Schofield Scoop

WINTER 2025

Message from the Mayor

Mayor Frank Marino

2024 proved to be a very busy year. We successfully completed Phase II of the Burns Ave water/sewer realignment, with the final phase set to wrap up this year. Warfield, Montrose, and Fruitvale collaborated to develop an Inter-Municipal Accessibility Plan, as required by the Province. We will be bringing in a qualified contractor to conduct a facilities audit and to guide us through the process.

Our maintenance vehicle replacement project continued with the purchase of a used backhoe and a replacement pickup truck. Phase 1 of the Municipal Sustainability Committee work will continue—a report summarizing this phase will be ready by late spring. Thanks to securing grants, we will be installing solar panels on our three buildings this year, significantly cutting our electricity costs. The pool opening was delayed in 2024 due to staff shortages; however, this year we are working on a plan to secure staff to open the pool in June.

Hot Topic: Upgrade to Regional Sewage Treatment Plant

What it Means for Warfield Residents

The Village of Warfield is part of a regional sewer service. Warfield's local sewer system collects sewer effluent that is deposited into a regional sewer collection line with effluent treated at the regional sewage treatment plant, known as the Columbia Pollution Control Centre (CPCC). The regional system is managed by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB), which is undertaking a significant upgrade to the facility. This project involves upgrading the sewage treatment plant from primary to secondary treatment, ensuring compliance with modern environmental standards and improving wastewater management for the region.

The $75.7 million project is funded through a combination of federal and provincial grants (60%) and regional borrowing (40%). While grants alleviate much of the financial burden, borrowing and the associated debt servicing cost result in an increase in the sewer service regional tax requisition (set by the RDKB) for all participating communities, including Warfield, Trail and Rossland. Regional costs are apportioned based on Warfield's proportionate effluent flow, which is currently 11%. For Warfield's share of the total regional costs (requisition), this results in an estimated annual increase of approximately $223,400, which includes its share of operational and borrowing costs. When adding the additional costs to Warfield's 2024 requisition of $226,338, the requisition is estimated to be $449,738 for 2025. As a result, residential sewer rates that Warfield levies to pay for the requisition will increase significantly, to approximately $870 for each residence, up from $570 in 2024. This cost is itemized under SEWER PARCEL TAX RATE on the residential Property Tax Notices.

Construction is underway, with substantial completion targeted for mid-2027. Key upgrades include a new biological treatment system, improved odor control, and enhanced ultraviolet (UV) disinfection capabilities. These improvements will ensure long-term environmental sustainability and compliance with provincial standards for wastewater treatment.

The RDKB is actively managing cost escalation through value engineering and contingency reserves. However, residents should prepare for incremental tax adjustments during the construction period.

This vital infrastructure project reflects Warfield's commitment to sustainable environmental stewardship and ensures the community's wastewater management system is equipped to handle future challenges.

For more information, visit the RDKB's website https://jointheconversation.rdkb.com/columbia-pollution-control-centre-upgrade

Operations Updates

This spring, Public Works will be focusing on the following regular maintenance.

- Fire Hydrant maintenance/servicing. This includes a full tear down that involves replacing worn or damaged parts, inspection, and lubrication
- Cleaning and inspection of storm catch basins
- Spring water main flushing program
- Street sweeping and parks clean up
- Activating irrigation systems in parks

The Village's Office, Public Works and Community Hall buildings will have solar panels installed (funded through a local government carbon grant), which will reduce the Village's carbon footprint and result in direct savings on electricity bills.

Councillor's Corner

Councillor Jim Hill

As Councillors, we are responsible for various portfolios related to the Village, or Regional District. One of the newer committees is the Inter-Municipal Accessibility Committee, comprised of members from the Villages of Warfield, Montrose and Fruitvale. It is a provincial requirement that municipalities establish this committee, develop an accessibility plan and determine a process for the public to provide feedback on the plan. In this context "accessibility" is the practice of making information, activities and environments usable for as many people as possible, including those with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Councillor Amantea and I sit on this committee as Warfield's municipal representatives along with volunteer residents from each community. Over four meetings in this first year of work, the committee established an approved Terms of Reference outlining its mandate, responsibilities and definitions and worked with a consultant to develop the first Accessibility Plan.

Although this is a stand-alone committee, we report directly to our Mayors and Councils. The Committee has drafted a bold program going forward and it is expected that addressing the identified barriers will be challenging and costly. The work of the Committee is funded by the operational budgets of the three villages, plus any monies attained through grants. We recognize the uniqueness of each of our municipalities in terms of assets, barriers and budget and, as such, will be making recommendations specific to each Village about improvements and planning.

The Village of Warfield is seeking a person with accessibility challenges to join the committee to assist in prioritizing our unique goals. The committee meets in person 3 times each year in each of the Council's chambers; keeping accessibility in mind, there is always an option to join virtually!

Contact us at accessibility@warfield.ca.

For more information on the Accessible British Columbia Act, please visit

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/accessibility/legislation

Community Calendar and Opportunities

Town Hall Meeting: Monday, Feb 24
Times: 10 am or 7 pm
Location: Community Hall
Host: Municipal Sustainability Committee
Two times are available to accommodate different schedules. Zoom links will also be available. The topic will be the Municipal Sustainability Study and Warfield's future. There will be a status report for the work done to date by the Committee, and questions and answers about the mailout to residents in early February.
This is your chance to consider information and ask questions about the future of Warfield.

Upcoming Special Events

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 12, 2025

Warfield Day: Saturday, June 7, 2025

Would you like to volunteer either to help plan events, or just for a couple of hours?
Email specialevents@warfield.ca and we'll be in touch.

Past Events

Breakfast with Santa – 2024
Breakfast with Santa was a huge success with 208 people in attendance.

Fuelling up on pancakes before Santa arrives!

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
Council's annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held on November 21, 2024 in the Community Hall. The delicious dinner was catered by Mirage Eastern Cuisine. Thank you to all the volunteers for your dedication to the Village.

Age Friendly Lunches
These lunches, held at the Community Hall, are sponsored by the Age Friendly Program for Trail, Rossland and Warfield and are open to seniors in the sponsor communities.
Contact Heather at 250-368-1896 or age.friendly@rossland.ca for more information.

Trail Creek Vegetation Cleanup

A $20,000 expense was included in the 2024 Budget to clean up the Trail Creek channel to reduce the potential for future flood risk. This complements the $150,000 Trail Creek Floodplain study that is also underway and funded by a grant from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

Trail vegetation cleanup completed 2024

Intermunicipal Accessibility Committee Meetings are Open to the Public
Meeting times, agendas and minutes can be found on the Village website.

Village of Warfield Council Meetings are Open to the Public
Meeting times, agendas and minutes are posted on the Village's website.

Community Corner

RV Parking

Parking in Warfield is governed by the **Village of Warfield Traffic Bylaw No. 545, 1995**. Seasonal RV parking can be particularly challenging. RVs are permitted to be parked on the municipal roadway (within 30 centimeters from the curb) for up to 24 continuous hours for loading and unloading. After that time, there is an expectation and requirement that the RV will be moved to off-street parking. In many cases, this will involve the need for people to secure storage in one of the commercial lots that are readily available in the area. It is not the Village's responsibility to provide RV parking. Parking RVs on the roadway will result in a warning notice, which if ignored, will result in a fine. The Village appreciates everyone's cooperation in this matter.

New Bylaws	
Bylaw #	**Title**
961	Solid Waste, Yard and Garden Waste Collection and Disposal Bylaw & Backgrounder
960	Miscellaneous Fees and Charges Bylaw
953	Five-Year Financial Plan 2024-2028
950	Village of Warfield Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw

Property Tax Prepayment Options

A few financial institutions have notified our staff that they will no longer manage the collection and payment of property taxes for their clients. We'd like to remind residents of our Monthly Tax and Utility Prepayment Plan, designed to ease the burden of paying both Utility Invoices and Property Tax accounts at once. With this plan, your bank account will be automatically debited on the 15th of each month, and the payment will be applied directly to your Property Tax account. This prepayment plan can be set up with any Financial Institution. This plan is not designed for taxes in arrears and delinquent. For more information or to sign up, please reach out to our staff at the Municipal Office.

Digital Records Management

The Village has contracted Gravity Union Solutions to oversee the implementation of a Records & Information Management (RIM) plan for the Village's records. At the end of the contract, new files will be opened with digital templates, and over time, older paper files will be digitized. The long-term result will be a complete digitization of the records and a classification system to establish relationships for the records.

Fire Hydrant Replacement

The last two out-of-service fire hydrants are being replaced. An abandoned hydrant on Forrest Drive and related plumbing were renewed before Christmas, while rehabilitation of a unit across from Webster School awaits various provincial agency approvals. Work on the rest of our 79 hydrants is being prioritized, a multi-year job estimated to cost $500,000.

Public Works fleet update includes the replacement of a 24- year-old backhoe with a 2021 backhoe which should provide the Village with 20+ years of reliable service. The 2005 Dodge Ram pickup was replaced with a 2021 F-150 XLT.

Public Works' fleet additions