

District of Clearwater

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Message from the Mayor

I've experienced a lot of different types of Christmases in my 50-plus years on Earth.

I grew up in various family configurations. The traditional married parents, single parents, blended families, step siblings, half brothers and sisters, girlfriends and their families, step kids, and now step kids and their partners.

I've seen Christmases with lots of gifts, and those where there were few or even none.

I remember one Christmas in my 20s where the teens/young adults got out calculators and added up the estimated value of all their "loot" to ensure their was equal value amongst them. Spoiler alert: Things went very sideways the year one of those "adult kids" got an engagement ring for Christmas.

I've had Christmases where the goal was gifts under a certain value, "Secret Santa" gifts, where you all put your names in a hat and you only had to buy a gift for the person whose name you drew, had to be handmade.

I've spent Christmases at the families of relatives or friends, or with new friends who lived too far from "home" to go there for Christmas.

I've also spent several Christmases travelling, alone or with others. I fondly remember a Christmas dinner with new friends in the Australian Outback eating kangaroo steaks, emu nuggets and camel sausage. I remember Christmas Eve Kentucky Fried Chicken in

Japan, horrified to discover they leave the feet on the drumsticks there. Christmas in the jungle in Mexico where the turkeys walk past you instead being on the plate.

In all those Christmases, there are many things I found to be true. The gifts were always different, sometimes treasured, but often quickly forgotten. The food was good, bad or exceptional, but very rarely the highlight of the day. The location was memorable or not.

But there are two things I always remember about every Christmas: The first is the people who I spent Christmas with, and the second is how we spent that time together.

I remember crosswords and jigsaw puzzles with aunts and in-laws, soccer with kids in hot sand, snow forts and snowball fights, carving turkeys, finding toboggan hills, and doing ill-advised things with snowmobiles and GT Racers. I remember sappy Christmas movies or sports after a full-bellied meal, outdoor fires in the snow, ice fishing in minus 20. I remember using the \$50 my grandparents sent me to take my best friends to the movies on boxing day.

After all these years, Christmas for me has always been about time spent with people. The rest is just a bonus.

Merry Christmas,
Mayor Merlin Blackwell



Happy Holidays

The District offices will be closed starting noon on Tuesday, December 24, 2024, and will re-open on Thursday, January 2, 2025, If your Driver License or Insurance is expiring this year between December 24 and January 1, please come to see us prior to December 24 at noon.

New Hours of Operation

Monday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Weekends/Holidays Closed

Community Events

- Clearwater Farmers Markets, DLCC, December 7 & 21 from 10am-1pm
- Cram the Cruiser, Buy-Low Parking Lot on December 7
- Winter Craft Fair, Elks Hall, December 7, from 10am-2pm
- Breakfast with Santa, Legion, December 8 from 8:30am-12pm
- Grad Bingo, CSS Concession, December 13 at 5pm
- Voices United Community performing “Rhapsody in Bluegrass, DLCC, December 14
- Coffee House, Valley Pride Community & Unity Elks Hall, December 14 at 6:30pm
- Toy Drive: Drop off toys until December 16 at Buy-Low, Fields, Home Hardware, Mystic Dreams, Old Town Gift Shoppe & Pharmasave
- Christmas at the Fair, North Thompson Fall Fair & Rodeo, 4856 Dunn Lake Road, December 13-15 & 20-23 from 5pm-8pm, Santa will be there December 14 & 21!

Council and Standing Meeting Schedule

January	7 7 21 21	Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Budget Workshop 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM
February	4 4 4 18 18	Budget Workshop 11:00 AM Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Budget Workshop 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM
March	4 4 4 18 18	Strategic Plan Update 11:00 AM Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Budget Workshop 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM
April	1 1 1 2-4 15 April 29-May 1	Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel 11:00 AM Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM COFI Convention Prince George Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM SILGA Convention Merritt
May	6 6 20 May 29-June 1	Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM FCM Ottawa Ontario
June	3 3 3 17	Strategic Plan Update 11:00 AM Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM
July	8 8	Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM
August	19 19 19	Budget Workshop 11:00 AM Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM
September	2 2 2 16 Sept 22-26	Strategic Plan Update 11:00 AM Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM UBCM Victoria
October	7 7 7 21 21	Budget Workshop 11:00 AM Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Budget Workshop 11:00 AM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM
November	4 4 18 18	Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Budget Workshop 11:00 AM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM
December	2 2 2 16	Strategic Plan Update 11:00 AM Committee of the Whole 12:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM Regular Council Meeting 2:00 PM

Finance

Reminders

Water and Sewer Bills

The due date for water and sewer payments is December 2, 2024, after which time a 10% penalty will apply. On January 1, 2025, any outstanding water and sewer amounts will be rolled into taxes in arrears and daily interest will accumulate at the rate prescribed by the Province of BC.

Property Taxes

On January 1, 2025, any outstanding 2024 property taxes owed will become taxes in arrears, and any unpaid 2023 property taxes will become delinquent. Delinquent accounts will be subject to tax sale in September. Daily interest will accumulate on both accounts at the rate prescribed by the Province of BC.

Home Owner Grant

If you have not done so for 2024 or 2023, apply for your Home Owner Grant. You can apply online at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or call toll-free at 1-888-355-2700, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, excluding statutory holidays.

2025 Property Assessments

Property assessments for 2025 will be released by BC Assessment the first week of January 2025. Due to the Canada Post disruption, BC Assessment is encouraging customers to consider other options available. Please go to www.bcassessment.ca for more details.

If you feel your property assessment is incorrect, contact BC Assessment to discuss your assessment. 1-866-valueBC (1-866-825-8322). The deadline to file a notice of complaint (appeal) to the Property Assessment Review Panel is January 31, 2025.

OpenBook

In an effort to provide greater transparency, the

District of Clearwater has launched a new financial transparency tool that dynamically presents the District of Clearwater's financial budget. It presents the information in various graphical formats that can be selected by the user. The information includes the District's projects and operating budgets. Good to the District website to launch OpenBook. Finance Services : District of Clearwater.

Community Engagement

Financial Plan 2025-2029

The District of Clearwater invites you to the upcoming Community Engagement for the 2025-2029 Financial Plan. The District will host several "Pop-Up" tables with the first being at the Christmas Evening Market on December 6, at the Ski Hill from 5 - 8:30pm. Watch our website and Facebook page for confirmation of future "Pop-Up" tables in the new year.

Other ways to engage in the financial plan include completing the up coming survey, read our website and send us an email at feedback@docbc.ca. We look forward hearing from you.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the District's new, interactive OpenBook website.



Community Engagement



Financial Plan

The District of Clearwater is inviting you to the upcoming public engagement sessions for the 2025-2029 Financial Plan Process.

Please come and join us; this is a great opportunity to provide feedback and share your priorities. There will be three public sessions starting in December. Details about specific locations will be coming up soon.

Ways to engage

1

SURVEY

Complete the survey

2

IN PERSON

Please join us at one of our pop-up tables

3

WEBSITE

Visit our Finance website and OpenBook for more information



Dec.6.2024
Christmas Evening Market at the Ski Hill

5 - 8:30 pm

Watch for other events in:
January and February 2025

VISIT US AT

www.districtofclearwater.com
<https://www.facebook.com/DistrictofClearwater>



Questions?
Contact the District at finance@docbc.ca

Taking Care of Yourself During the Holiday Season and Winter

As the winter weather blankets our country with snow and shorter days, it's common to feel a dip in energy levels. Seasonal changes can impact our mood, motivation, and overall well-being. But with the right self-care measures, you can stay energized and make the most of the frosty season. These are also helpful tips to assist us getting through the holiday season which can be difficult for many. These are some expert-backed strategies to keep your energy levels high during winter.

1. Soak Up Natural Light

With reduced daylight hours, many Canadians experience Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) or milder winter blues. To combat this, try to maximize your exposure to natural light.

- Morning Walks: Bundle up and take a brisk walk during daylight hours.
- Bright Spaces: Keep blinds open and sit near windows to let the sunshine in.
- Light Therapy: Consider investing in a light therapy lamp to mimic natural sunlight.

2. Stay Active Indoors and Outdoors

While it's tempting to hibernate, regular physical activity can significantly boost your energy.

- Winter Sports: Engage in snowshoeing, skiing, or ice skating.
- Home Workouts: Follow yoga or strength training routines to stay active indoors.

Exercise releases endorphins, reducing fatigue and improving your mood.

3. Eat for Energy

A balanced diet is crucial for maintaining steady energy levels.

- Warm Comfort Foods: Opt for hearty soups,

stews, and whole grains that provide sustained energy.

- Vitamin D: Include fortified foods or supplements to compensate for reduced sunlight.
- Hydration: Don't forget to drink water, as dehydration can also cause fatigue, even in winter.

4. Prioritize Sleep Quality

Long winter nights can disrupt your natural sleep rhythm.

- Consistent Schedule: Go to bed and wake up at the same time daily.
- Sleep-Friendly Environment: Keep your room cool, dark, and quiet.
- Limit Screen Time: Avoid screens an hour before bedtime to encourage better sleep.

5. Embrace the Outdoors

Winter doesn't have to keep you cooped up. Embracing the season can have a rejuvenating effect.

- Cold & Snow Adventures: Fight the urge to stay inside on those frosty days and try and get outside for a walk. Often the crisp air is invigorating. Just a short walk can have a positive impact.
- Community Events: Participate in local events, even if just for 15 minutes. Try connecting and see what happens.

6. Connect and Reflect

Social interaction and mindfulness can keep your spirits high during colder months.

- Stay Social: Plan regular meet-ups with friends and family, whether virtually or in person. Reach out to one person who might need a friend or someone to talk to.

Sometimes giving is where we find happiness and we can forget our worries.

- Practice Mindfulness: Meditation, journaling, or gratitude exercises can reduce stress and enhance mental clarity.

7. Dress Warm and Layer Up

Proper winter attire is not just for comfort; it can also help conserve energy.

- Layer Smartly: Wear moisture-wicking fabrics close to your skin, followed by insulating layers and windproof outerwear.
- Protect Extremities: Don't forget warm hats, gloves, and thermal socks to retain body heat.

The Takeaway

Cold weather and the holidays can be challenging, but it also offers opportunities for self-discovery and adaptation. Step outside and reach up and above the things that try to hold you down. By incorporating these self-care measures into your daily routine, you can maintain your energy levels and embrace the beauty of the season.

Stay warm, stay active, and let this winter be a season of vitality! Find connection to yourself, community, outdoors and maybe even one another.

North Thompson Sportsplex

Events and activities for everyone!



Arena Schedule

Dec. 6–8 U13 Hockey Tournament
Clearwater game times Friday 6:45, Sat. 12:15 & 5:30, Sunday to be confirmed
Dec. 13–15 U18 Hockey Tournament

Clearwater game times Friday 6, Sat. 1 & 7, Sunday to be confirmed
Dec. 23 Figure Skating Exhibition Skate
Dec. 23 Santa Skate
Dec. 24–26 Arena Closed
Dec. 28 Minor Hockey Alumni Game
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 Arena Closed

Family Skating

Sunday, Dec. 1 from 4–5:30 sponsored by Superior Propane
Friday, Dec. 6 cancelled
Sunday, Dec. 8 from 4–5:30 sponsored by Nest

Timber Homes
Friday, Dec. 13 cancelled
Sunday, Dec. 15 from 4–5:30 sponsored by BJC HVAC
Friday, Dec. 20 from 4:30–5:45 sponsored by Fleetwest
Sunday, Dec. 22 from 4–5:30 sponsored by Fleetwest
Monday, Dec. 23 from 5–6:30 Santa Skate sponsored by Clearwater Minor Hockey
Friday, Dec. 27 from 4:30–5:45 sponsored by Pharmasave
Sunday, Dec. 29 from 4–5:30 sponsorship to be confirmed
*Ice time is available for private rentals.





A sumptuous
FREE DINNER
to celebrate
the season!

CLEARWATER COMMUNITY
**CHRISTMAS
DINNER**

Sit-down, Pick up, or Delivered!

To reserve a place for a sit down dinner at the Ski Hill, please book early as space is limited.
Doors open at 4.30pm and dinner is served at 5pm.

To reserve for pick up or delivery, please book by December 15th.

Pick up orders will be ready by 3pm on December 24th. Delivery orders will arrive before 4pm.

To book dinner, email **Shelley Sim** shelleysim@telus.net or Call/Text 250.674.1128

Tuesday December 24, 2024

♥ **Would you like
to sponsor
a meal and be
a Secret Santa?**

Suggested donation is \$15/person which provides a gorgeous ham with potatoes, tasty veggies, dessert, and a Christmas Gift Bag
...with Christmas Spirit & Love!
E-transfer your donation to the ETC BC Society at donate2etc@gmail.com

Recreation, Culture, and Events

Winter recreation schedule

The District of Clearwater Recreation, Culture and Events department has worked very hard in bringing a variety of activities to the residents and visitors of Clearwater. Over the next few pages are a list of activities and sports available. For more information, contact the RCE Coordinator at lculp@docbc.ca or (250) 674-8881 (call or text). To register in non-drop-in activities, head to app.booking.ca/clearwaterpub/ or scan the QR code.



RCE Programs December 2024 to February 2025

Day	Program	Time	Session Dates	Cost	Location	Instructor
Monday	Mindful Yoga	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Sept 30 - Dec 16 Jan 6 - March 17 April 28 - June 23	\$95/10 classes \$104.50/11 classes \$85.50/9 classes	Wellness Studio	Sylvia Arduini
Wednesday	Yogalates	5:45-6:45 p.m.	2025 Dates TBD	\$57/6 classes	DLCC Gym	Denica Kelly
TBA	Cycling	TBD	2025 Dates TBD	TBD	CSS Upper Gym	Denica Kelly
Monday & Wednesday	Yellow Belts	3:10-4:10 p.m.*	January 8 - March 12	\$162/18 classes	Wellness Studio	Myrna Harrod-Taniguti
Monday & Wednesday	Green Belts	4:15-5:15 p.m.*	January 8 - March 12	\$162/18 classes	Wellness Studio	Myrna Harrod-Taniguti
Tuesday & Thursday	White Belts (news students)	3:10-4:10 p.m.	January 7 - March 13	\$180/20 classes	Wellness Studio	Myrna Harrod-Taniguti
Tuesday & Thursday	Orange Belts	4:15-5:15 p.m.	January 14 - March 13	\$162/18 classes	Wellness Studio	Myrna Harrod-Taniguti
Tuesday & Thursday	Evening Class (Adults and Teens)	7-8 p.m.	January 7 - March 13	\$180/20 classes Drop-in option available	Wellness Studio	Myrna Harrod-Taniguti
Friday	Guided Painting Class	1-4 p.m.	2025 Dates TBD	\$40/class	DLCC	Pam Campbell
Saturday	Children's Christmas Gift Workshop	10-11:30 a.m. & 11:30-1 p.m.	December 7	\$15/child	DLCC	Arlet Devisser
Friday	Art Classes	5-7 p.m.	2025 Dates TBD	TBD	DLCC	Arlet Devisser

Drop-ins are welcome for fitness programs. Please contact RCE Coordinator prior to attending to see if there is space. The fee to drop-in is \$10/class. You can bring cash to class or purchase a punch card at the DOC front desk at the DLCC.

*Youth Aikido: No classes on Family Day, February 17, 2025.

Drop-in Sports/Activities December 2024 to February 2025

Day	Program	Time	Session Dates	Cost	Location
Monday	*Badminton	7:30-9:30 p.m.	Oct 2-Spring TBD	\$2	Clearwater Secondary School Gym
Monday	*Basketball	6-7:15 p.m.	Ongoing to Spring 2025	\$2	Clearwater Secondary School Gym
Monday	Carpet Bowling	1-3 p.m.	Ongoing	\$2	Legion
Monday	Indoor Pickleball	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Ongoing until May 2025	\$2	Dutch Lake Community Centre
Tuesday	Parent/Preschool & Home School Skating	9:30-11:30 a.m.	September 24-Spring	FREE	North Thompson Sportsplex
Tuesday	Indoor Pickleball	12-2 p.m.	Ongoing until May 6, 2025	FREE	Dutch Lake Community Centre
Tuesday	Indoor Walking Club	3:30-4:30 p.m.	September 2024 - June 2025	FREE	Clearwater Secondary School
Wednesday	*Indoor Soccer	6-7:15 p.m.	Ongoing until April 2025	\$2	Clearwater Secondary School Gym
Wednesday	*Badminton	7:30-9:30 p.m.	Ongoing Until Spring 2025 TBD	\$2	Clearwater Secondary School Gym
Thursday	Indoor Walking Club	3:30-4:30 p.m.	September 2024 - June 2025	FREE	Clearwater Secondary School
Thursday	Indoor Pickleball	12-2 p.m.	Ongoing until May 6, 2025	FREE	Dutch Lake Community Centre
Friday	Youth Stick and Puck	3:15-4:15 p.m.	Dates TBD	FREE	North Thompson Sportsplex
Friday	Public Skating	4:30-5:45 p.m.	Ongoing	FREE	North Thompson Sportsplex
Friday	Indoor Pickleball	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Ongoing until May 2025	\$2	Dutch Lake Community Centre
Sunday	Public Skating	4-5:30 p.m.	Ongoing	FREE	North Thompson Sportsplex

You can bring cash to drop-in or purchase a drop-in punch card at the DOC front desk at the FLCC to use!
*Drop-in sports are open to youth Grade 7 and up. Youth play for free with thanks to United Way.

Senior Activities and Programs December 2024 to February 2025

Day	Program	Time	Dates	Cost	Location
Monday	Chair and Mat Yoga	9-10 a.m.	Ongoing	FREE (with membership)	Evergreen Acres
Monday	Carpet Bowling	1-3:30 p.m.	Ongoing	\$3	Legion
Tuesday	Indoor Walking Club	3:30-4:30 p.m.	September 2024 - June 2025	FREE	Clearwater Secondary School
Wednesday	Chair and Mat Yoga	9-10 a.m.	Ongoing	FREE (with membership)	Evergreen Acres
Wednesday	Healthy Aging Yoga	10:30-11 a.m.	Ongoing	FREE (with membership)	Evergreen Acres
Thursday	Indoor Walking Club	3:30-4:30 p.m.	September 2024 - June 2025	FREE	Clearwater Secondary School

For more information on Senior offerings in the community, please contact Lynne Frizzle at seniorsnetworkcoordinator@gmail.com or



SANTA SKATE

NORTH THOMPSON SPORTSPLEX

ENTRY BY DONATION

DECEMBER235-6:30 PM

COCOA • SKATING • CRAFTS

- ENTRY BY DONATION FOR FOOD BANK
- FREE HOT CHOCOLATE & HOTDOGS
- SKATING WITH SANTA & THE ELVES SPONSORED BY CLEARWATER & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AND DISTRICT OF CLEARWATER
- FESTIVE CRAFTING IN THE CURLING LOBBY
- CONCESSION OPEN



Drop-in Activities and Community Programs/Events

Day	Program	Ages	Time	Dates	Cost	Location	Partner/ Facilitator
Monday	Art Club	CSS Students	3-5 p.m.	Sept - June	FREE	CSS Art Room	Clearwater Secondary School
Tuesday	Diabetes	All Ages	7-8 p.m.	First Tuesday of every month	FREE	TBD	Gerda Faber & TNRL
Thursday	D&D Club	CSS Students	3-7 p.m.	November - June	FREE	CSS	Clearwater Secondary School
Wednesday	Drop-in Painting	All Ages	3-6 p.m.	December 11 January 15 February 12	Donation	DLCC	Valley Pride
Saturday	Tabletop Games Night	All Ages	5-10 p.m.	December 14 January 11 & 25 February 15 & 22	Donation	DLCC	Valley Pride
Sunday	Santa Skate	All Ages	5-6:30 p.m.	December 23	FREE	NTSP	CDMHA
Weekdays & Weekends	Hockey Days	All Ages	Various times	January 17-26	FREE	NTSP	CDMHA
Weekdays & Weekends	Winterfest	All Ages	Various times	January 31 - February 17	TBD	Community wide/TBD	Various Community Organizations
Monday	Family Day	Families	TBD	February 17	FREE	CSS	CSS
Friday-Monday	Kangeiko (Aikido)	All Ages	TBD	February 14-17	TBD	DLCC	Clearwater Aikikai

Hours

Monday
9 am–4 pm
Tuesday to Friday
8:30am–4:30pm
Saturday, Sunday & Stats
No Service

After hours emergency
number:
[250.674.3015](tel:250.674.3015)

District of Clearwater

Dutch Lake
Community Centre
209 Dutch Lake Road
PO Box 157
Clearwater BC V0E 1N0
Phone: 250.674.2257
Fax: 250.674.2173
admin@docbc.ca

District Services

- Bylaw Enforcement
- Cemetery/Columbarium
- Development Services
- Economic Development
- Fire Protection
- ICBC/Motor Vehicle Agent
- North Thompson Sportsplex
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works (Water/Sewer)
- Road Maintenance
- Street Lighting
- Transit Service