



LADYSMITH RECEIVING \$10.85-MILLION TO UPGRADE HOLLAND LAKE DAMS

The Town is receiving over \$10,850,000 in Federal and Provincial funding to complete a major water infrastructure project at Holland Lake, nearly doubling the reservoir storage capacity and greatly improving our drinking water supply.

The Town will increase the lake's storage by raising the two existing earthfill dams, and dredging to remove debris from the lakebed, allowing for a 1.5-metre increase to the water level.

A new water intake constructed through the East Dam, as well as upgrades to the existing outlet pipe and spillway on the West Dam, will improve flow management.

These improvements will ensure year-round access to high-quality drinking water for residents and businesses, safeguarding and preserving infrastructure, while also mitigating environmental impacts that affect water quality and ecosystems.

"This significant investment in the raising of the Holland Lake dam better safeguards this secure water source for today and future generations in the face of climate change and growth pressures," said Mayor Aaron Stone. "Through the renewal of our municipal infrastructure, the Town's shared investment with the federal and provincial governments prioritizes local water security, which is critical to the long-term economic, environmental, and social well-being of Ladysmith, the Stz'uminus First Nation and the Diamond Improvement District, which depend on Holland Lake as the primary water source during the dry season."

The Town provides 3,401 water services connections, delivering safe and reliable access to high-quality drinking water to homes and businesses.

Ladysmith was among 14 drinking water and wastewater projects across British Columbia to share in the \$98-million funding announcement.

The Federal government is investing \$5,922,814 in the Holland Lake infrastructure project through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and the Province is contributing \$4,935,185.



NEW WELCOME SIGN UNVEILED

Stz'uminus artist John Marston (Qap'u'luq) has unveiled his captivating artistic gateway sign featuring Coast Salish style carving, welcoming all to Stz'uminus territory and the Ladysmith community.

Marston's carving work and traditional painted design prominently features an eagle on the left timber post, connecting this piece to the prominent Welcome Figure installed at the Ladysmith Secondary School.

The top beam acknowledges the 'Unceded Stz'uminus Territory' with a painted seawolf in the background. The seawolf is a significant creature for the Stz'uminus First Nations and its placement behind the land acknowledgement is symbolic. The right upright depicts the transformation of the seawolf to the killer whale.

The Town gratefully acknowledges the receipt of Douglas Fir donated by Western Forest Products for the project. Further funding for the carving piece, and new wayfinding and directional signage along 1st Avenue, is being provided through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund.

STRENGTHENING FLOOD DEFENCES ON HOLLAND CREEK

The Town is receiving \$2,750,000 in Provincial funding to help mitigate the potential natural disaster risk posed to the Holland Creek weirs in the face of inclement weather resulting from climate change.

As a result of a BC Dam Safety Review completed in 2023, the Town's engineering consultant team advised that the Town decommission and repair three weirs.

The Town was subsequently successful in its application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to fully cover the budget for this project, which will strengthen our flood defences along the watercourse.

As a result of the funding, the Town will deconstruct the weir near the Mackie Road entrance to the trail. The decommissioning of the lower weir will restore the creek bed, providing a more natural passage of water and improved conditions for aquatic habitat.

Additional upgrades to the middle weir and intake weir further upstream will reduce the risk of a potential structural failure as well as improve overall operation and access to the Town's water source.

STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS BEGIN MAY 1ST

Stage 1 Water Restrictions will come into effect for Town of Ladysmith residents as of May 1, 2024. These annual restrictions are intended to help manage water usage during the warmer, drier months of the year.

To read more about full water restrictions, visit our website at: <https://www.ladysmith.ca/our-services/water>.



GRANT TO ASSIST IN REACTIVATING MACHINE SHOP

The Town is moving forward with improvements to the Machine Shop that will restore public access and vibrancy to this heritage building as the 'heart' of the Arts & Heritage Hub.

The Town previously received \$3,307,500 through the Federal grant funding for Hub projects, including the construction of a new Artist Studio.

The Arts & Heritage Hub Design Steering Committee with guidance from Stz'uminus Elders collaborated with an architectural firm for over a year to finalize a studio design, including floorspace, as well as landscaping features.

Council made the financially prudent decision not to award the construction tender after inflationary pressures and other unfavourable economic conditions caused construction of the proposed design to exceed the original budget by 67%.

Federal and Provincial funders supported a change in scope to allow the funds to be used for the Machine Shop.

The completion of these upgrades to the Machine Shop will further facilitate use of the building by community groups,

artists, and other prospective lease holders, helping ensure the Arts & Heritage Hub area is a gathering place for residents and visitors. The Town intends to complete the following upgrades:

- Addition of a new public meeting space available for community rentals.
- A new multipurpose teaching space equipped with a sink.
- Two accessible washrooms – ground and upper floors.
- New windows across the entire front of the building helping further improve energy efficiency and lowering utility costs for tenants.
- Two artists studios available for long-term rentals.
- Entryways and stairwells highlighted by an indoor display space for public art and cultural installations.
- Landscaping and rehabilitation of the outdoor performance space to the south of the building.
- An accessible 200 ft boardwalk fronting the building.
- All related works, such as mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire safety to meet the BC Building Code requirements.

UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS DUE MAY 30, 2024

Utility Bills for January to March are due Thursday, May 30, 2024. We encourage you to pay online or in-person through your financial institution. Payments can be made at City Hall using debit, cash or cheque, by mail or by using our after-hours drop box.

If you have questions about your bill, please call 250.245.6400 or email: billing@ladysmith.ca.



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UPDATES FROM THE TOWN

COMING SOON: Spring Yard Waste Pickup May 13-17, 2024 - The Town and Waste Connections are partnering to bring you a Spring Yard Waste Pickup during the week of May 13-17, 2024.

Visit the 'What's Happening' section on the Town's website homepage for more information.

Annual Cemetery Clean Up - Town Parks crews are completing spring clean up work at the Ladysmith Cemetery as we work to keep the grounds beautiful.

Any floral tributes and trinkets found in an acceptable condition that are removed to allow for maintenance can be picked up by contacting Infrastructure Services at 250.245.6445.

Emergency and Routine Notifications through the CVRD - Have you signed up for the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Emergency Alert Registration service to receive emergency alerts for the area, including Ladysmith? This free service provides information on Evacuation Routes, Alerts and Orders and available/open ESS Reception Centres. To register: www.cowichanalert.ca.

Water Main Flushing Program - Each year, the Town of Ladysmith flushes water supply and distribution water mains. Regular water main flushing is an important part of a comprehensive water management program.

Potable water is flushed at a high velocity through the water mains to ensure all piping is refreshed and minor sediment within the pipe is removed.

This is one of the methods relied upon by the Town to help keep our drinking water safe and clean.

During this flushing period, water users may experience some discoloration of the water supply. Should this occur, running a cold water tap will help to restore water quality back to normal.

Residents who are dependent on medical equipment that uses water, or who have any questions regarding the flushing are invited to call Infrastructure Services 250.245.6445 for specific flushing dates.