

District of Clearwater

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Trans Mountain Signs Agreement with DOC for Infrastructure Upgrades

Trans Mountain and the District of Clearwater have entered into a funding agreement that will see Trans Mountain contribute \$3.1 million into upgrades to Clearwater’s drinking water, wastewater management and sewer treatment systems. This contribution will be used for the construction, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure upgrades necessary to service the Trans Mountain Expansion Project’s worker accommodation camp. The initiative ensures the camp minimizes impacts on the community and provides a lasting benefit for the region.

“When we began planning the Expansion Project, we made a commitment to work with communities to minimize the impact of construction activity, and maximize the long-term benefits for local communities,” said Ian Anderson, President and CEO of Trans Mountain. *“Through a cooperative effort between our team and the District of Clearwater, we developed a solution that meets Trans Mountain’s needs while leaving lasting benefits for the District and the citizens of Clearwater.”*

“Trans Mountain has been an absolutely stellar corporate citizen to us. We are excited about the many legacy projects Trans Mountain is partnering with us on, many of which will help us now with some important safety and infrastructure needs, but will then provide us future opportunity to grow our local economy and to improve the quality of life for our citizens,” said Merlin Blackwell, Mayor, District of Clearwater.

Trans Mountain’s North Thompson office is in Clearwater, where there are a number of operating facilities and many Trans Mountain team members who work and live in the community. As a good neighbour, Trans Mountain is committed to providing benefits through the Expansion Project. On top of the nearly \$900,000 annually paid in local taxes after expansion, a community benefit agreement was announced in 2015 with the District of Clearwater for \$390,000 that will go towards funding community projects and local education and training opportunities.

continued...



For reliable and current information, follow us here:



District of Clearwater

DLCC — 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
(no lunch break)
Saturday, Sunday
& Stats: No Service

**AFTER HOUR EMERGENCY
PHONE NUMBER:
250.674.3015**

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

districtofclearwater.com

This newsletter contains information valid for residents within the District of Clearwater. Due to residents from the surrounding Area A (Blackpool, Birch Island, part of Vavenby, Upper Clearwater) doing business and using services in town, this newsletter is mailed to those residents as well. You may also view this information online at www.districtofclearwater.com/news.



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Construction of the upgrades to drinking water, wastewater management and sewer treatment systems began in late July 2020 and will take approximately three months to complete. Two waterline installations will provide potable water and fire suppression to the worker accommodation camp and will benefit the future development of the industrial lands located in the area. The sewer capacity expansion provides the ability to accept raw sewage generated by the camp without interfering with the town sewer system and eliminating the impacts of trucking waste to Kamloops.

Trans Mountain’s worker camp community in Clearwater, BC is operating on land owned by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. The camp will house up to 550 people working on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project during construction in the area, scheduled from September 2020 to late 2022. The site will be operated by Tsetsk’wem Management Services—a Joint Venture between Simpcw Resource Group and ATCO, a partnership formed specifically for the Expansion Project. Trans Mountain camp communities are planned for smaller communities to limit pressure on local housing and services. Camp communities are designed to be self-sufficient, to minimize the impact on local infrastructure and services and will provide for their own utilities, primary health care, security, fire and recreational services for their residents.

“The District is very thankful and appreciative of the development of a funding agreement to complete the necessary infrastructure improvements for our water and sewer systems to be able to serve the Trans Mountain camp. These three projects alone will fast track our infrastructure upgrades the equivalent of 10 years, and that is assuming we were successful in applying for grants to fund and complete them. It has been a pleasure working with the team at Trans Mountain this past six years to bring this to fruition,” said Leslie Groulx, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Clearwater.

The District of Clearwater is part of Trans Mountain’s North Thompson construction spread that includes approximately 275 kilometres of pipeline construction between Mount Robson Provincial Park and the Darfield Pump Station north of Kamloops. Construction on the Temporary Stockpile Site in Valemount began in February 2020 and pipeline construction is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2020. Trans Mountain understands the importance of ensuring our workforce and their accommodations are well-managed and are aligned with the host community’s interests and capacity. In addition to our Worker Code of Conduct, there are clear camp policies and management practices in place to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all.

Message from the Mayor

It really feels like the last 6 months have been the longest 2 years ever. If you are not feeling “Covid Fatigue”, then you are a rare person right now. Information overload, the differing views on how to deal with this, the constant need to adjust our daily routine, the economic devastation... It all takes a toll on our nerves, our relationships, our wallets, and our overall mental health.

All that aside, I am feeling incredibly lucky to be a British Columbian. Our provincial leadership team has done a world class job on Covid response. We have been very lucky as well, just having our school spring break fall later than other provinces probably saved us from dozens of extra Covid cases. Leadership or luck, we have been given a gift.

Now the hard part; We cannot squander this gift. This pandemic is not over yet. Covid is alive and well out there. There has been some very promising news on the vaccine front, but the likelihood is that Covid 19 will be with us for many, many months to come. We cannot let our guard down.

We are becoming complacent in our good work and good fortune. We cannot do that. We must continue to follow our training, our best practices, everything we have learned in the last 6 months. We must

continue to pay attention to Dr. Bonnie Henry, and we must hold the line for her, for our doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers. And we must hold the line for all of us, for our parents, for our kids, and for our community.

Another thing: It is okay to wear a mask. I will start wearing them in public spaces. Wear a mask in public spaces, keep your circle of people tight, wash your hands, and in the words of Dr. Bonnie **“Be kind, be calm, and be safe”**.

We can do this!
—Mayor Merlin Blackwell





True Confessions...



As of August 24, 2020:

- Face coverings are now mandatory on board of all transit buses. More info: bctransit.com
- **Buylow staff** are wearing masks/face coverings for the health and safety of staff and customers. Customers are encouraged to do the same.

I really don't want to wear a mask. They are hot, they make my glasses steam up and I am not comfortable but those are the "excuses"; I really don't want to wear a mask because it is confirmation that the world has changed and so must I. I liked the life we had. I liked parties and social events and hugging. I really liked the hugging. I still can't fully adjust to "physical distancing" or the arrows in stores but I know that they are important safety measures. And to continue these measures, I will start to wear a mask in public and in stores. I don't want to return to Phase 1. I want to return to more "normal" and that is going to take collective effort. So.....here is me and my mask. It's going to be ok; we are all going to be ok as long as we continue to pull together to stay safe. To quote what is being rallied in other communities: "Wearing is Caring".

—Shelley Sim, Councillor

"When I wear a mask in public and in stores, I want you to know that ..."

- I am educated enough to know that I could be asymptomatic and give you this virus.
- No, I don't 'live in fear' of the virus; I just want to be part of the solution, not the problem.
- I don't feel like the 'government is controlling me'. I feel like an adult contributing to the safety of others in our society.
- When you think about your appearance, your discomfort, or the opinion that others have of you, imagine a loved one—a child, a father, a mother, a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle or even a stranger—placed under a respirator, alone without you or any authorized family member at their bedside.
- If we could all live with the consideration of others in mind, the whole world would be a much better place.
- Wearing a mask does not make me weak, scared, stupid or even 'controlled'. It makes me considerate."*

* Source unknown

Support Seniors

Many seniors are hesitant to leave their homes as they are the most vulnerable for contracting COVID-19. If there is any possibility of coming in contact with a senior or anyone with compromised immune systems, please wear a mask. And make it a fun one to bring out a smile. Thank you, *Senior Coordinator and Councillor Lynne Frizzle*

Tips from Dr. Bonnie Henry's Good Times Guide

<p>Feeling sick? Stay home.</p>	<p>Stay outside.</p>	<p>Pay attention to mental health.</p>	<p>Hang out in small groups.</p>
<p>If you're even a little sick (runny nose, sore throat, cough, headache, or fever), don't pass it on to your friends. Hang out another day.</p>	<p>Hang out with friends outside, not inside. It's safer for everybody. Keep your distance from other groups.</p>	<p>It's OK not to be OK. Check in with how friends are feeling and offer support.</p>	<p>The smaller your group, the safer you are. If you're going out to bars or restaurants, respect the six-person table maximum.</p>

Source: <https://goodtimes.gov.bc.ca>

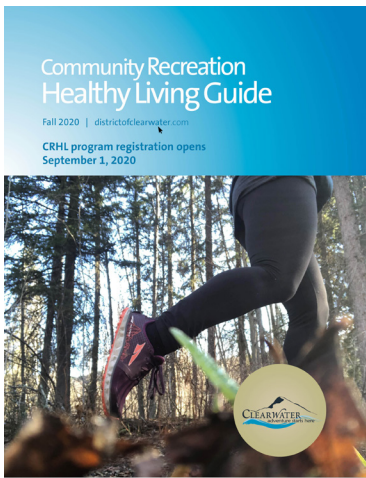
August 31, 2020



**COVID-19
Daily Bulletin**

The Daily Bulletin is posted to districtofclearwater.com/news

It contains all current information on COVID-19 including the joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response and other helpful links. This is your source of information you can trust.



CRHL



Clearwater Community Recreation and Healthy Living Program



The Fall Community Recreation and Healthy Living Guide was delivered to mailboxes within the District of Clearwater and additional paper copies are available at the District's office.

To find the guide online go to:

districtofclearwater.com/residents/community-recreation/

Register online with Booking.ca/ClearwaterPub/



Sportsplex

The Sportsplex is opening for the season September 18.

The Opening and COVID-19 Safety Plan is posted on our website. For a schedule of events, please check the event calendar on the District of Clearwater website or follow the District of Clearwater Facebook page.

For information about the **Minor Hockey program**, registration or COVID-19 Safety Plan, please go to www.cdmha.info. For program, registration, or COVID-19 Safety Plan for the **Raft Mountain Skating Club**, please go to <https://raftmountain.weebly.com/>.

Parks

All District of Clearwater community parks are open, please observe COVID-19 safety precautions while visiting. Park washrooms are closing for the season mid-October, while parks remain open, weather permitting.

Boat Launch

This area is primarily for launching watercraft. We remind all users to observe the posted rules and use this area in a respectful and safe manner.



districtofclearwater.com



District of Clearwater



Residents of District of Clearwater

Together, Interior Health management, the Medical Centre, and District of Clearwater are working hard to recruit physicians and nurses to our community.

The biggest challenge we face is the limited availability of affordable rental homes to house our health care professionals and their families.

Rural communities are often in competition with each other to recruit these professionals and we do not want a lack of affordable housing to be the reason a physician or nurse chooses another community over Clearwater.

It is important that our physicians and nurses have suitable homes and reasonable costs of living. This increases the likelihood that they will choose to make our community their long-term home. Many are drawn away from larger centres for a lifestyle that is affordable and spacious—our community has had this as a competitive advantage over most. We need to maintain this.

Currently, we have several potential hires who have been unsuccessful in their search in Clearwater's current housing

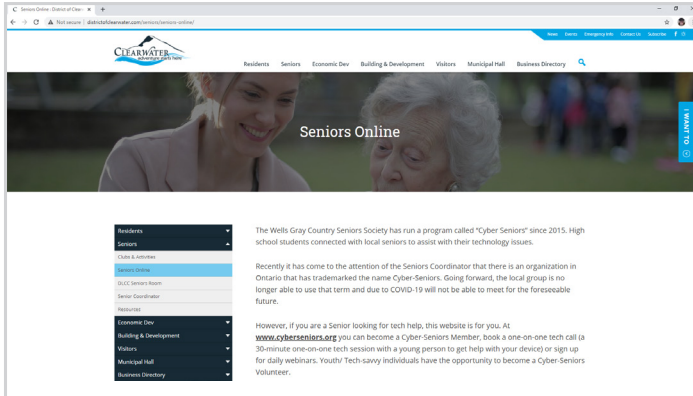
market. Both the shortage of available rentals relative to our growing population and the high cost of rental housing are barriers. In light of increasing COVID-19 cases across the province and in anticipation of a second wave during the fall/winter, this is not the time to be short-staffed at our hospital. We are asking that landlords consider prioritizing housing health care professionals at an affordable rate which in turn supports the entire community in a fundamental way.

We need the community's support in continuing to attract professionals to Clearwater. If you or someone you know is interested in renting your home to our health care professionals, please contact Amy Thain, Chapter Coordinator, Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice at athain@divisionsbc.ca

With appreciation,

- Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital
- Clearwater Chapter—Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice
- District of Clearwater

Wells Gray Seniors Society



New Web page for Seniors

[districtofclearwater.com/](http://districtofclearwater.com/seniors) “Seniors” Tab

We have now added additional information to our website especially for seniors. At districtofclearwater.com/seniors/seniors-online you can find information on clubs and activities specific for seniors, the contact information for the senior coordinator in town or resources and information interesting for seniors. These pages will be changing and growing so check back regularly.

Are you interested to learn how to navigate the internet? Go to districtofclearwater.com/seniors/seniors-online/ to be connected to cyberseniors.org. Here you can become a Cyber-Seniors Member, book a one-on-one tech call (a 30-minute one-on-one tech session with a young person to get help with your device) or sign up for daily webinars. Cyber-Seniors services are completely FREE to Senior and Cyber-Seniors also offer FREE memberships where you can take advantage of 1,200 self-led tutorials, videos, a discussion forum, and other resources.

District of Clearwater Mayor & Council is supported by two Task Force and one Working Group

These groups meet on a regular basis and report back to Council. Projects benefit the community in a positive way and are primarily funded by grants not taxation.

Trails Task Force

- Up to 10 Community members (Volunteers) appointed by Council, the CAO and one elected official from Council
- Develops and implements the Trails Master Plan to establish trails within the community for recreational and safe connection
- Latest achievement: multi use trail connecting Wyndhaven and Roundabout on Highway 5 as well as accessibility trail to Dutch Lake Beach
- Paving scheduled next week for Eden Road to Roundabout multiuse pathway paralleling Hwy 5
- Goals 2020: Safer connection to Raft River Elementary School, Foot Bridge over Raft River, realign Old North Thompson (Dutch Lake Trail) for pedestrians, connecting pathway from Roundabout to Wells Gray Inn, and more.

Economic Development Task Force

- Members are local business owners who volunteer their time and expertise, representatives of economic sectors, Simpcw First Nation, elected official from Council and CAO
- Newly formed in fall of 2019
- Providing feedback and advice on strategic planning initiatives and supporting the implementation of the community economic development strategy
- Input helps enhance the local economy and identify opportunities, retaining or enhancing current business, collaborate with local business.

Forestry Working Group

- Members are representatives of local and regional stakeholder groups (District Manager of MOFLNRO and Regional Manager Rural Development), forest licensee's, local organizations such as Wells Gray Country Services Committee, Wells Gray Community Forest, Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce, Healthy Communities, Healthy Forests, a representative of the BC Wildfire branch, the Mayor and CAO
 - bringing forestry expertise and knowledge together to discuss important opportunities or issues facing the community, considers specific forest sector topics, policies, events, etc.
 - share ideas and perspectives and offer collective advice on forest initiatives.

Watering Main Flushing:

September 14 to October 9

Water main flushing is a key component in maintaining water quality throughout the water distribution system. The District of Clearwater performs water main flushing on a biannual basis; spring and fall.

Water main flushing utilizes water velocities created by “pulling” larger than normal volumes through the system to clean the water main. Public Works crews systematically turn water valves and fire hydrants on and off to effectively flush the water system.

When the District’s Public Works Department is flushing water mains in the community you may experience a loss in pressure, cloudy water and/or discoloration; none of which are a health concern. Should you experience any of those conditions once the flushing has ceased, please run an exterior tap for a minimum of 5 minutes or until the water clears.

District Public Works crews will be performing our Spring flushing program between within the next several weeks, starting **September 4 to October 9, 2020**.

Should you experience prolonged pressure loss and/or discoloration please contact the District of Clearwater @ 250.674.2257.

Finance



Annual Tax Sale Deferred until 2021

Normally, the Local Government Act requires that at 10am on the last Monday in September, the District must conduct the annual tax sale by offering for sale by public auction each parcel of real property on which taxes are delinquent.

On May 15, 2020, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General enacted Ministerial Order 159/2020. This order enabled municipalities, by bylaw, to delay the statutory date of property tax sale by one year due to the hardships caused by the ongoing health pandemic.

At the August 18th Regular Council meeting, Council adopted Bylaw 241, 2020, a bylaw to defer the 2020 tax sale until September 27, 2021.

The District will continue to accrue interest at a current rate of 5.45% on the arrears and delinquent of property tax accounts that are subject to a delayed tax sale.

Please check out the website or contact the District if you have any questions about the annual tax sale.

MV/ICBC

Appointments required for some MV/ICBC transactions

Are you a new BC resident? Please make an appointment before coming into the office for one of these transactions:

- Application for a BC driver’s licence
- Import, Registration and Insurance for Out-Of-Province vehicles

ALL knowledge tests require an appointment as well. To make an appointment, please phone our office at 250.674.2257

BACK TO SCHOOL

—ICBC’s Drive Smart tips for drivers:

- When you are dropping off your children in school zones, allow them to exit the car on the side closest to the sidewalk. Never allow a child to cross mid-block.
- If a vehicle’s stopped in front of you, they may be yielding to a pedestrian, so proceed with caution and be prepared to stop.
- Watch for school buses and when their lights are flashing, vehicles approaching from both directions must stop.
- Before getting into your vehicle, walk around it to make sure no small children are hidden from your view. Always look for pedestrians when you’re backing up.
- In residential areas, a hockey net or ball can mean that kids are playing nearby. Watch for children as they could dash into the street at any moment.
- Remember that every school day, unless otherwise posted, a 30 km/h speed limit is in effect in school zones from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In playground zones, a 30 km/h speed limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk.

Source: icbc.com





Council Highlights...



Council Meetings can be viewed online at [youtube.com/user/DistrictofClearwater](https://www.youtube.com/user/DistrictofClearwater) and Agendas and Minutes viewed online on our website. There is also a form that can be submitted for agenda related questions: [districtofclearwater.com/council-meetings-can-be-viewed-online/](https://www.districtofclearwater.com/council-meetings-can-be-viewed-online/)

July 14, 2020

- Council voted in favour that \$250,000 from the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission funds be set aside for the Trails Task Force as leveraging funds. The Wells Gray Community Forest will be briefed on the projects being funded. In addition, Council approved that \$150,000 be transferred from the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission funds on an annual basis to the Wells Gray Community Forest Society for the purposes of continuing the Spring and Fall Community Granting program which serves the purposes of promoting the economic and social welfare of the residents of Clearwater and Electoral Area A (TNRD). All funds under the Community Forest Commission are directed to the Commission from the Community Forest Corporation.
- Council ratified the distribution of the Ted Richardson Bursary (\$2,000 be split to 2 \$1,000 bursaries) be awarded to Ryley Griffin and Jasmine Carr for \$1,000 each. The bursaries will be awarded when proof of enrollment in their programs is provided.
- Council accepted the 2019 Statements of Financial Information (SOFI) as presented. The statements will be posted to the District's website for public information.
- Council approved the re-appointments of the following Officer positions to the Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department:
 - Guy Holland: Re-appointed as Deputy Fire Chief for a 4-year term (2020–2024)
 - Mike Chambers: Re-appointed as Captain for a four-year term (2020–2024)
 - Wayne Wyoski: Re-appointed as Captain for a four-year term (2020–2024)
- Council waived Purchasing Policy No. 2009-02 and approved entering into a three year contract with Max Gunster Contracting for the supply and delivery of woodchips for the District's bioenergy plants for an amount of \$50.00m3 to include an annual increase equal to the annual Cost of Living Index for the Province of British Columbia.
- Council approved entering into a Funding Agreement with Trans Mountain Pipeline L.P. in the amount of \$3,105,283 for associated infrastructure upgrades to water and sewer. The said amount is funding of engineering, design and construction of works related to three municipal infrastructure projects for Watermain Installation and Sewer Capacity Upgrades.
- Council voted in favour of amending the 2020 Five Year Financial Plan to include \$1,860,847.37 for Water Capital and \$1,501,935.75 for Sewer Capital for a total of \$3,362,783.12. Upon execution of the Funding Agreement for infrastructure upgrades to water and sewer, Council approved awarding three contracts as follows:
 - Camp 2 Watermain extension: Borrow Enterprises Ltd. \$566,976.37
 - Dutch Lake Watermain: Conex Civil Contractors Ltd. \$1,293,871.00
 - Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade: Bree Contracting Ltd. \$1,501,935.75The three capital projects are funded from private contribution.
- Council approved their support for the implementation of an interim national RCMP Auxiliary Program (Tier 3) program and that the program be implemented within the Clearwater RCMP Detachment.

August 18, 2020

- Council voted in favour of forming a select committee and develop the terms of reference to guide the mandate of a recruitment/retention committee.
- Council voted in favour that a discussion of three commercial areas in Clearwater be moved to the Community Economic Development fall planning workshop.
- Council voted in favour for the District to undertake research to complete the feasibility and options to establishing a broadband/internet utility service in Clearwater.
- With respect to the re-opening of the North Thompson Sportsplex Council approved the following plan for 2020:
 - September 18: open for Family Skating and Adult hockey
 - September 19: Minor Hockey begins season
 - September 21: Figure Skating begins season
 - September 26: ice time available for private rentals / Lounge available for rental
 - October 15: Curling club begins season
 - Concession to be open as required
- Council approved the following recommendations from the Trails Task Force Committee:
 - THAT the Wells Gray Inn (Clearwater Village) to Roundabout multi-use pathway commence at the roundabout on Highway 5 and leave Highway 5 at the first lamp standard; and that this section of the multi-use pathway be constructed with curb, gutter sidewalk.
 - THAT the District apply for the BC Active Transportation Grant for Phase 1—to construct the connecting multi-use pathway from the Wells Gray Inn to the Roundabout on Highway 5, to include paving the gravel pathway connecting Eden Road to the Roundabout on Highway 5; and that the application for the BC Active Transportation grant include Phase 2—to realign Clearwater Village Road commencing at Murtle Road travelling down Stegg's Hill and ending at Webber Road to complete a safe alternative traffic connection to Strawberry Flats.
- Council approved the expenditure of \$66,648 for the purposes of completing the Wyndhaven multi-use pathway with the installation of 765 meters of asphalt (to include saw cutting and traffic control); and that the funds are to be expended from the 2020 Gas Tax.
- Council directed Administration to prepare public messaging with respect to the designated use at the Boat Launch located at the end of Lakeview Road. The matter will be forwarded to the September 1st, 2020 Parks & Recreation Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the potential of relocating the wharf to the beach area, prohibiting swimming, and diving and restricting the area to service animals only.
- Council approved the annual loan payments for Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 235, 2020 as follows:
 - 50% (\$21,343.13) Sewer User fees
 - 50% (\$21,343.13) Septic Receiving annual revenueCouncil formally adopted Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 235, 2020 following the Alternative Approval Process.
- Council directed staff to review and report back to Council on the implications of changing the speed limits within the Miller Subdivision (Davy and Miller Road).
- Council directed Administration to provide a letter of endorsement to the Minister of Natural Resources in support of the NRCan grant application by ZAAP Charge Inc.
- Council directed staff to contact Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure staff to request a meeting with Minister Trevena to discuss safety concerns at the Wells Gray Inn Intersection crossing Highway 5 to Old North Thompson.



Fire Department

Fire Prevention Week

October 4–10, 2020

Fire Prevention Week will look different this year: The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) has put together some “Out of the Box” ideas for the 2020 campaign.

The Clearwater Fire Department will be engaging some of these ideas to promote the theme “**Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!**” and educate everyone on cooking safely. Our campaign will run for the whole week and while we may not be able to visit the school or host an Open House at the Fire Station, we have dedicated firefighters that want to deliver fire safety to you!

Be on the lookout for us on Facebook [facebook.com/ClearwaterFD](https://www.facebook.com/ClearwaterFD), the Community TVs at the District of Clearwater, library, BuyLow or Sportsplex, and around town for our schedule of events to ensure you can participate in Fire Prevention Week activities.



Fireworks Update

Due to the circumstances at this present time, it is looking like the Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department will not be able to host the Halloween Fireworks this year. Fireworks: We will keep you posted in case things change and a show is possible.

Recruitment Update

The Fire Department is proud to say we have recruited 7 candidates to train as firefighters in the last year! This is awesome news! Thank you to those that have recently joined to serve YOUR Community and for the dedication it takes to train for the position. **The department still has spaces available for you, come down to the Station at 7pm on Thursday evenings, check us out on Facebook, [districtofclearwater.com](https://www.districtofclearwater.com), email the Chief at firechief@docbc.ca or call or text the Chief at 250.674.1278.**

We look forward to seeing you and having you show us and YOUR Community you want to help protect this awesome place we love to live, work and play in!

Clearwater River • Photo Credit: Stefanie Poisson

