

# District Connection:

## Your Municipality in Motion!



Sixth Edition November/December 2025

## Council News

### Highlights from the Council Chamber

**November 13, 2025**

- Staff directed to prepare a resolution for the 2026 AVICC Convention advocating for no-cost EpiPens for BC residents; resolution to be reviewed at a future meeting.
- Staff directed to send information about the AVICC AGM & Convention Student Participation Program to Port Hardy secondary schools.
- Approved request for six hours of gymnasium time at Port Hardy Secondary School for junior volleyball, starting January 6, 2026, under the Reciprocal Use Agreement.
- Council approved providing a letter of consent to the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda-wx Nations for the Tsulquate River Bridge Replacement Project.
- Council resolved to send a follow-up letter to Honourable Minister Joanne Thompson, reiterating the importance of recreational fishing and the impact of Chinook fishery closures on coastal communities.
- Council resolved to send a follow-up letter to Honourable Minister Josie Osborne, requesting that RSV vaccines be made available at no cost for individuals seeking protection against RSV.

**November 25, 2025**

- Council received an update from RCMP S/Sgt. Kimberly Rutherford, including:
  - 0.6% increase in overall file count.
  - Staffing improvements expected to increase traffic and other files.
  - More calls about online issues; new files are being generated.
  - Zero tolerance for public intoxication and an early intervention approach.
  - Success in reducing fights, assaults, and supporting clients accessing care and shelters.
  - Increase in bail violations due to proactive curfew checks.

- Moving violations expected to rise with new check-stop approach.
- Drug trafficking is reported as zero, but cases remain before the courts.
- RCMP staff training and collaboration with Island District General Investigation Section.
- Council received a timeline (April–June 2026) for park works; extension request sent to the estate lawyer for the Lizzie Estate Bequest.
- Staff directed to prepare a congratulatory letter to Connective for being named BC Non-Profit Housing Association Provider of the Year.
- 2026 Regulatory Council Appointments: Council endorsed external regulatory appointments for 2026, including:
  - Mayor Corbett-Labatt and Councillor John Tidbury as Directors for the Regional District of Mount Waddington Board and the Hospital Board.
  - Councillors Dennis Dugas and Janet Dorward as alternates.
  - Councillors Treena Smith and Janet Dorward as Trustee and Alternate Trustee for the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board.



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Sixth Edition November/December 2025

### Highlights from the Council Chamber Cont...

December 9, 2025

- Council resolved to send a letter to MLA Kindy requesting support for the coastal forest sector in response to the Crofton Pulp Mill closure and the urgency of the coastal forest crisis.
- Council resolved to send a letter to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs expressing concerns about Bill M216 and its potential implications for local governments and communities like Port Hardy.
- Council agreed to join other local governments in signing a letter to Premier Eby regarding water insecurity threats to BC communities and the economy.
- Council deferred proposed activities and budget estimates for the Port Hardy 60th Birthday to the Finance Committee for further discussion.
- Bylaw No. 1183-2025 Official Community Plan was adopted as presented.
- Bylaw No. 1186-2025 Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw was adopted as presented.



Your District.

### Your Services. Your Dashboard

Need to report an issue? Pay a bill?

Check garbage day? Catch the latest events or emergency updates?

We've made it easy — everything Port Hardy, all in one place.

Scan and stay connected with your community.

Helpful tip: once you scan the code, save the website to your home screen and never have to search for info again!



**FOLLOW**



#### NEW DATES!

January 14, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
February 13, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
March 13, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
April 9, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
May 7, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Municipal Hall Council Chambers  
7360 Columbia St. Port Hardy  
general@porthardy.ca 250-949-6665



### 2026 Council Meeting Dates

January 13 & 27	July 14
February 10 & 24	August 11
March 10 & 24	September 8
April 14 & 28	October 13 & 27
May 12 & 26	November 10 & 24
June 9 & 23	December 8

Members of the public are welcome to attend open meetings of Council and may address Council if arrangements to do so have been made in advance. The full 2026 Council and Committee meeting calendar, meeting agendas and minutes will be made available on the District of Port Hardy's online meeting portal at [porthardy.ca](http://porthardy.ca). For more information, please contact:

Louisa Bates, Deputy Corporate Officer  
District of Port Hardy

7360 Columbia Street, PO Box 68, Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0  
Phone: (250)-949-6665 Fax: (250)-949-7433  
Email: [lbates@porthardy.ca](mailto:lbates@porthardy.ca)

Have questions about what Mayor and Council are working on?  
Don't guess or rely on online chatter — just ask us! We're always happy to help.

District

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Sixth Edition November/December 2025

### November/December Highlights

The 3rd Annual Pumpkin Patch Walk, hosted by the Rotary Club of Port Hardy with support from the Lions Club of Port Hardy, was a wonderful community success. The walk showcased an incredible collection of creatively carved pumpkins, highlighting the talent and artistry of our community.

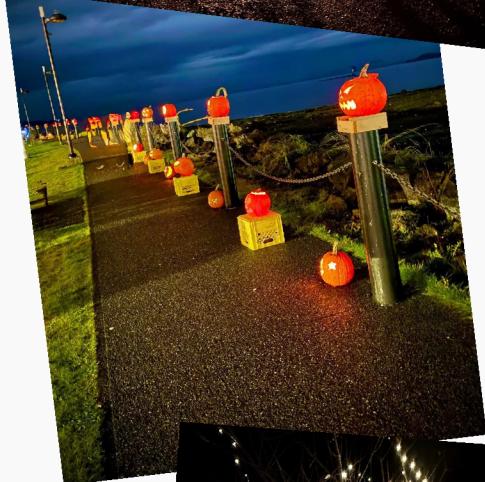
Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who gathered and displayed the pumpkins for everyone to enjoy. With a festive bonfire and hot chocolate, the event was a perfect way to welcome November while providing a fun and responsible way to dispose of pumpkins after Halloween.



The Festival of Lights in Port Hardy lit up the start of the holiday season on Thursday, November 27, 2025, bringing festive cheer to downtown and the harbour. The celebration kicked off at 5:30 PM at Carrot Park and the Port Hardy Visitor Info Centre, with an evening filled with lights, community spirit, and seasonal joy.

A highlight of the evening was the Harbour Boat Parade, where beautifully decorated boats powered through the harbour, dazzling spectators along the shoreline and adding a magical glow to the night.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Port Hardy and the support of local businesses, this special "light-up" festival brought families and friends together in celebration. Through the generous efforts of volunteers and community partners, the event created a welcoming and festive atmosphere, officially ushering in the holiday season in our town.



# District Connection:

## Your Municipality in Motion!



Fifth Edition September/October 2025

### Bylaw Complaints

**70**

Received January - December

### Building Permits

**42**

Approved January - December

### Grants

**11  
19**

Applied for  
January - December  
Active

## CAO update

### Corporate Services /Bylaw/Planning/Development

- Subdivision reviews
- Building permit reviews
- Election year coming in 2026- pre-planning underway
- Land use discussions on multiple files
- BC Housing land acquisition reviews

### Council/Committee

- Finance Committees looking at Grants in aid, capital and fees and charges.
- Community Safety Forum organization
- Researching and preparing EpiPen Resolution to AVICC for January review
- Preparing the Strategic Plan Check-in for Council in early 2026
- Community Consultative Committee Port Hardy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration discussions
- Discussions regarding traffic safety and calming at Storey's Beach

### Community

- Participated in the Gift of Life Celebration

### Employee

- Christmas Staff Party was well attended (recognition on next page)
- Labour management meetings

### Personal

- Took a nice vacation...ahhhh
- Municipal Insurance Association training

### Port Hardy-Numata Twin City Exchange: Japan Awaits!

Port Hardy is excited to announce the next chapter of our long-standing Twin City relationship with Numata, Hokkaido, Japan—and this time, it's our turn to visit Japan.

This exchange builds on decades of friendship and cultural connection between our two communities. Over the years, students and families from both cities have shared experiences that promote learning, understanding, and lifelong connections.

We are currently seeking primarily high school-aged students (adults are welcome too) to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Participants will spend one week in Japan, living with a host family in Numata. While airfare to and from Japan and a few hotel stays will be required, there are no out-of-pocket costs during the homestay, as students will be fully billeted and experience daily life like a local.

This is an incredible opportunity for students to explore Japanese culture, represent Port Hardy, and build global friendships.

To learn more about Numata Town in Hokkaido, Japan, visit their official website and explore what makes this community so special.

Interested? Let us know- Email [general@porthardy.ca](mailto:general@porthardy.ca) to get on our mailing list or call Heather at 250-949-6665 to find out more.



# District Connection:

## Your Municipality in Motion!

The Christmas spirit is alive at the District! we had a festive Christmas Party with Council and Staff early in December at the Curling Club. Where we all shared a few laughs and reminisced about all we had been through. We would love to share the Christmas Staff Poem for 2025 :)

### Twas the Night Before Christmas — Port Hardy Edition

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the Hall,  
The year's final meetings had wrapped — one and all.  
The offices quiet, the inboxes still,  
As winter's soft hush settled over the hill.

Our year told in newsletters, each page a proud note —  
From projects completed to decisions we wrote.  
The "District Connection" captured our stride,  
Each challenge we faced, we conquered with pride.

Operations kept us moving through storm, wind, and rain,  
Roads cleared, leaks repaired, with grit to sustain.

Recreation brought joy — the heartbeat of play,  
Programs and laughter that brightened each day.

Our Fire Department stood ready with courage and care,  
Training, responding — ever vigilant, always there.

Administration guided the ship with calm hands,  
Balancing budgets, shaping long-range plans.  
Supporting each department with patience and grace,  
Keeping steady momentum at the District's fast pace.

Corporate Services kept the gears turning tight,  
Agendas, FOIs, and records done right.

And Bylaw — out daily with fairness in tow,  
Building compliance and safety wherever they go.

Through teamwork and heart, through planning so smart,  
Each staff member carried a meaningful part.  
And woven gently through this year gone by,  
Is a memory we hold — soft as a sigh.

For Bobby, whose smile lit the streets like warm sun,  
Whose kindness was steady, whose laughter would run.  
He touched every workplace, left footprints of cheer,  
A presence still felt as we gather this year.

Now raise up a cheer for the milestones we share —  
For service, commitment, and years of deep care.



Sixth Edition November/December 2025

To Chris — twenty years — a remarkable span,  
A cornerstone teammate, a true steady hand.

To Heather — ten years — with passion,  
Guiding with humour and intention.

To Dan and to Jenna — five years in your stride,  
Your futures shine brightly with promise and pride.

And thanks to the Christmas crew — the magical few,  
Who gathered the garlands, the lights, and the glue?  
For crafting this evening, warm-hearted and bright,  
You've given us wonder to share in tonight.

So here's to our people — the heart of this place,  
To each quiet effort, to each smiling face.  
The year wasn't easy, but we faced it as one,  
And together we found both the hard work and the fun.

Now rest, dear teammates — breathe deep, let things light,  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.



### 2026 Dog Tags Now Available

#### Reasons to license your pet:



Dog licensing using a tag is a quick and efficient way to reunite a lost dog with their owner.

By purchasing a tag, you are letting others know that your dog belongs to someone. Animal Control can then easily identify the owner(s) and reconnect the owner(s) with their lost companion.

The license fee is nominal if the dog is spayed or neutered.

Temporary tags are available for dogs younger than 8 months, FREE of charge.

2026 licenses can be purchased at the Municipal Hall at 7360 Columbia St. Visit [porthardy.ca](http://porthardy.ca) for more information on dog tags and Animal Control services or call (250)-949-6113.

# Property assessments and property taxes: A not-so complicated relationship



BC ASSESSMENT

## BC Assessment Notices Arrive in January: What Do They Mean for Your Property Taxes?

Each January, property owners receive their BC Assessment Notice, which provides an estimated market value of your property as of July 1 of the previous year. While this notice does not show your property taxes, it plays a key role in how your municipal taxes are calculated later in the year.

## Understanding Your 2026 Property Assessment in Port Hardy

For Port Hardy, the total net assessment change for each class in 2025 was:

Residential total:	2.5%
Single Family	3.4%
Strata	0.7%
Business/Other:	5.2%

Please take a look at the image on the next page to see how this relates to your tax notice.

**!** **Important:** Assessment increases do not automatically translate into the same percentage increase in taxes—it depends on how your property's change compares to the community average and the tax rates set by all agencies.

## Appealing Your Assessment

You may consider an appeal if you think your assessment is incorrect or unfair, such as when:

- Your property data (size, age, classification) is inaccurate
- The assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1
- Comparable properties are assessed significantly lower without cause
- Your home has condition issues not reflected in the assessed value

## An appeal is not appropriate for concerns about:

- The amount of taxes you pay
- Your ability to pay
- Municipal spending or tax rates

### Deadline to Appeal

If you choose to appeal, you must file a Notice of Complaint with the Property Assessment Review Panel by February 2, 2026. Before filing, BC Assessment encourages property owners to contact their local assessor to discuss their notice—many issues can be resolved informally.



## Spotlight: BC Property Tax Deferment Program — What You Need to Know

Property taxes are a significant part of annual homeownership costs, and many homeowners may benefit from learning about the BC Property Tax Deferment Program. This provincial initiative can help eligible property owners defer payment of their current year's property taxes.

### What the Program Is

The Property Tax Deferment Program is a low-interest loan offered by the Province of British Columbia. When approved, the Ministry of Finance pays your property taxes on your behalf after the due date, and a restrictive lien is placed on your property until the loan is repaid.

### That lien means:

- You may be limited in making specific changes to your property title (such as refinancing, selling, or adding owners) until the tax deferment loan is repaid.

### Interest starts accruing from the later of:

- The property tax due date, or
- The date you applied to defer.

### Two programs to choose from:

- 55 years and older
- Families with children



### To find out more or how to apply visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/property-tax-deferment-program> or scan the code

**BUSINESS LICENSE**

2026 Business Licence renewals are due January 31, 2026.

**OPENING A NEW BUSINESS?**

Applications are available online or can be completed at the Municipal Hall.

**CLOSING UP?**

Not operating this year? Let us know! Send an email to [general@porthardy.ca](mailto:general@porthardy.ca)

# UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF A CHANGE IN YOUR ASSESSMENT ON PROPERTY TAXES

Assumes stable tax rates and no changes in the distribution of budget funding between property classes for your taxing jurisdiction and/or any other taxing agency.

Here is what could happen to your property taxes:

	Your Property's Value Change	Property Tax Impact
1.	LOWER than Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely DECREASE
2.	SIMILAR to the Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely DO NOT CHANGE
3.	HIGHER than Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely INCREASE

## Class 01 – A mixture of residential property types Average Change Example



The Residential property class includes properties like single-family dwellings, townhomes, and condominiums. The average change will be impacted by the magnitude of change for each property type, and how many of each property type there are in your municipality or taxing jurisdiction.

### Example A:



Your property is currently assessed at **\$540,000**, based upon a valuation date of July 1 last year. Your previous assessed value was **\$450,000**. Your property increased **20%** in value, while the average increase for your property class was **30%**.

Since your property value increased **LESS THAN** the average for your property class, you will likely see a **DECREASE** in your property taxes.

Note: this example assumes that there are no changes in the budgetary requirements of your taxing authority and/or any other taxing agency.

### Example B:



Conversely, your property is currently assessed at **\$630,000**, based on a valuation date of July 1 last year. Your previous assessed value was **\$450,000**. Your property increased **40%** in value, while the average increase for your property class is **30%**.

Since your property increased **MORE THAN** the average, you will likely see an **INCREASE** in your property taxes.

Note: this example assumes that there are no changes in the budgetary requirements of your taxing authority and/or any other taxing agency.

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## Operational Services Update October/November

### Utilities Department

- Maintained full regulatory compliance with zero permit violations.
- Managed heavy rains and high turbidity; ongoing air valve and hydrant servicing.
- New controls installed at Bear Cove Reservoir; water meter at Lindsey Manor Apartment relocated outdoors.
- Fort Rupert School generator fuel tank replaced
- Centrifuge SCADA upgrade in progress.

### Public Works

- Routine maintenance and repairs across the district
- Completed two full burials.
- Alder tree removal at Skate Park Project
- Winterized gardens and set up brine system for winter roads.
- Local paving completed; culvert and catch basin clearing ongoing.
- Organized surplus sale and posted Equipment Operator position.
- Park inspections and sweeping of local roadways.

### Fleet Services

Serviced multiple fleet vehicles and heavy equipment internally.

### Building Maintenance

- Winterized Bear Cove and completed end-of-season tasks.
- Repaired and refinished district signs; addressed vandalism and plumbing at visitor centre.
- Library roof leaks fixed; visitor centre roof repaired under warranty.
- Civic Centre hot water tank system quotes and specs underway.

### Safety & Training

- Provided Citywide GIS training and ergonomic workstation demos; conducted hearing tests for staff.
- Held monthly safety meetings and risk management sessions for front-line staff.

### Leadership & Planning

- One-on-one meetings with supervisors and managers to support operational needs.
- Participated in senior staff meetings for organizational direction.
- Initiated 2025 employee development reviews
- Assisted with district communications to residents.



A little rain isn't going to stop Maxtin and Carson from making Port Hardy look awesome! It is time to get ready for winter and be prepared for Spring!



Download the 2026 Garbage & Recycling calendar or pick up a hard copy at the District office.



# District Connection:

Your Municipality in Motion!



Sixth Edition November/December 2025

## Recreational Services Update October/November

October 2025

### Autumn Festival

- Hosted the 5th annual Autumn Festival, the best yet, with a vibrant community atmosphere for all ages.
- Featured food and market vendors, a Looney Tunes Scavenger Hunt, pie and donut eating contests, Bingo, Pumpkin Walk, and Lego contest.
- Free admission and fun prizes, thanks to generous local sponsors. Kids were especially excited about the donations.

### Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

- District hosted the 3rd Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, themed "Red Carpet."
- Honoured individuals and organizations who make Port Hardy a lively, connected community.
- Lifeguard Kristian Jensen (also a chef) and staff served a delicious breakfast spread.

### Great Shakeout

- Staff participated in the Great Shakeout earthquake drill, practicing "drop, cover, and hold on."

### Crockpot Cookoff

- District Social Committee organized a Crockpot Cookoff, bringing staff, council, and mayor together.
- Participants prepared dishes for sampling and voting, boosting morale and connections.

### Halloween

- Staff celebrated Halloween with costumes and a dance video for social media.



November 2025

### Pool Maintenance

- Pool was closed from Oct 29 to Nov 15 for maintenance.
- Lifeguards stayed busy: Kristian completed Aquafit training, staff offered skate lessons to a school, deep cleaned the facility, Kerry led Chair Fit, and staff enjoyed some time off.

### Skate Lessons

- Arena was a hub for families and kids learning new skating skills.
- New COC Melanie, a seasoned skater, contributed to the program; skate patrollers led and supported the kids.

### After School Club

- After School Club saw its busiest year yet, thanks to the BC Alliance for Healthy Living's Active Play Club grant.
- Program offered free unstructured play, creative activities, and healthy snacks for children.

### Nerf on Ice – Zombies Edition

- Arena transformed for Nerf on Ice – Zombies Edition, with fog, foam darts, and lots of laughter.
- First event had 34 participants (\$5 entry); second event was free for youth, with 28 teens joining via Pathways Youth Collective partnership with NICCC.

### Community Feedback

- Facebook campaign invited residents to share what they love about Port Hardy Recreation.
- Highlights included praise for lifeguards, staff, youth programs, swimming and skating, friendly atmosphere, affordable prices, and inclusive events for all ages.



Recreation Programs



Events Calendar



WINTER 2026

 PORT HARDY  
RECREATION GUIDE

 REGISTER  
NOW

Early Bird Discount

Dec 15 - Jan 5

25% off Yoga, Aquafit &amp; Lengths


 Register for our programs online or in person  
We respectfully acknowledge that we play on the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl people, Gilakas'la

7400 Columbia St. | Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0

 Register online: <https://app.booking.ca/porthardyrecreationpub/index.asp>

For more information: 250.949.6686 | recreation@porthardy.ca

All programs and rates may be subject to change or cancellation

 HARDY HUSTLE  
10K & HALF MARATHON  
JUNE 7, 2026

## Hardy Hustle 10K &amp; Half Marathon

Sun | June 7

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Hardy Hustle is back for its fourth year! Choose between a 10KM or a Half Marathon as you run through town and follow the stunning waterfront of Port Hardy. Run it. Walk it. Hustle it. Limited swag is available on a first come, first served basis. The racecourse will close at 2:00 pm, any participants finishing after the 4 hour time limit will not be scored as official finishers. Registration is non-refundable. Register today!

May 4-8, 2026

## Emergency Preparedness FAIR

## Calling all Gr. 4-7 classes Port Hardy &amp; surrounding area, WE NEED YOU!

Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility – residents, businesses, and government all play a part in ensuring the community is ready. Each May, Port Hardy Emergency kicks off Emergency Preparedness Week with an event to help people learn how to be prepared for an emergency of any kind. For 2026, Gr.4-7 students are invited to help raise awareness and starting the conversation about being ready when it matters most.

Contact [lbates@porthardy.ca](mailto:lbates@porthardy.ca) to register your class or for more information.



## BEGINNER PICKLEBALL AT PORT HARDY RECREATION

**JAN 25 - MAR 10**  
NO SESSION FEB 1 & MAR 1

**SUNDAY**  
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

**TUESDAY**  
5:00 PM - 5:45 PM

\$2 Drop-in | Paddle Rental Included  
*No session Feb 1 & Mar 1*  
Schedule subject to change based on facility availability.  
For updates, call 250.949.6686 or visit Port Hardy Recreation on Facebook



## KITCHEN CONNECTIONS PIE PARTY!

**AGES 7+**

**\$25/PARENT & CHILD  
\$10/EXTRA PERSON  
MAX 4 PER GROUP**

**SAT | JAN 31**  
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM  
CIVIC CENTRE



## Figure Foundations

**Ages 7 - 17**

**Mon & Wed | Feb 9 - Mar 11**  
3:45 pm - 4:45 pm  
9/\$63

**Figure skates are encouraged.**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A  
YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS  
MARKET & ART SHOW**

**FEBRUARY | 1** 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
HANDMADE PRODUCTS, FOOD & ART

## Beginner Pickleball

Jan 25 - Mar 10

Sun | 10:00 am - 10:45 am

Tues | 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm

\$2/session | All Ages

Perfect for players of all ages who are new to the game, this program offers a fun and welcoming way to learn the basics of Pickleball. An experienced player will be onsite to provide tips, guidance, and instruction for anyone who'd like a little extra help. **Registration is preferred, but drop-ins are welcome.** Admission includes use of a Pickleball paddle.

## Kitchen Connections

## Pie Party

Sat | Jan 31

3:30 pm - 6:00 pm

\$25/Parent and child

\$10/additional person (Max 2)

Ages 7+

Parents - Roll up your sleeves for a deliciously fun hands-on cooking class where you and your child or teen will work together to prepare warm, flaky chicken pot pies & dessert completely from scratch. Thanks to the generous support from Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society, we can offer reduced admission to families!

## Figure Foundations

Mon &amp; Wed | Feb 9 - Mar 11

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

9/\$63

Ages 7 - 17

Designed for graduates of intermediate skating lessons, this program introduces the fundamentals of figure skating. Participants will strengthen their edges, improve control, and explore spins and footwork in a supportive, skill focused setting.

**Figure skates are encouraged.**

## Young Entrepreneurs Market &amp; Art Show

Sun | Feb 1

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Budding Entrepreneurs showcase their unique products, crafts and artistic talents. Art Show on display.

Register online: [app.univerusrec.com/porthardyrecreationpub](http://app.univerusrec.com/porthardyrecreationpub) or scan the QR Code.

For more information:  
visit us at 7400 Columbia St.  
call: 250.949.6686 ex 201  
email: [recreation@porthardy.ca](mailto:recreation@porthardy.ca)



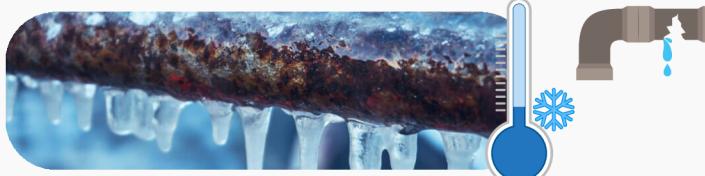
SCAN  
HERE  
TO  
REGISTER!

## Someone say sweater weather?



*I'd rather be sleeping... zzz...*  
While most of us may love sweater weather, not all of us do. Black bears are now in a period of hyperphagia as they ready for the onset of winter.

During this time, an increased appetite will entice bears to explore food sources of all kinds, natural or not. Help our resident black bears prepare for winter by securing garbage and removing attractants.



## WINTERIZE YOUR PROPERTY!

Temperatures have dropped. Now is the time to winterize your home to avoid the headache and money on preventable repairs.

**Isolate outdoor taps** - Exposed fixtures are susceptible to freezing. Disconnect hoses and isolate taps to limit the risk of water damage.

**Secure skirting around crawl spaces** - Secure skirting to reduce the likelihood of the water lines below your home from freezing and rupturing.

**Don't leave taps running!** - Running taps not only wastes water, it is ineffective at preventing freezing.



Cold weather means that brine trucks, sanding equipment and plows will be out in full force as needed to keep the roads safe for vehicles & pedestrians.

## DON'T PARK ON THE STREET, TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS...

Road maintenance equipment is BIG and requires a LOT of room to maneuver. Park in your driveway to give equipment operators the room needed to maintain the street in your neighbourhood. → This applies to trucks, cars, utility trailers, and RVs. Violators risk being fined or towed.

## INTRODUCING Q-ALERT: SERVICE REQUESTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Have you noticed a street light flickering? Perhaps you've recently avoided a car-consuming pothole while driving down the road? Or maybe your neighbourhood has a new outdoor swimming pool thanks to a blocked storm drain. Whatever the problem, submitting a service request with the District has never been easier!

Quick and convenient, Q-Alert is an online reporting tool residents can use to let the District know when a municipal service needs attention. How? It's simple:



1. Notice issue
2. Scan QR Code (or visit [porthardy.ca](http://porthardy.ca))
3. Fill in key details about the issue/concern
4. Drop a pin for accuracy
5. Upload a photo for context
6. Click 'create request'

We take it from there, it's that easy! No need to wait until office hours the next day to call to report a concern. Plus, Q-Alert will keep you informed of the status of your request, and you will be notified as soon as it is completed.

*Call 250-949-7505 to report an after-hours operational emergency.*

## NEW

### E-GOV NOW AVAILABLE

The District has launched E-Gov. Property owners can view utility and property tax account balances online in real-time and make payments to an account using a credit card.



To sign up for E-Gov, an email address for the account must first be registered with the District. Scan the QR code to learn more or visit [porthardy.ca](http://porthardy.ca).

## WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE UNDERWAY!



# District Connection:

Your Municipality in Motion!



Sixth Edition November/December 2025

## Did You Know? Home-Based Businesses Have Special Rules

Did you know that many people dream of becoming their own sellers of wonderful things—homemade food, jewelry, crafts, art, and more—but the very first step should always be a conversation with us at the District office.

Home-based businesses are a great way to turn a passion into an income, but they are governed by different rules than commercial businesses. Before you invest time and money, or take a misstep that's hard to undo, we encourage aspiring entrepreneurs to come talk to us. We're here to help guide you through the process and set you up for success.

The biggest thing to know is that home-based businesses are not commercial uses. They must remain clearly secondary to the residential use of the home. This means the business must be contained entirely within the dwelling and must not change the residential character of the neighbourhood.

In practical terms, this means:

- No outdoor storage of materials, products, or equipment
- No noticeable increase in traffic or parking related to the business
- No attractants or activity that draws attention to the property



- No outside indication that a business exists, including signage (home-based business signage is either very limited or not permitted, depending on the situation—always check first!)

If your idea involves food, there's another critical step: health approval through Island Health. Food production and sales have specific health and safety requirements that must be met before you operate.



We know these rules can feel discouraging, but they exist to protect neighbourhoods and business owners. Our goal is not enforcement—we truly dislike being the bearer of bad news. We want to help you understand the rules early, avoid costly mistakes, and find a path that works for both you and the community.



So before you get moving ahead, come in and chat with staff about your business idea. We can help you plan for success, and prefer to do so rather than having to step in later.

It's also essential for customers and purchasers to do their due diligence. Before buying goods or services—especially food—consumers should confirm that a business holds the proper business license and the required approvals. This helps protect consumers and supports responsible, compliant local companies.



# District Connection:

Your Municipality in Motion!



Sixth Edition November/December 2025

## Did You Know? Your Local Government Is Here for You!

Did you know that your local government, the District of Port Hardy, is the level of government closest to you? We're the ones you see every day working to keep our community running smoothly; maintaining roads and sidewalks, collecting garbage and recycling, providing clean water, supporting our parks and recreation programs, and helping plan for the future of Port Hardy.

But here's something many people don't realize: some of the questions we get most often about hospitals, crime, homelessness, or social support services aren't actually under local government control. Those are handled by the provincial or federal governments.

That doesn't mean your local Council stays silent! We advocate on your behalf to ensure your concerns are heard by decision-makers at other levels of government.

## What do the different levels of government do?

Port Hardy Municipal Government	
	Road, sidewalk & bridge maintenance
	Utilities (garbage, recycling, water & wastewater)
	Fire services and bylaw enforcement
	Parks, recreation, arts & culture
	Planning & development
	Economic development
	Property taxes (municipal portion)

Mount Waddington Regional District	
	Solid waste management
	Residential Services in electoral areas
	Regional parks and recreation
	911 operation
	Fire services
	Regional tourism
	Regional economic development

British Columbia Provincial Government	
	Highways
	Schools
	Provincial Courts
	Health care
	Environment
	Social services
	Mental health
	Housing
	Property taxes (provincial portion)

Canada Federal Government	
	Post Office
	Border services, immigration & citizenship
	RCMP & military
	Correctional facilities & Supreme Court
	Firearms
	Banking, trade & commerce
	Foreign affairs & policy
	Income taxes & employment insurance