

October 2025

District of Clearwater

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Message from the Mayor

Advocacy is a big part of Clearwater Council's job.

We hear about a concern, we find out who is the best person to talk about it, then we try and get a resolution. We aren't always successful, but we do try.

Often we have to try over and over again on the same issues. Healthcare, Wildfire, Enforcement, and Highways issues are areas where we've been to the table many, many times. And we don't always talk about it publicly, often because we need to protect local sources.

In the last month, I've had advocacy calls (or emails) with the Health Minister, several members of IHA upper management, MOT (Highways) managers, SD73 leadership, other mayors, and so on. DOC management has had even more problem solving or advocacy meetings on things like Transit, Public Safety, regional issues, etc.

Half of Council and our CAO will be going to the Union of BC Municipalities convention at the end of the month to plead our case in person to the above-mentioned Ministries, as well as Mines, Energy/BC Hydro, Public Safety, Housing and more. We will likely be able to have impromptu discussions with other government ministers and staffers as well.

Solutions don't always come easily. Take Initial Attack crews being returned to Clearwater; we have worked on that for years, but we haven't given up. I fully expect to see them returned when the right situation/conditions happen.

The other side of our advocacy job is local problem solving. We work with citizens, businesses, organizations, etc to get local issues solved, problems that are the responsibility of the District of Clearwater, the TNRD, or others.

I deal with some issues through "office hours". In the past 2 months, I've taken in multiple complaints about speeding, trespassing, vandalism, food quality, vermin concerns, etc. I generally pass them on to staff to deal with, or call up other organizations like MOTT, IHA, the RCMP and the CO Service and have a conversation with them about what can be done. If I don't get an answer, I push higher up the food chain. Answers, and solutions, are not always quick, but we try. Bylaw complaints, for example, can take months or even years to resolve due to legal processes required, but filing a formal complaint is always the first step.

Council does flag some things for staff or for me from citizens via DMs/texts/Social Media.

Continued...

This is not a great way to solve things as we are often getting info late or second hand. And in cases like bylaw, building violations, or animal control, there actually needs to be a formal complaint filed, and it can't come second hand from a council member. There are so many different community pages now that it is nearly impossible to follow any of them, let alone track down an issue on any one of them.

Anything bylaw should come to the front desk. Potholes, damage in parks, non-emergency

district issues also front desk or 250-674-2257. Broken waterline, call the emergency number at 250-674-3015.

Anything advocacy you can still bring to council or to me mblackwell@docbc.ca, or call 250-674-2257 extension 103.

Thanks,

Mayor Merlin Blackwell



Protective Services Update

Clearwater Fire Department – Building Our Initial Attack Team

We're excited to share some great news about the growth of our Initial Attack (IA) Program here in Clearwater! This year, five new members joined the team, training alongside three of our current firefighters and one member of the Mitigation Crew.

Over the past season, they rolled up their sleeves and learned valuable skills, including:

- Wildfire basics (S-100/185 certification)
- Clear and effective communications
- Safe and efficient chainsaw use
- Fireline safety practices

Hands-on wildfire scenarios with equipment

To give our team the tools they need, we added a Type 3 Engine to our fleet and gave new life to one of our reserve Tenders, ensuring we're bet-

ter equipped for wildfire response in our region.

What's Next?

Looking ahead to 2026, our IA crew will keep building skills and confidence with:

- Refresher training starting in mid-spring
- More time on the equipment—pumps, apparatus, and everything in between
- Live fire practice to prepare for the real thing
- Cross-training with Clearwater Fire crews and Simpcw's Initial Attack team

Learning helicopter safety for future wildfire support

We're proud of the progress so far and grateful for the dedication of our firefighters and partners. Together, we're working to keep Clearwater safer and stronger in the face of wildfire.



Protective Services Update

Fire Smart Mitigation Program – 2025 Season Update

From the end of May through mid-September, the Clearwater Fire Department's Fire Smart Mitigation Program was in full swing. We hired three dedicated seasonal personnel who received training in tool use, maintenance, and safety. To increase our capacity, we also purchased a large commercial brush chipper, which allowed us to tackle more projects across the community.

What We Accomplished in 2025:

- 16 Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessments
- 7 Wildfire Mitigation Program Assessments
- 6 Critical Infrastructure Assessments
- Mitigation work completed at 5 Critical Infrastructure locations
- 5 Greenspace Assessments and mitigation work at 5 locations
- Mitigation work at 10 Roadside locations

- Mitigation work at 11 Private Properties (focused on seniors and vulnerable residents)
- 21 Properties provided with chipping-only services

Attended 3 Fire Smart community education events

Looking Ahead to 2026

In the upcoming season, the Fire Smart team plans to:

- Track and measure the amount of debris processed
- Expand support for private property mitigation work
- Increase work along roadsides and ditches

Explore larger prescribed fuel treatment projects identified in the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

Together, these efforts continue to make Clearwater safer and more resilient to wildfire.



Facilities, Parks and Arena

North Thompson Sportsplex

The Sportsplex is now open for the 2025 – 2026 season.

Family Skating is normally held every Friday at 4:30 and Sunday at 3:00. This season on September 24 we are going to start an Adult Only Public Skating Wednesday nights at 8:45

All sessions are no charge thanks to the sponsorship of local groups and businesses.

Parents and Preschool / Home School Skating every Tuesday at 9:30am. These sessions are No Charge and this program begins September 23.

Adult Hockey has several options:

Drop in for all ages and skill levels most Fridays at 7:15 and every Sunday at 7:00

Ladies Hockey most Fridays at 6:00 and every Sunday at 5:45

Old Guys Hockey for the less skilled or those whose best hockey days may be behind them, every Sunday at 4:30, Monday at 1:00 and Friday at 1:00

All adult hockey is drop in and \$15 per session.

Curling begins October 14 with league play Monday to Thursday.

The Sportsplex sends out a weekly “What’s Happening” email, if you would like to receive this weekly email please contact Rmayer@docbc.ca.

For more info about:

Minor Hockey - [Clearwater Minor Hockey Association](#)

Figure Skating - raftmountainskating@gmail.com

Curling Club - wgcurl@gmail.com

The District is offering advertising space on our new Zamboni. If you are interested in this unique advertising option contact the arena staff at 250 674 8712.

Parks and Trails

The parks have been very busy this season and will be open as weather allows. Washrooms will be closing for the season on October 14.

The District has been approached by two local groups about a Bike Park and a Dog Park, both to be located at the existing Pioneer/ Splash Park.

District staff and council are working on these proposals and hope to have more information for the community soon.



Recreation, Culture and Events

Summer Update:

Swim Lessons at Dutch Lake with Kawiria Creed, Cleo Coates and Evan Colborne: 105 students over 4 amazing weeks!

Day Camps with Kiah Philips and Martha Taylor: saw 42 registrations and 20 drop-ins over 5 weeks!

Hockey School at NTSP: 101 players from Clearwater, Kamloops, Barriere and other areas!

Starry Nights event was a success! Around 40 visitors came to listen to the presentation and look through the telescope before an intense storm rolled through! We are excited to host again next year and make the event even bigger

Coming up!

- Yoga with Sylvia to return in September Monday evenings - dates to be announced!
- Drop-in indoor Pickleball to return to DLCC mid-September!
- Fall drop-in painting and drop-in tabletop games nights to be announced
- Culture Days September 19th - October 12th - event/program schedule to be released early September



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

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

Hours

Monday to Friday
8:30am-4:30pm

Saturday, Sunday
& Stats No Service

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

OCP Update:

Halfway to a New Community Plan!

We've reached the halfway point in updating our Official Community Plan (OCP), and we want to thank the hundreds of you who shared your thoughts and ideas during the first round of community engagement.

Over the past few months, our consultant team hosted an open house, online survey, community pop-ups, business drop-ins, one-on-one meetings with Council, and focus group interviews. Your input is helping us create a plan that truly reflects the community's values, priorities, and vision for the future.

A **"What We Heard" Report** summarizing all the feedback will be posted on the District's OCP Update webpage in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, the project team is busy completing technical analysis and refining key issues as we prepare the first draft of the updated OCP.

Save the Date: Join us on **October 22nd at the DLCC** for the second round of community engagement. The project team will present the draft directions for the new OCP and invite your feedback to help fine-tune the plan before it's finalized.

Council Highlights

January 21, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council approved the installation of a memorial plaque at Weyerhaeuser Park to commemorate Tim Panko in recognition of his service to the community.
- Council approved entering into the amended and restated Memorandum of Understanding and Protocol Agreement (MOU) between the Simpcw First Nation and the District of Clearwater.
- Council adopted the Terms of Reference for the Public Art Advisory Committee as amended at the January 21, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
- Council supported the application for the British Columbia Water Meter Pilot Project Grant; AND
 - THAT Council confirms a commitment to cover financial overruns should they occur; AND THAT Council endorses staff participation in data collection and knowledge-sharing activities required by the pilot project.

January 31, 2025 Special Council Meeting

- In response to community feedback related to a local business not compliant with liquor and health regulations, council passed the following resolutions;
 - WHEREAS Liquor licensing and enforcement falls under Provincial jurisdiction; AND WHEREAS Restaurants operating in British Columbia require a Permit from the presiding Provincial Health Authority (Interior Health Authority); AND WHEREAS Non-enforcement of Provincial law fosters non-compliance with, and disrespect for, the law;
 - NOW THEREFORE be it resolved: THAT the District of Clearwater calls on the Province of British Columbia to uphold the rule of law in the District of Clearwater; AND THAT Council direct staff to prepare and send a letter to the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of the Attorney General and our local Member of Legislative Assembly, urging them to enforce the Province's liquor licensing and Health regulations within the District of Clearwater.

February 4, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council accepted the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole at its January 21, 2025, Budget Workshop be adopted as presented, specifically: THAT staff be directed to allocate and dispense funds from the 2025 Grant-in-Aid Budget for a one-time grant-in-aid contribution

Organization:	Amount:	Purpose:
Wells Gray Outdoor Club	\$500	Candle Creek Half Marathon;
Clearwater Slo-Pitch	50% of league, tournament, and beer garden fees	
Royal Canadian Legion BR 259	\$500	First Responders Dinner
Clearwater Fire Department Association	\$1,000	Halloween fireworks
Dunn Folkin' Around Arts Society	\$1,000	Folkin' Around Festival AND a letter of support for their applications to other grant opportunities
Clearwater Secondary School PAC	\$5,000	Core Competency Week
Wells Gray Country Seniors Society	\$4,800	Men's Shed rental space.

- Council approved the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole at its February 4, 2025, Budget Workshop be adopted as presented, specifically:
 - THAT Council approve the early budget allocation of \$75,000 in the 2025-2029 5 year financial plan to be funded from unrestricted surplus to obtain a Class B cost estimate for the construction of a medivac helipad at Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospi-

tal; AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with grant application preparations under the BC Air Access Program Infrastructure Stream.

February 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council approved the Development Variance Permit No. DVP-24-02 for 1485 Davy Road (Lot 2, District Lot 900A, KDYD, Plan 22715) to permit cannabis retail use at 343 Clearwater Valley Rd
- Council approved that Animal Control and Municipal Ticket Information Amendment By-law No. 318, 2025 be adopted.

March 4, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council received the 2025 Financial plan survey results; AND THAT Council confirms the District of Clearwater has held sufficient public consultation on the 2025-2029 Financial Plan.
- Council approved the proposed venue for the Cruisin' Clearwater Car Show, pending the finalization and approval of the road closure permit.
- Council approved that the District of Clearwater Bylaw No. 319, 2025, 2024-2028 Amended Five Year Financial Plan be adopted.
- Council agreed to send a letter of support for the 2025 BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program to the Minister of Health, Honourable Josie Osborne.

March 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council authorized that the Sewer Security Project for \$45,608 and the Water Security Project for \$171,708 receive early approval.
- Council approved that the Public Hearing input and staff report be considered, and if no amendments are proposed, that Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 317, be read a third time.

- Council approved the Fire Smart Mitigation Crew proposal as presented at the March 18, 2025, Regular Council Meeting as a pilot program through 2027; AND
 - THAT Council approve the service level change for Fire Smart crew members, increasing from 300 hours to 1,920 hours annually, and direct staff to include the positions in the 2025-2029 Financial Plan; AND THAT Council give early approval of the service level change; AND
 - THAT Council approve the early budget allocation of \$55,000 in the 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Plan, to be funded from Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) reserves, for the purchase of a wood chipper to support Fire Smart Fuel Mitigation efforts; AND
 - THAT Council direct staff to report back prior to the end of 2027 with an evaluation of the program's effectiveness and recommendations for its continuation, modification, or conclusion.

April 1, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council approved staff to prepare and issue a letter of support for the North Thompson Arts Council's Children's Art Festival, scheduled for August 7, 2025, to accompany their funding applications.
- Council approved a grant-in-aid in-kind for the North Thompson Arts Council's Children's Art Festival on August 7, 2025, to provide assistance with the setup and takedown of tents, tables, and chairs, subject to staff coordination with Lively Arts regarding site logistics.
- Council adopted Bylaw No. 317 to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 133 to add a permitted use for a veterinary clinic or animal hospital at 205E Old North Thompson Hwy, Bylaw No. 312 to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 133 to add a permitted use for cannabis retail at 343 Clearwater Valley Road, and Bylaw

No. 322 to amend Volunteer Fire Department Regulations Bylaw No. 233 by adding or updating numerous definitions

April 15, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council approved and adopted the updated Strategic Plan as presented at the April 15, 2025 Council meeting
- Council approved staff to initiate community engagement within 100 metres of the proposed Dog Park Site #3 (Weyerhaeuser Park), and to prepare updated cost estimates to support Rotary Club fundraising activities for the development of the dog park.
- Council approved staff to send a letter to the Clearwater and District Chamber of Commerce informing them that the District of Clearwater will not be renewing its Chamber membership at this time, but may reconsider its membership at a future date if the situation warrants.

May 6, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council approved the 2024 audited Financial Statements as presented by Mario Piroddi, Manager, BDO Canada LLP at the May 6, 2025 Regular Council meeting.
- Council approved that a letter of congratulations be sent to MP Frank Caputo on his re-election, including an invitation to attend a future council meeting to discuss local priorities.
- Council approved the Clearwater Transit 2024-2025 Annual Operating Agreement (AOA);
- Council approved the Clearwater Transit 2025-2026 Annual Operating Agreement (AOA)
- Council approved staff to write a letter to BC Transit requesting a full service review of the transit system serving the District of Clearwater and Electoral Area A at the next reasonable opportunity, to assess route

effectiveness, ridership patterns, and potential service optimizations.

- Council approved that the District of Clearwater Bylaw No. 323, 2025, 2025-2029 Five Year Financial Plan be adopted.

Council approved that staff write a letter to the Honourable Minister of Health, Josie Osborne with copies to MLAs Ward Stamer, Peter Milobar, Tony Luck, Lorne Dorkson, and Rosalyn Bird, expressing support for enhancements to the planned BC Cancer Centre in Kamloops, specifically requesting the inclusion of key services such as a PET-CT scanner and integrated pharmacy services.

- Council approved that staff proceed with a combined public consultation process regarding the community-initiated proposals for a dog park and a bike pump track in Weyerhaeuser Park, including direct mailed notification to residents within a 200-metre radius of the proposed site, a broader public engagement session advertised to the community, and a follow-up report to Council summarizing feedback received and recommending next steps.

May 20, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Council approved the budget amendment to include \$230,460 in 2025; \$1,843,680 in 2026 and \$230,460 in 2027 funded by the British Columbia Water Meter project grant.

- Council approved staff to amend the current 2025 budget to include the purchase of a 2024 F150 for up to \$70,000, for the replacement of the current Fire Department duty vehicle, AND;
- Council approved Fire Department Regulations Bylaw No. 233, Amendment Bylaw No. 325, 2025 be adopted.

June 3, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council Appoints Councillor Shelley Sim to the Public Art Advisory Committee and designates them as Chair; AND
 - THAT Council Appoints Liane Culp, Recreation, Culture and Events Coordinator, as the staff liaison to the Public Art Advisory Committee; AND
 - THAT Council amends 3.63 of the terms of reference to up to 6 representatives of the community at large; AND
 - THAT Council pursues the future inclusion of a non voting youth liaison to the Public Art Advisory Committee.
- Council awarded the Clearwater River Bridge Erosion Protection Project Detailed Hydraulic Design to Northwest Hydraulics at a cost of \$125,000; AND
- Council approved the direct award of the Water Meter Pilot Project, in the amount of \$150,000 to TRUE Consulting Ltd., to be completed no later than May 6, 2027; AND
- Development Grant funds to complete this project by creating tourism maps and signage for the various trails by July 31, 2025;

June 17, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council approved the OCP Communications and Engagement Plan as presented at the June 17, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.
- Council approved staff to prepare a letter to the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, expressing support for the concerns raised by the SD73 District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) regarding education funding, and endorsing their call for increased provincial investment in public education.

- Council approved staff to begin Level 1 water quality testing on Dutch Lake, funded from Yellow Flag Iris project funds; AND
 - THAT Council refer Dutch Lake health considerations to the Official Community Plan review process.
- Council approved the implementation of the new four stage approach to water conservation and allow staff to determine when to implement each stage.
- Council resolved to approve the 2024 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) as presented and hereby authorize the Mayor and Director of Finance to sign the attached Statement of Financial Information, prior to forwarding the SOFI to the ministry and posting for public information.

July 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council adopted the 2024 Annual Report as presented.
- Council approved staff to work with the bike park volunteer group to formalize and cost a concept plan for the pump track and children's bike trail at Weyerhaeuser park, with any professional engagement fees to be drawn from Council Initiatives Projects.
- Council approved staff to work with the Clearwater Rotary Club to develop cost estimates for a dog park at Weyerhaeuser park, with consideration from community feedback, with any professional engagement fees to be drawn from Council Initiatives Projects.
- Council approved the Weyerhaeuser park Dog park and Bike Pump track engagement process as complete and sufficient.
- Council awarded the Murtle Crescent paving project to Dawson Paving in the

amount of \$180,958.53 + GST

August 19, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

- Council Appointed the following six community members to the Public Art Advisory Committee for a two-year term: Elizabeth Shook, Lindsey Langwood, Michelle Sturley, Hannah Horn, Beth Northcott, and Ellyse Williams
- Council confirmed the District of Clearwater's commitment to the transit service expansion initiatives for the 2026/2027 fiscal year, as outlined in the BC Transit Memorandum of Understanding dated 07/07/2025 for 3 additional days of service; AND
 - THAT Council direct staff to continue to collaborate with the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and the District of Barriere to address the operational and financial implications for their jurisdictions.
- Council approves the Community Grant Policy No. 2502
- Council approved the amended Procurement and Disposition of Asset Policy No. 2201.
- Council approved that staff be directed to allocate and dispense funds from the 2025 Grant-in-Aid Budget for a one-time grant-in-aid cash contribution of \$3,000 to the North Thompson Aboriginal Cultural Centre Society for the 5th Annual Clearwater Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day



Soup Kettle

TO-GO
SIT-IN
DELIVERY*



Starts October 31, 2025

FRESH MADE SOUP & BUNS

*Served every Friday 12 - 1pm at the
Dutch Lake Community Centre*

**frozen soups available upon request*

**Payment by donation – pay what you can
Everyone welcome**

250-674-3530

***Delivery available through our Soup Buddy Program
subject to volunteer availability**

Clearwater Winter Farmer's Market

10am - 1pm at the
Dutch Lake Community Centre

2025 DATES

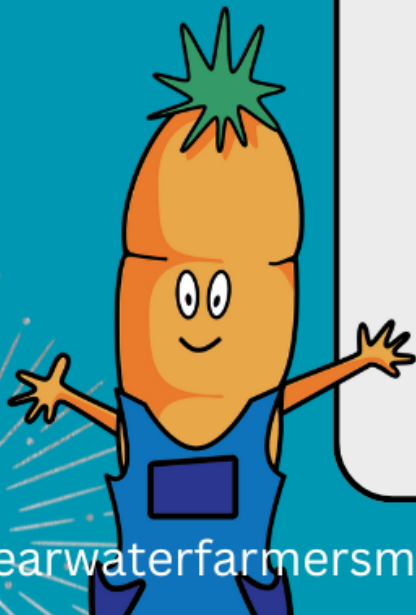
October 18

November 1

November 15

November 29

December 13



clearwaterfarmersmarket@yellowheadcs.ca | 250-674-1472