

Village of Kaslo

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News

2020.04.24

Village Update #4 RE: COVID-19

Message from Mayor Hewat

It has been just over one month since the Provincial government declared a state of emergency regarding COVID-19. There have been many emergency measures put in place by Provincial Health Officer, Bonnie Henry since then to help reduce the spread of the virus including physical distancing and self-isolation.

Kaslo has been very fortunate that we have not had any cases to date and that is in large part to everyone following these measures. We have all been affected by the COVID, as a front-line worker, an essential service worker, a business owner, or a resident. We know that the virus has hit the senior population the hardest, but the virus does not discriminate. We must all stay strong and help keep each other safe by remaining vigilant. It is so wonderful to see our community come together to show their support for the health care workers in our community.

A big thank you to those businesses that remain open for taking the steps necessary to ensure the safety of their staff and customers. Show your support by continuing to shop locally.

Staff at the Village, both office staff and public works have been working hard, adapting to the changes in procedures that are required at this time. Thanks to the efforts of office staff, Council meetings can now be conducted via Zoom with the ability for the public to be engaged as well. Public works have protocols in place that help to reduce the possibility of contracting the virus. Thank you for keeping our essential systems running smoothly and keeping our Village clean, safe and beautiful.

The weekly calls with Provincial Ministers and Emergency Operation Centre staff continue. I also participate in weekly calls with FCM Rural Forum Members as well as a biweekly call with BC Caucus members where updates from the Federal Government are provided and ideas are exchanged.

This is new to all of us and everyone is trying their best.

Always remember to be kind to one another and be well.

Mayor Suzan Hewat

Outdoor Burning Ban Update

As of April 16, 2020, a province-wide ban on Category 2 and 3 open fires, Resource Management open fires, the use of fireworks, the use of sky lanterns, and the use of burn barrels or burn cages of

any size or description is in effect until further notice. These prohibitions apply to all public and private land within British Columbia. **The Village has relaxed the ban on campfires to allow them on private property but campfires on public land or the beach remain prohibited.**

Furthermore, campfires must:

- not be left unattended,
- be put out completely when not used
- have enough water on hand to put out the fire
- be restricted to 0.5m x 0.5m in size and not be used for burning yard debris

By order of the Fire Chief under authority of the Village's fire bylaw.

Yard Waste and Transfer Station Update

Yard waste is now accepted free of charge at the RDCK Kaslo Transfer Station. Residents may drop off up to one pickup truck load equivalent (approx. 2.5 cubic metres) per trip.

Village residents with curbside pickup may continue to put out one bag without a tag for collection by our contractor. Do you need bag tags for excess trash? Contact the office to arrange payment or send a cheque to "Village of Kaslo" and we can mail them to you or visit the Husky to purchase them there. Tags are \$30 per sheet of 10.

Transfer station material restrictions will gradually be lifted through May. Please check their website for the latest updates:

<https://rdck.ca/EN/main/services/waste-recycling/faqs-covid-19-and-rdck-waste-facilities.html>. If you need to dispose of restricted materials contact a waste hauler with a commercial account and Village business license, such as Kootenay Waste Services.

Mandatory Self-isolation

International travel has virtually ground to a halt but just a reminder that it is mandatory for people returning from travel outside of Canada to self-isolate for 14 days. People who are feeling unwell or may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should also self-isolate.

Now is not the time to go on a grand road trip! For the sake of the health of all in our community, please don't invite friends and family from afar to visit Kaslo or rent accommodations to strangers during this time. Stay home unless you need to go to work or get supplies.

BEFORE YOU VISIT AN RDCK WASTE FACILITY

HERE'S WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE AND WHAT IS NOT:

ACCEPTABLE:

- ✓ Normal household waste, in garbage bags or alternative
- ✓ Waste that would go rancid or attract pests
- ✓ Maximum 1 load per week per household, loads up to the equivalent to 1 pick-up truck bed (< 1 m3)
- ✓ Items that would fit in a typical garbage bag or can

NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- ✗ Bulky items – mattresses, couches, furniture
- ✗ Yard and garden waste (unless as part of upcoming yard & garden free tipping programs)
- ✗ Wood waste
- ✗ Metal waste
- ✗ Construction, renovation or demolition waste
- ✗ Roofing shingles
- ✗ Tires
- ✗ Material that can be stockpiled without creating a health risk
- ✗ Appliances, propane tanks, batteries – These are acceptable at no charge but due to concerns about servicing please keep at home for now.

These temporary restrictions are for customers who do not have accounts. More: www.rdck.ca/covid-19

STAY HOME and DO NOT come to sites if you are unwell, have potentially been exposed or if you are under quarantine.

Thank you for helping to protect the health of RDCK residents and staff!



rdck.ca

Reminder of Village Closures and to Maintain Social Distance

The municipal campground, skate park, playground and ball field are also closed until further notice. All provincial and regional parks are also closed. These measures may begin to be relaxed in May depending on direction from provincial authorities.

If you go on the trails this weekend, be courteous and cooperative by stepping at least 2 metres aside to let others pass. Keep your dog on a leash and under your control. Although dogs do not appear to get sick from the virus, they may carry it. Your dog's wet nose or licks probably won't be appreciated by strangers! Avoid the back country because if you get into trouble you've put search and rescue and emergency services at even greater risk.

Let's be kind. Sometimes people just need a gentle reminder on appropriate social distancing behaviour. If you see people out together, they probably live together. Please do wave and say hello.

Support for Businesses

Thanks, again, to our retailers are doing an amazing job serving customers during this difficult time, and Kaslovians are being respectful and mindful of the protocols they have in place.

Since the last newsletter, the federal government has announced new programs to support businesses. The most recent is the commercial rent subsidy, which provides funds to cover 50% of the monthly rent for April, May and June. The business pays 25% must contribute and the landlord waives 25% of the rent. Details of this program are still being worked out with the provinces.

Businesses can also apply for a loan up to \$40,000, of which \$10,000 is forgivable, to provide cash for operations and expenses. The wage subsidy program also helps businesses with payroll and keeping employees at work.

The Community Futures Central Kootenay website is an excellent resource for information on the programs and support available for small businesses. They also offer free business consultation, access to low-interest financing, and planning tips. <https://futures.bc.ca/>

The province announced local property tax relief for commercial property owners by cutting the school tax rate in half. The late penalty for paying property tax is delayed until October 1, 2020. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes>

The Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission and funded with the support of Ministry of Economic Development and the Columbia Basin Trust has approved shifting the focus of the The North Kootenay Lake Rural Revitalization Program towards immediate response and recovery. A new website will feature a "virtual downtown" to promote local businesses that are open and make it easier to find out what goods and services are offered for sale. Funding through the program will also support our local Chamber of Commerce. Keep an eye out for the new website coming soon! For updates, check out <https://www.facebook.com/NORTHKOOTENAYLAKE/>

Support for Individuals

You may be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) if you are out of work due to COVID-19. Visit the CERB website to see if you qualify and apply.

Visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

Or call: **1-800-959-2019** or **1-800-959-2041**

You will need to provide your Social Insurance Number and Postal Code.

Be aware of scams and fake websites on the internet that claim to be easier ways of applying for government support. These sites or call centres may try to steal your personal information for identity theft. Check the website address carefully to make sure you are on the cra-arc.gc.ca website when applying for federal benefits.

New Free Wi-Fi Hotspot Available!

Thanks to the Kaslo InfoNet Society (KiN) a public wi-fi hotspot was installed in the bell tower of Kaslo City Hall. The network is “KiN Complimentary”. With most local restaurants and the library closed, there were few options for people who rely on hotspots for email or to apply for benefits online until KiN stepped up to provide this service while it’s needed most.

Village Office Closed to Public – *We are available by phone or email*

City Hall is closed to the public except by appointment. If you have an appointment, please enter City Hall by the side entrance. Ring the doorbell if it is locked. Village administrative staff are available by phone or email to answer your questions: Email admin@kaslo.ca or Phone 250-353-2311 ext. 101, or drop a letter in our mailbox. Building permit questions can be emailed to bllddept@rdck.bc.ca or Phone 1-800-268-7325. Our Public Works crew continues to work hard ensuring essential services are delivered and our infrastructure is maintained. The crew are observing social distancing practices, too, so if you see anything that needs their attention, please contact Village administration.

Get on our email list to receive updates by sending your name and email to admin@kaslo.ca.

We are working on a plan to safely reopen the Village Office to the public in mid to late May.

Village Budget

The Village budget will be finalized in early May. The next special budget meeting of Council is May 5th at 7:00pm. The meeting will be live-streamed via video conference. Details of how to access the meeting will be posted on social media. Please contact admin@kaslo.ca if you would like to be emailed the online meeting information directly.

The province announced changes to tax collection, which the Village is following for all property classes. The tax due date remains July 2, 2020. A late penalty of 10% is imposed as of October 1, 2020. Tax notices will be sent out around the third week in May. New this year, you can apply for your Home Owner Grant online.

There is a program in place to help people over 55 or families with children to defer payment property taxes. If you have equity in your home, tax can be deferred (paid in future) through a low-interest loan lien on your property. Visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes> for more information.

Public Works Activities

A major watermain repair is scheduled this week! **Fifth Street in front of the Post Office will be closed April 27 to May 1.** Barricades and detour signs will be installed by the crew. Use Fourth Street to access downtown during this time. Water service to Lower Kaslo won't be disrupted but you may notice a slightly lower pressure as the water flow is diverted from south of the river instead of the A Avenue watermain.

Please stay away from the construction area! Safety fencing will be erected around the open pit where the crew will be repairing the watermain. We realize the Post Office is a high-traffic area and apologize for the inconvenience. The sidewalk in front of the Post Office will remain open for pedestrian access. Thank you for your patience and understanding while this critical work is done.



Once again, we must thank our front-line workers, health professionals and others working tirelessly to keep us safe and ensure we can put food on the table.

Please, let's all be compassionate and kind to each other! We are so fortunate to be in Kaslo!

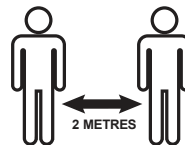
Ian Dunlop
Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Kaslo

P.S. Email admin@kaslo.ca if you would like to be added to the email list to receive updates like this to your inbox.

SIMPLE ACTIONS CAN STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



WASH YOUR HANDS



KEEP THE DISTANCE