revitalization project** has begun and is going well. The project is ahead of schedule and should be completed over the next few weeks, with the exception of paving. Parking lot paving is planned for August when other paving around town is being done.

The **Cottonwood Marina Revitalization project** has started, permits are applied for, and the contractor has advised that parts and materials are arriving. The marina will have signs posted stating that it is closed for construction. We are requesting NO PARKING in the marina area, please park on Lakeshore Dr. instead. The dates for the boat launch replacement will be posted when we know.

Other projects this summer:

- **Lagoon desludging** will start in June and **aeration upgrades** are planned for this fall
- The **Curling Rink** and **Fort Forum Arena** are getting a new coat of paint
- The **Ambulance Station** roof will be replaced

Completed projects:

- Boiler replacement at the **Public Works building**
- Hot water tank replacement at the **Fort Forum Arena**
- An automatic door was installed at the **Seniors Centre**
- Our **welcome sign** was refurbished by local artists and contractors



Economic & Community Development

The Economic Development Officer has been working hard connecting with local businesses to inform the **Economic Development Strategic Plan for Fort St. James** (more interesting title is TBD). If you're a local business owner that hasn't met Jessica yet, please email edo@fortstjames.ca or call the Office at 250-996-8233. After engaging with businesses and service providers, Jessica will be seeking public insights on the future of our community. Stay tuned for engagement activities!

Business owners, have you checked out the resources available to you through the [Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)? The **Business Advisory Supports program** gives you access to up to \$30,000 to cover up to 85% of eligible costs for professional advisory services like business planning, accounting, legal support and market development - you choose the consultant. There are other rebate programs available to businesses of all sizes!

Want to chat about business, tourism, marketing, or other community topics? Reach out to Jessica at edo@fortstjames.ca or 250-996-8233.



Tourism Corner

The Visitor Information Centre is now open! **& It's not just for visitors!** Come and check out our gift shop, full of curated items and goods from local artisans.

Open 8:30am-4pm

Wednesday to Sunday in June

Every day from June 28th to September



Message from Finance

TAXES ARE DUE ON JULY 2ND

Property tax notices were mailed out on May 12th. If you have not received your notice, please contact the District Office at 250-996-8233.

Municipal tax rates have not been increased and are the same as last year.

Homeowners must apply for the [BC Home Owner Grant](#) every single year! The process is entirely online and it only takes a couple of minutes. [Apply here!](#)

Seniors 65 years and older get an additional discount.

Need help filling out your BC Home Owner Grant? Come to the District Office at 477 Stuart Drive West between 8:30am - 4:30pm and our staff will be happy to assist you.

Fire Smart Corner

Being FireSmart doesn't mean sacrificing beauty in your landscape! Many plants are naturally more fire-resistant. In many cases, there are plants that are both FireSmart and water efficient, making them good choices for dry areas (or bad gardeners).

Characteristics of fire-resistant plants:

- Moist, soft leaves
- Minimal accumulation of dead vegetation
- Water-like sap with minimal odour
- Low levels of sap or resin



Characteristics of highly flammable plants:

- Aromatic (strong smelling) leaves or needles
- Contains resins or oils
- Loose, papery, or flaky bark

View the [FireSmart Homeowner's Manual](#)

[Visit PreparedBC](#) to make an emergency preparedness plan

From the Fire Hall

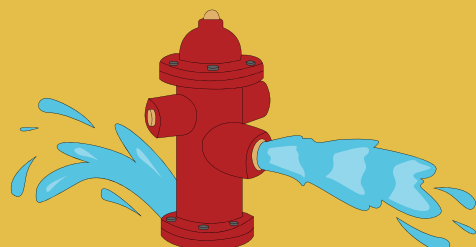


Have you ever wondered why the fire hydrant tops are painted?

The recent painting of the fire hydrants in our community is in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association 291. This code sets the colour standard based on the available water flow from each hydrant.

These paint colours allow the Officer on the fire apparatus to easily determine which is the best hydrant available on a call.

- Red** Less than 5 gallons per minute
- Orange** 500 - 999 gallons per minute
- Green** 1,000 - 1,499 gallons per minute
- Blue** 1,500 or more gallons per minute



FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Does Fort St. James have a Community Garden?

A. Yes. The Community Garden is located behind the District Office at 477 Stuart Drive West. The garden is open to the public, claim a raised bed or just come and enjoy the peace and view of Stuart Lake!

Q. How many boat launches are on Stuart Lake?

A. There are six! Three are free: Sowchea Bay, Paarens Beach, and Binche Whut'en. Three are serviced and paid: Cottonwood Marina, Pitka Bay, and Stuart River.

Q. How does the District plan to control the road dust?

A. The District has purchased calcium to lay down on the alleys and other non-paved roads in town. This will help control the dust through the summer months.

Q. How do I join the Community Market as a vendor?

A. The Community Market would love to have you join! Markets are every Friday from 11am - 4pm at Cottonwood Park. There's an online form that can be found on the [Fort St. James Community Market Facebook Page](#). Membership for the year is \$30 and space at the market is \$10 per week.



Photo by Irene Duncan



Regular Council Meetings

June 9th & 23rd

July 14th & 28th

August 11th & 25th

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
477 STUART DRIVE WEST
TUESDAY, 5:00 PM

Council Meetings



News from the Community Forest

Hello Fort St. James! This past year, we wrapped up harvesting with deliveries of 24,199 cubic meters of lumber to the FSJ Hampton facility and 11,697 cubic meters to Apollo Forest Products. These deliveries into our local mills brought us to 97% of our control period which ended in December.

As spring is slowly springing, we will start to make plans for future development and harvesting potentials as well as kick off our yearly siculture monitoring. This summer, we're planning on surveying and assessing 1,190 hectares of plantations and planting 14,000 seedlings. These seedling will fill in approximately 12 hectares of waste pile area that was ground or burnt.

Fort St. James has also been chosen for a potential expansion to the community forest, so preliminary planning has begun and we will be looking to hold a community meeting soon!



Community
Arts Council
of Fort St James
POPE MOUNTAIN ARTS

[Visit our website](#)

[Visit our Facebook page](#)

[Sign up for newsletters](#)

Every community has a heart. A place to gather and a place to create. Pope Mountain Arts is that place. All are welcome to come, create, grow your soul, and get to know our amazing community.

We offer **art workshops, exhibits, music events, and a whole range of drop-in programs**. Memberships for our pottery and fibre arts studios are also available to experienced artisans. Our gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10am-3pm.

Summer Events:

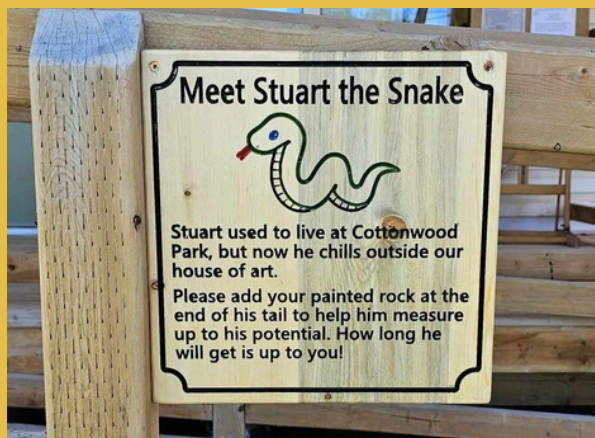
- Come Sing with Us! Every Wednesday until the end of June, drop-in, 1:30-2:30pm
- Meditation Drop-In - June 4th and 18th, July 2nd, 16th, & 30th, 3:15-4:15pm
- Peanut Butter & Jammers: Open Mic & Jam Session - June 28th, 1-4pm
- Coffee House Concert, Arthur Renwick - July 22nd, 7-9pm

Exhibits in the Gallery:

- Nak'azdli Textiles - June 9th - 30th
- Silences and Solitudes Art - July 7th - July 30th

Workshops:

- Willow Weaving - June 12th - 14th
- Fibre Fest
 - Fleece cleaning and washing - July 4th
 - Spinning - July 11th
 - Natural dyeing - July 18th



Come and meet Stuart the Snake!

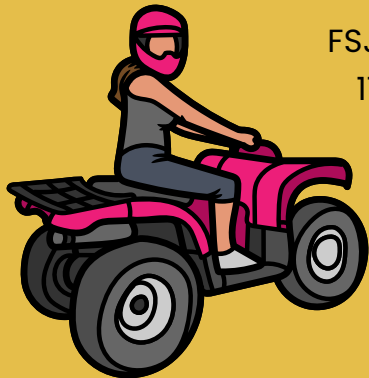
Have you ever seen the rare rock snake? Come check him out outside Pope Mountain Arts, you can even add to him!

Stuart the Snake Scavenger Hunt, a ParticipACTION Community Challenge, starts on June 7th at noon!

Community Events

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR FULL COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

FORT ST. JAMES ATV POKER RIDE



FSJ Snowmobile Clubhouse
11799 Dickinson Loop Rd.

June 6th at 9:30am
\$20 per hand

Plus our local Frenchy's
BBQ food truck!



THEATRE CAMP

July 6th to 10th

Ages 12 - 18 years

More information to come,
check www.theatrenorthwest.com
for updates

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

June 21st

9 - 11am

Pancake Breakfast &
Opening Ceremonies
at Kwah Hall

11:30am - 3:30pm

Festivities, games, &
comedy hour
at Cottonwood Park



CANADA DAY

July 1st

8:30 - 10:30am

Pancake Breakfast at Nak'alBun Elementary

11am

Canada Day Parade on Stuart Drive

11:30am - 4pm

Opening ceremonies, live music,
community market, & festivities
at Cottonwood Park



BINCHE WHUT'EN FISHING DERBY

July 10th to 12th

Over \$50,000 in cash & prizes!
Live music, prize draws, and a fun
family-friendly day on the water!

Buy your tickets at:

BnK Automotive, Canco-
Suspenders, Mcleods, or
Binche Bay Store & Fuel
www.binche.ca



TAKLA NATION FISHING DERBY

July 17th to 19th

Main door prize is a 16 foot boat
with 25 HP motor!

Weigh Stations:

Takla Trading Post
Buckley House
The Narrows

[Takla Lake Fishing Derby](#)
[Facebook Page](#)

Community Events

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR FULL COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

CALEDONIA DAYS FESTIVAL

July 24th to 26th

Friday evening: Walk Through Time
Interpretive Historical Tours

Saturday & Sunday: Pancake breakfasts,
horse & wagon rides, chili cook-off, trick rider
shows, merchandise bingo, community
market, live music, & more!

Want to sponsor an event or volunteer?
Email recreation@fortstjames.ca



MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

July 31st to August 2nd

A multi-day community event featuring
bands and acts from across the country!

A family-friendly community gathering
at Cottonwood Park

6TH ANNUAL NMI SHOW N' SHINE

August 8th at 10am - 2pm
Cottonwood Park

Entrance & Door prizes!



ANNUAL NIGHT MARKETS

July 17th & August 14th
4 - 8 pm
Cottonwood Park

