

# The Fort Flyer

FALL 2026



SEPT - NOV

## NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT OF FORT ST. JAMES

**Inside This Issue:** Department Updates, FAQs, Elections Info, Local Events, & More!



✱ THE FORT FLYER • EST. 2013 ✱



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Perform Your Civic Duty!

General Local Elections are held in Fort St. James every four years to elect a Mayor and four Councilors for the District of Fort St. James. You can do your part for our community and democracy by casting a vote during election season. The 2026 general local election will be held on Saturday, October 17th, 2026.

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Aug 4 - Sept 11  | Nomination packages available        |
| Sept 1 - Sept 11 | Nomination period                    |
| Sept 19 - Oct 17 | Campaign period                      |
| <b>Oct 7</b>     | <b>Advance voting</b>                |
| <b>Oct 17</b>    | <b>General voting</b>                |
| Oct 21           | Deadline to declare election results |
| Nov 3            | Inaugural Council Meeting            |



## Be Bear Aware

It's that time of year where the bears are fattening up for winter. Please pick all the fruit from your trees and remove from your yard. Be aware when out on the trail - and even around town! You can report aggressive or dangerous bears to RAPP at 1-877-952-7277.





# PUBLIC WORKS & CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATES



2026 was another successful year with capital projects and Public Works core operations. Almost all capital projects and maintenance operations were completed before the end of August, allowing us to put effort into beautifications around the community and make town look spiffy!

Thank you to our summer workers for all of your hard work this year!

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. Fort Forum Arena upgrades
2. Spirit Square upgrades
3. Year 3 of Waterline Replacement and Paving Project
4. Lagoon desludging
5. Curling Rink exterior painted
6. Fort Forum Arena exterior painted
7. Fort Forum Arena tube heater and hot water heater replacements
8. Fob entry system installed at Curling Rink and Community Centre
9. Solar lights installed on Save On Trail
10. Senior Centre power door installed
11. Ambulance Centre roof replaced
12. Refurbished welcome sign

13. Cottonwood Park bathroom upgrades
14. Christmas lights upgraded
15. 5 new vehicle/equipment purchases

## ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Cottonwood Marina upgrades
  - a. First phase completed this fall
  - b. Second phase completed 2027
2. Fire Training Centre yard improvements
  - a. Drainage improvements completed this fall
3. Dog pound fencing
  - a. Completed this fall
4. Lagoon aeration
  - a. 90% completed this fall
5. Well twinning



# ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

The **Labour Market Study** is well underway! The EDO is working with Nak'azdli Whut'en, Nak'azdli Development Corporation, and Work BC as well as Applications Management Consulting and Operations Economics to support economic growth in our community. The first Employer Workshops are scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> and workforce workshops, a community survey, and youth engagement will follow this fall! This study will directly inform the **Economic Development Strategy** which the EDO has been working on since February. A sincere thank you to all the business owners, management, and service providers that have contributed to this important work!

It was another fantastic year for our **Summer Recreation Program**! Six weeks of interactive and engaging activities for children in our community, including three field trips and a special appearance from the Fire Department (and the coolest sprinkler in town) . A huge thank you to our recreation leaders, Leila, Reace, and Rachel who made it possible!



## TOURISM CORNER

The 2026 Visitor Information Centre season has come to an end. This year brought many exciting changes to our little VIC and we're very proud!

We started a consignment program to support and highlight local artisans, seven local artists participated this season. We also revamped the *Visit Fort St. James* social medias. As a result, our visitor stats show a big increase in visitors every month this season compared to 2025! A huge thank you is owed to our summer staff, Owen and Jenna, who welcomed visitors and residents with their charm and local knowledge.



# MESSAGE FROM FINANCE



## CAN THE DISTRICT SELL MY HOUSE IF I DON'T PAY MY TAXES?

Homeowners are often confused about if and when municipalities can sell their property for taxes owed. There is a process to sell properties which owe delinquent property taxes, that is true. However, a tax sale is not triggered until a property owes taxes for three tax years. The property tax payment deadline for Fort St James is generally July 2 every year.

At December 31 each year, all unpaid municipal utility bills transfer to the property's tax account. For example, On December 31, 2025, an unpaid 2025 utility bill of \$300 will become zero in the property's utility account, and \$300 will be owing in the property's tax account on January 1, 2026. Those utility charges are then collected alongside property tax and stay attached to the tax roll. Understanding the language governments use helps clarify the timing of when a property must go up for sale.

**Current:** Property taxes invoiced in May 2026 for the 2026 year. Late fees of 2026 property taxes - 10% of unpaid balance added after July 2 deadline.

**Arrears:** Properties with taxes and any outstanding utilities owing for 2025 are now Arrears and accrue daily interest. Municipalities are required by law to charge interest, and are not allowed to reverse or write it off. The interest rate is set by the provincial government.

**Delinquent:** Properties owing taxes, utilities, and interest for the 2024 year. These are the properties which are required to be sold at municipal tax sale. For this year, Delinquent amounts must be paid no later than September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to avoid being in the municipal tax sale.



# NEWS FROM THE FIRE HALL



## HEAT RESPONSIBLY

With the cooler temps comes the increased use of secondary heat sources. It's always a good idea to have your wood/ pellet chimney cleaned and the unit inspected prior to its first use of the season.

If you use electric space heaters, ensure that they are far from combustibles when they are turned on and never leave a space heater on and unattended.

## BYLAW SPOTLIGHT

### TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATION BYLAW NO. 925, 2023

As winter approaches, please be mindful of where you park so that snow removal equipment can safely access and clear our streets. Vehicles parked in a way that obstructs snow-clearing operations may cause delays in keeping the roads clear and cause a hazard.

The District's Traffic and Parking Regulation Bylaw states that no person shall "park any vehicle on any highway such that the vehicle impedes municipal or provincial snow removal operations." By parking with snow removal in mind, you can help keep our street clear, safe, and accessible throughout the winter.



# FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. When does Cottonwood Campground close?**

**A.** The campground attendants completed their summer work term but the campground remains open until the end of September. Call the District Office at 250-996-8233 to book your site!

**Q. When are utility notices out and due?**

**A.** Utility notices will be sent out mid-September and are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Q. When does public skating start?**

**A.** Ice is being installed in the Fort Forum Arena and it will officially open for the season on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Public skating is scheduled to start on September 25<sup>th</sup>.





# Council Information



[Click here](#) to view scheduled Council meetings, agendas, and minutes on the District website.

All are welcome to attend!

COUNCIL MEETS ON TUESDAYS AT 5:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 477 STUART DR. W. | VIRTUAL OPTION

## COUNCIL IS ATTENDING THE UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES SUMMIT

During the UBCM Summit in September, Council has booked meetings with Provincial Ministries to advocate for Fort St. James. This year, Council will be meeting with:

- **Deputy Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills**
  - Regarding the Fort St. James CNC campus closure
- **Minister of Transportation and Transit**
  - Regarding Highway 27 safety and a walkway on the Stuart River Bridge
- **Parliamentary Secretary of Rural Health**
  - Regarding the discontinued Rural and Remote Doctor Incentive
- **Minister of Health**
  - Regarding Nurse Practitioner contracts
- **Minister of Citizen's Services**
  - Regarding connectivity and dead zones
- **Minister of Forests**
  - Regarding cutting permit delays and issues of access and egress



# News From Your Local Community Organizations



## Pope Mountain Arts

Our House is full of fall festivities this season! Follow us on Facebook, subscribe to our newsletter, and check our website regularly to keep up to date!

Continuing programs starting up again:

**Meditation sessions** - September 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Choir** - September 9<sup>th</sup>

**Come Sing With Us** - September 9<sup>th</sup>

**Sew For Fun** - September 12<sup>th</sup>

**Soup and Art** - September 28<sup>th</sup>

**BC Culture Days** runs Sept 18<sup>th</sup> to Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and we have so many free events from poetry readings to travel tales and collage cafes to a creative retreat!

There are a number of other art exhibits, concerts, and workshops to keep you engaged and creative. There's absolutely something for everyone!

## Chamber of Commerce



The Chamber is excited to offer a **Board Training Workshop by Zandra Ross Consulting**, free and open to all non-profits! Two sessions available at the Community Centre, 1-3:30pm or 5-7:30pm, refreshments provided.



## Caledonia Days Committee

Planning for 2027 Caledonia Days has begun! Join us at our first meeting on **Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Pope Mountain Arts**. We will be choosing a new date, assigning volunteers, and brainstorming activities!



# News From Your Local Community Organizations



NAWHULNUKW BAYOH  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Public Library

NEW monthly **Community Connection sessions** from September to November.

Presenters will include:

- Kevin Crook, Notary
- RBC
- Northern Health

**September is Library Card Sign-Up Month**, and we are introducing a new patron profile: Digital Patrons. Patrons who face transportation barriers can still access a range of digital resources through their library card, including Libby/OverDrive (eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines), Kanopy Plus (streaming), and online learning platforms.

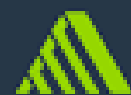
**November is our Big Book Sale month!**

This annual event gives retired library books a second life while inviting community donations to support our 2027 collection acquisitions.

## Stuart Lake Seniors Association

We provide **lunch** three days per week - Monday, Wednesday, Friday - from 11:30am to 1:00pm, open to everyone! **Exercise classes** are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am. **Game nights** are Thursdays at 7:00pm.

**Our tentative opening is October 14<sup>th</sup>.** Annual memberships are \$20 (August 2026-2027), but you don't have to be a member to come! The Fall BBQ is coming soon! Volunteers always needed.



**KDL Resource Management**

A MERAKI COMPANY

## Community Forest

The District has been granted, by the Province of British Columbia, the opportunity to expand the managed area of the Community Forest! Stay tuned for an upcoming open house.



# Community Events

## FORT FORUM ARENA OPENS

**September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Public skating scheduled to start  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

## 47TH ANNUAL MOUNT POPE RUN

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Start at Cottonwood Beach at 9am  
Register with Keith Gordon at  
kggordon222@gmail.com

## SENIORS BIRTHDAY TEA

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

Seniors Centre at 2pm

Celebrating all seniors  
80+ years old

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

**November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Veterans March starts  
at Zion Chapel at  
10:30am followed by a  
service at the Cenotaph.  
Lunch provided.

## NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Nak'alBun Elementary

11am-3pm

## HALLOWEEN

**October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

Cottonwood Park &  
Pope Mountain Arts

Pumpkin walk, haunted  
maze, witches dance!  
Beach bonfire with hot  
dogs and hot chocolate.

Volunteers wanted:  
Email [recreation@fortstjames.ca](mailto:recreation@fortstjames.ca)

## SANTA CLAUS PARADE & MOONLIGHT MADNESS

**November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

The annual Santa Claus Parade is back!  
Followed by an evening of downtown Christmas shopping.