

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

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| Date: May 26, 2025 | |
| To: Council | From: Department Heads |
| Re: Departmental Updates | |

CORPORATE OFFICER:

General:

- Along with the CAO, participated in a meeting with the District's consultant for the Development Approvals Process project.
- Participated in new working group with BSS and other key support services for Barriere's adolescents (ie. RCMP, BCEHS, Child and Youth Mental Health, Simpcw First Nation, Yellowhead, SD73 Indigenous Educational Workers, etc.) to discuss some ways we could possibly support Barriere and area youth. While it was unfortunate that some planned attendees, including the RCMP, were unable to make this first meeting, it was helpful for the entity representatives that were in attendance to explain their roles and scope for everyone to better understand what is, and isn't, in their jurisdiction and how to potentially bring it all together so that more can be done to support Barriere's youth; especially those who may be struggling to find a positive direction.
- The District is nearing the completion of its first 12 month operation cycle of the Barriere Business Centre (BBC). Staff are in the process of working on a summary of the operational revenues and expenses to provide Council in the coming weeks.
- Annual Property Tax bill went out in the mail last Tuesday afternoon. A reminder will be sent out via E-News of the deadline and to remind taxpayers to claim their homeowner grant (if eligible) as well before the deadline.

Recreation & Events:

- A Rec Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 28th at 7pm in Council Chambers. Block Party (June 21, 2025) planning continues and this year's Bandshell Friday (Music in the Park) line up is scheduled:
 - July 4, 2025 – Bill Fowler & "The Mob"
 - July 18, 2025 – John & Megan
 - August 1, 2025 – Butch Falk
 - August 15, 2025 – Jeremy Kneeshaw
 - August 29, 2025 – Tim Francis "Hoodoo Vibes"
- Movie Nights in the Park events are also in the process of being scheduled with showing dates, times and titles to come shortly.
- Barriere Blooms Contest is open for registration. Information and forms are available on the website and were circulated through E-News.

UBCM 2025 (Victoria):

- UBCM Minister and Staff Meeting booking deadlines have been released. Requests to meet with the Premier and/or Cabinet Ministers must be made before July 2, 2025. Requests to meet with Ministry staff must be made before August 20, 2025.
- Registration for the September 22-26, 2025 Convention opens July 2nd, 2025.

PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:

Roads:

- Commercial sweeper completed all paved road sweeping (2 days) – under budget.
- Dust control applied to gravel roads within town – under budget.
- Road marking hand-lines (stop bars, crosswalks, etc) completed – within budget.

Parks:

- Tree planting program in Community Park completed. Completely funded by BC Hydro and Community Forest grants.
- Bandshell washrooms were connected to our municipal sewer system in-house, thus eliminating high level conditions during community events.
- Flowers recently planted throughout the community except for the wooden flower boxes in Fademar Park along Town Road. The Garden Club has opted not to plant them this year and we have run out of flowers.
- Hanging flower baskets have been placed on the Barriere River Bridge.
- Community Forest donated lumber to replace the bleacher seating at Main Ball Field.
- Splashpad is operational for the season.
- Bandshell washroom was recently vandalized again. Some newly planted flowers were ripped out/damaged.

Utilities:

- The water leak identified on Summer Road has been repaired by the homeowner.
- Water consumption is averaging 1600-1700 m³/day.

Facilities:

- Business Centre Unit #4 renovations – T-Bar ceiling and exterior window have been installed. Lights, switches, and plugs have been energized. Next step is interior door and window installation.

FIRE CHIEF:**Fire Department:**

- Calls: Grass Fire & 2 Rural Rescues (stood down enroute to one)
- Training: NFPA 1001 (Exterior and Interior) & Ropes
- Waiting for the final parts for the Bush Truck to come in (it will take 4-5 days after to install).
- Fire Hall changes: Lockers moved to the storage room to allow room for the 3500 Dodge to be backed in once the new Bush Truck is here. This will also allow for us to store all of the EOC equipment in the Fire Hall
- SOP & SOG's - updates
- Fire Chief attended Emergency Scene Management Course in Pitt Meadows (6 Day Course)
- Fire Extinguisher training for District of Barriere Staff
- TNRD By-Law / Fire Risk Management Property check-in
- All Officers attended an informational meeting on Fire Marque (they assist with insurance recovery for FD's)

FireSmart:

- Community Wildfire and Resiliency Plan sent to UBCM for approval
- Amendments for the current grant funds in progress
- Attended FireSmart Coordinator Teams Meeting

Weather:

- No major updates.
- Fire Chief attended the 2025 Spring Seasonal Readiness Workshop with EMCR and BCWS
 - BCWS can not make predictions for the season at this time
 - This meeting included three table tops discussing jurisdiction, recovering costs for resources and information sharing.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Finance:

- Fees and Charges Bylaw update is included on this agenda which would finalize the 2025 rate increase process (which balances the budget) if Council approves the Bylaw.
- Finance and corporate staff have secured the 50% loan for the Bush Truck from MFA.
- Audit 2024 is in progress but delayed compared to provincially legislated requirements. This was expected. No anticipated ETA due to finance department staffing changes.

Governance:

- Agreements / Contracts:
 - Community Hall Lease Agreement – advertising in progress. Will be signed thereafter.
 - TNRD – Structure Fire Protection Service Agreement – work is ongoing with Fire Chief and TNRD representatives
 - First Responders – are seeking an agreement regarding support during fire events. We are currently reviewing their draft agreement. Final version would need to be brought to Council for consideration.
- Policies / Bylaws:
 - Finalizing Fees and Charges Bylaw – on this agenda
 - Procurement Policy – Council consideration on this agenda
 - Reserve Bylaw structure is under review for more strategic alignment.
 - Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) Policy will be worked on over the next few months.
 - OCP Refresh Update draft was received from the consultant and is currently undergoing a very thorough review by corporate/planning staff.

Administration:

- Attended Lions Club meeting with Mayor Kerslake to present the District Budget and for a Q&A session with the Lions.
- Accounting Clerk position has been posted and closed May 5, 2025. The successful applicant starts on June 2.
- Chief Financial Officer position has been posted and closed May 12, 2025. Interviews are in progress.

**submitted for information*