

2025 3rd QUARTER COMMUNITY UPDATE

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Quarterly newsletters reflect work that has been completed since the last quarter. For printed copies please visit the following locations:

- Fraser Lake Public Library located at 228 Endako Avenue;
- Autumn Services, located at 111 Chowsunket Avenue; and
- Menshed, located at 80 Cougar Street

Virtual edition will be available on the municipal website at www.fraserlake.ca. All Village newsletters will be prepared within the first month of each quarter.

PROJECT UPDATES

Community Hall Phase 2 – The project is nearing completion at the end of the 3rd quarter has reached 95% completion and expected ready for the close out by early November. The new addition includes two change rooms, three new washrooms, a new foyer, user storage, patio, and commercial kitchen available for short term, and seasonal rentals. More information on the available uses of the facility will be released in the next quarter update.

Water Tower Replacement – By the end of the 3rd quarter the Water Tower Project has reached 80% completion with the final work being conducted by mid November. By the end of September the water tower was completely constructed. The remaining work to be completed in the 4th quarter of 2025 are as follows:

- Installation of Fencing;
- Seeding and Restoration; and
- Final Clean Up.

Residents are encouraged once the project is completed to take a walk around Mouse Mountain to get a better look of the newly constructed water tower once the project is finalized in the 4th quarter.



Photo 1 Designated Water Line Construction

Designated Water Line – At the April 23, 2025 Council Meeting, Council awarded the Designated Water Line Project to Dawson Civil in the amount of \$6,175,276.00, coming in \$4,125,307.00 below the initial project estimate. It is important to note that none of the project outside of the support provided by municipal employees has been supported by municipal tax dollars. The project has been supported through grant funding and Community Forest

The 3rd quarter saw significant work done on the designated water line with an additional crew brought in to support the installation of the sanitary sewer line. The sanitary line with all connections have been completed and the water

line with all connections to be completed prior to Dawson Civil demobilizing from site.

A maintenance plan is currently being created to address all the maintenance issues that could be reasonably expected during the duration of the Designated Water Line project. The Village and Dawson ask for patience during this period as the deliberations will ensure a comprehensive plan that will ensure comfort while Dawson Civil is not physically onsite. That being said, a final maintenance plan is expected to be completed and finalized prior to the end of October 2025; at which point a public document will be circulated through the Village's normal communication channels.

For copies of project notices please refer to the Village website at www.fraserlake.ca or check

the notice board at the 210 Carrier Crescent. Notices of emergency routes are circulated to all emergency personnel at the start of each week to ensure easy and fair access into any municipal property.



Photo 2 Water Reservoir Construction

FINANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

In the third quarter of 2025, the Finance Department carried out several routine functions in support of municipal operations. These included issuing semi-annual utility invoices, preparing the Permissive Tax Bylaw, submitting payments to external taxing authorities, and providing administrative support to other departments. The department also tracked and reported on grant funding received during the quarter.

Work continued with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George on IT infrastructure improvements, including efforts to secure cybersecurity insurance, install updated phone systems, acquire a new server, and implement multifactor authentication for municipal accounts and devices.

The Village received the following grants in Q3:

- \$53,675.82 from the Community Works Fund (Union of BC Municipalities)

- \$387,000 from the Small Community Grant (Province of British Columbia)
- \$17,500 for tree planting initiatives (BC Hydro and Tree Canada)
- \$1,120 from the Employer Training Grant for the Fire Department
- \$2,501 from the Canada Summer Jobs program

The Budget Variance Report presented to Council showed general fund revenues of approximately \$9.45 million, with expenditures totaling \$9.1 million. The Water and Sewer Funds remained in positive standing, supported by capital contributions. The Forest Fund recorded limited activity, with expenses totaling \$30,115.

The Finance Department continues to provide quarterly updates to Council and maintains oversight of financial operations in accordance with policy and legislative requirements.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Throughout the third quarter, the Public Works Department completed a range of operational and maintenance tasks aligned with the Village's 2025 workplan. Favorable weather conditions supported progress across several areas.

At White Swan Park, irrigation infrastructure was installed from the campground to the

washrooms. Maintenance activities included care for flower beds and newly planted trees. Trail maintenance was conducted on Mouse Mountain Trails, where downed trees were cleared to maintain public access. Ground remediation, including reseeded and topsoil application, was completed at both the Cenotaph and the soccer field.

Work at Kin Park has been paused to avoid disruption during peak seasonal use. Two picnic tables were removed for resurfacing over the winter. Seasonal closures were implemented, including the Sani Dump and all park washrooms. Lawn maintenance equipment has been cleaned and stored.

Cleanup efforts at the Public Works Yard resulted in the removal of 85% of scrap metal and all scrap wood, contributing to reduced disposal costs. A new fence was constructed between Northern Log Hauling and the public workshop. Sidewalk repairs were completed at Chowsunket and Endako, where a damaged section was replaced.

Stormwater infrastructure was adjusted to improve drainage, with three storm basins and

six water valves lowered. On McMillan Avenue, road repairs included lowering manholes and replacing deteriorated pavement with cold millings. Four manhole lids were also lowered to align with road surface height.

At the sewer plant, staff constructed a modified bucket using expanded metal to remove duckweed, which has contributed to increased sludge and organic load in the ponds.

Progress was also made on capital projects. Staff provided support to contractors working on the designated waterline, including responses to service breaks and saddle failures. One failed service saddle, which broke during hand digging, has been retained for Council review.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

During the third quarter of 2025, Fraser Lake Fire Rescue responded to a total of 17 fire-related incidents within the Fraser Lake municipal boundaries and the Stellat'en Reserve. These included one burning complaint, two commercial fire alarms, one natural gas (hazmat) call, one open-air fire, one commercial/high hazard structure fire, two small wildland fires, five additional commercial fire alarms, one hazmat spill, and one residential structure fire. Notably, one of the wildland fires occurred west of Endako Mines and was successfully addressed. The burning complaint, received during the Walter Schmidt Ball Tournament weekend, was determined to involve safe-sized campfires.

In addition to fire-related responses, the department attended six serious motor vehicle incidents, 11 medical aid and lift assist calls, two assist calls, and two duty officer pages. Under

the Municipal Type Service Agreement (MTSA) with Stellat'en, Fraser Lake Fire Rescue responded to three incidents within the Stellat'en Reserve (No. 613).

Recruitment and training activities continued during the quarter. Seven new recruits began the

BC Provincial Exterior Firefighter Program, which is being delivered in-house. The department also hosted a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) training course on September 27-28.

Five community burning permits were issued during the quarter.

Bylaw enforcement activities included addressing complaints related to dogs running at large, unsightly commercial properties with clutter, and unsightly vehicles in both business and residential areas. All reported bylaw infractions were resolved.



Photo 3 Dorman Lake Fire

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

The Village of Fraser Lake continued to advance its 2024–2027 Strategic Plan throughout the third quarter of 2025. Progress was made across all strategic pillars, supporting infrastructure development, community livability, beautification, and organizational health.

Infrastructure

Key infrastructure projects moved forward during the quarter. The Wastewater Treatment Plant blower upgrade reached substantial completion, with final documentation received and minor deficiencies under review. The Mouse Mountain Water Reservoir project achieved major milestones, including the pouring of the concrete foundation, installation of the reservoir, and final commissioning. Completion is expected in early Q4. The Designated Water Line project faced delays due to site conditions and watermain breaks, but the sanitary sewer line was completed by quarter-end. Crews are finalizing water connections before demobilizing for winter, and a maintenance plan will be released in Q4. Additionally, the Village submitted a Strategic Priorities Fund application to support infrastructure upgrades on Carrier Crescent and the looping of water mains between the South Side and North Side. Procurement of a new ammonia chiller was also initiated, with installation scheduled for 2026.

Sustainability & Livability

Efforts to improve community infrastructure and services continued. Phase 2 upgrades to the Fraser Lake Community Hall and C.H. Foote Memorial Arena neared completion, with plans for a joint grand opening and community feedback event. Preliminary work for Phase 3 has begun, including drainage and parking lot

planning. A Request for Proposal for the Waterfront Development Plan was issued but did not receive bids. The Village completed an accommodation study to guide future development of the White Swan Campground. In partnership with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, a new point-of-sale system was procured for the bulk water station, transitioning to a pay-as-you-go model. Council and staff also attended the 2025 UBCM convention, meeting with eight ministers and eight ministry staff.

Beautification

Community Services led a shoreline cleanup at White Swan Park, and tree planting was completed along the highway corridor, municipal buildings, and parks using climate action funding. All FoodCycler composters were distributed across Electoral Area D and Fraser Lake to help reduce bear-related waste issues. Four bylaw enforcement notices related to community sightliness were issued and resolved. Facility improvements included cladding and window replacements at the Public Works Building and repainting of the arena's gable ends.

Organizational Health

The Village adopted a new Community Forest Management Plan and received approval for its updated Forest Stewardship Plan from both First Nations. The Province committed to expanding the Community Forest by approximately 7,000 hectares, with integration planning to continue in



Photo 4 Minister of Forests Meeting

Q4. Council approved the use of Next Gen11 funds to upgrade fire engines with a new CAD system and EDMA funds to support emergency communications planning and exercises. The Emergency Preparedness Plan is being revised in collaboration with consultants to better reflect local scenarios and integrate the 2023

Evacuation Plan. A new Proclamation Policy was developed to clarify procedures for submitting requests to Council. Council also increased its use of Committee of the Whole meetings to support in-depth project discussions and public engagement.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

In the third quarter of 2025, the Community Services Department continued to advance a variety of initiatives across grants, planning, recreation, transportation, and intergovernmental relations.

Grant Activity

Remained a key focus, with several successful applications including \$20,000 from the NDIIT Business Façade Improvement Program for local signage upgrades, and preapproved funding through the Local Government Climate Action Program for countertop compost units, hydrogen fuel injectors, and bike racks. Installation of bike racks at the Municipal Hall and Library was completed, while arena installation was deferred to 2026 due to drainage issues. Other notable grants included \$20,000 from the Nechako-Kitimat Development Fund for the Drone Transportation Initiative Phase II and \$8,000 from RDBN for a resident attraction video, which is currently in post-production.

Planning

The Sign Plan saw the design and ordering of new signage for Municipal Hall and the Professional Building, with trail signage planning underway. The Rebranding Plan moved into its final stages, including billboard installation and the upcoming release of a redesigned Visitor's Guide. Tree planting under the Tree Plan was completed, with maintenance ongoing. The Waterfront Redevelopment Plan incorporated community feedback and completed an accommodation feasibility study. Although no bids were received for the marine infrastructure RFQ, staff plan to reissue the request in smaller components. The Official Community Plan reached second reading in September, with

further readings scheduled for Q4.

Recreation Programming

Included Mouse Mountain Day, which drew approximately 600 attendees. The event was efficiently executed, reducing staff hours compared to the previous year. Other programs included kayak and paddleboard classes, a community scavenger hunt, and a foreshore cleanup. Planning is underway for winter events, cooking classes, and trail-related activities. The Visitor's Centre operated seven days a week during the summer, welcoming 757 visitors in July and August.



Photo 5 Cross Country Ski Trail Development

Transportation Services

Continued with the Fraser Lake community bus completing 228 trips. Minor service disruptions occurred due to driver unavailability and mechanical issues. The Drone Transportation Initiative Phase II advanced with grant submissions and governance discussions among Fraser Lake, Stellat'en First Nation, and UBC. The project is expected to begin in spring 2026 and will expand medical delivery capabilities using fixed-wing drones.

Intergovernmental and Economic Development Relations

The Village collaborated with Stellat'en and Nadleh Whut'en First Nations on shared initiatives, including the drone project and labour force data efforts. Staff also participated in regional economic development events, including the Northern Angel Summit and meetings with the Northern BC Tourism Association, contributing to broader strategic planning and investment attraction.

BYLAW UPDATES

In the third quarter the Village commenced the first two readings of the Official Community Plan (OCP). The Village has been working with L&M Engineering utilizing the Local Government Housing Initiative Funding to support the facilitation of a new OCP. Following the completion of this project, the Village will work immediately in the development of a new Zoning Bylaw that will be aligned with the policy recommendations of the new OCP. Copies of the Official Community Plan prior to adoption are available on the Village website:

https://www.fraserlake.ca/sites/26/files/2025-09/SecondReadingMERGED_o.pdf

For more information on any of these bylaws, please visit the municipal website, stop by the Village Office, or contact:

- Ethan Fredeen, Chief Administrative Officer / Corporate Officer – efredeen@fraserlake.ca
- Jesse Gervais, Economic Development Officer / Deputy Corporate Officer – edo@fraserlake.ca

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS RECRUITEMENT

The Village is once again reaching out to community members who may be interested in joining the Volunteer Fire Department. A recommended minimum commitment of two hours per week is required for training sessions, which are held on Tuesday evenings starting at either 6:00PM or 7:00PM. Once training is complete, volunteers will be certified and able to respond to calls as needed.

It's important to note that certification for firefighting does not occur overnight—it requires time, dedication, and consistent participation in

training. Our Fire Chief, Joe Pacheco, is fully certified to deliver training in external structural firefighting and is prepared to support all interested residents through the process.

Residents interested in serving and helping protect our community are encouraged to reach out and get involved.

Any of those interested please swing by the Fire Hall to inquire about joining the Volunteer department or reach out to Fire Chief Pacheco at (250) 699-2859 or email him at fire@fraserlake.ca.