

# TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

the official community newsletter of the Municipality of Watson Lake • VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1 | June-July 2024

02

INGROUND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
UPGRADES

follow story on page 02



## A Letter from the Town Office

We are halfway through the vibrant and promising year of 2024. The Town of Watson Lake is delighted to share some exciting updates and upcoming events with you. The sun is finally brightly shining as summer is right around the corner and the town, with its ever-hardworking community is starting to shape up to be a year filled with dynamic projects and community activities that will enhance our town and bring everyone closer together. In this newsletter you will be able to find general information and news about plans, timelines and expected outcomes about projects. Department heads also use this newsletter along with Watson Lake's official website and social media accounts to inform you about recent tasks and activities going on in their departments and how you, as a community member will be involved.

Our calendar has been brimming with events this year, designed to engage and entertain residents. The recreation centre team has been racking their brains to come up with fun activities for everyone, and when they say everyone, there are events for all ages, like marathons, or camps, and even some for the environment that will create some "buzz".

2024 is also a significant year to mark progress and improvement. As part of our ongoing commitment to enhance our town's infrastructure, and as you take a stroll around town, several projects have been going on already, like water and sewer upgrades and a couple renovations here and there. Elections are also

in the horizon, truly a pivotal time for our community. We encourage everyone to participate actively, to stay informed and exercise your right to vote, as your involvement is crucial for shaping the future of Watson Lake.

To stay connected with all the latest news, project developments and upcoming events, please visit our official website and follow our social media channels. Your feedback and participation is important to us so reach out with any suggestions and concerns.

Let us make 2024 a year filled with growth, fun and unity.

also check out...

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE





# INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

## Inground Water and Sewer Construction

**W**atson Lake is on the brink of transformative infrastructure improvements that will elevate the town's liveability and economic prospects. This initiative covers critical upgrades to water, sewer, and road systems, ensuring long-term benefits for residents and businesses alike.

### Investments in Essential Services

The Federal, Territorial Governments and the Town of Watson Lake are jointly investing \$8.5 million in water, sewer, and road improvements. This funding shows a commitment to enhancing services that directly impact the community's quality of life and economic stability. The federal government is contributing \$4.25 million, matched by the Yukon government with an additional \$4.25 million through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).

### Enhancing Water and Sewer Systems

Modernizing Watson Lake's water and sewer infrastructure is a key component of this project. By upgrading aging pipelines and expanding the capacity of water treatment facilities, the town aims to ensure a reliable water supply and improve sanitation standards. These upgrades will address current deficiencies and prepare

for future growth, significantly reducing environmental risks.

### Road Improvement Upgrades

The project also includes comprehensive road improvements, from sub-base to surface resurfacing, facilitating smoother traffic flow and reducing vehicle wear and tear. These enhancements will improve access for both customers and suppliers, benefiting residents and businesses alike.

### Ongoing Inground Work

Currently, Norcope, the contractor overseeing the project, has deployed two crews to ensure timely completion of critical tasks. One crew focuses on Tintina Way, while the other is upgrading Adela, Frank Trail, and Stikine Avenue. Efforts are being made to minimize water service interruptions, with sewer and waterline replacements occurring separately. Norcope aims to complete these areas before temperatures drop to ensure reliable

water service for residents and businesses.

### Coordinating Personal Projects

A liaison has been appointed to oversee the coordination of personal projects with the broader infrastructure upgrades. This role ensures that individual initiatives align with the town's overall development plan, benefiting the entire community. Residents and businesses can contact the Norcope Community Liaison for project-related questions and coordination through [liaison@norcope.com](mailto:liaison@norcope.com).

### Addressing Community Concerns

Some confusion and misunderstandings have arisen regarding the necessity and scope of these upgrades. The primary purpose is to replace aging infrastructure to ensure continued reliability and safety. Benefits include reduced freeze-ups, improved ditching to prevent ruts, and resurfaced roads that will enhance daily commutes, providing a more stable and convenient living environment.

For questions about project funding and priorities, contact the Yukon Government Project Manager by emailing [nicolas.pare@yukon.ca](mailto:nicolas.pare@yukon.ca).

## Local Cemetery Upgrades: Enhancing the Community's Resting Places

**L**ees and Associates is developing a comprehensive plan to expand the existing cemetery under the management of Watson Lake.

This project is set to add more plots to improve the overall layout, and enhance accessibility, making sure the cemetery is a peaceful and respectful resting place for our loved ones.

Stay tuned for updates, dedicated to meeting the future needs of Watson Lake, and making sure that our loved ones peacefully resides close to our town, and more importantly, close to our hearts.

## What are Electoral District Boundaries?

**Y**our voice matters in shaping our electoral future! Elections Yukon is reviewing electoral district boundaries, which could impact our community's representation.

### Why it Matters

Fair representation ensures every vote counts equally. Balanced boundaries better reflect community needs, addressing Watson Lake's unique issues like infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

### Get Involved

Participate in public consultations and share your views to shape Watson Lake's electoral future. Your input can make a real difference in ensuring our community is fairly and effectively represented.

For more information, visit Elections Yukon. Let's work together to ensure Watson Lake's voice is strong and clear in the electoral process.

## Fire? No, Thank you.

### FIRE-READY

In 2023, there have been 214 wildfire incidents reported in the Yukon Territory, which is above average for the region.

SOURCE: YUKON  
GOVERNMENT



**W**atson Lake is enhancing fire safety and community resilience with a Dry Hydrant Feasibility Study, exploring the installation of dry hydrants to ensure year-round water availability for fire trucks.

### Dry Hydrants?

Dry hydrants are crucial for firefighting in cold climates, consisting of pipes installed near water bodies, allowing fire trucks to draw water efficiently.

The feasibility study identifies locations and assesses water availability in Watson Lake, ensuring a sustainable yield of 1,800 litres per minute to fill fire trucks. The study considered Wye Lake, Second Wye Lake, Hour Lake, and Watson Lake as feasible locations. This initiative is vital for improving fire-response capabilities and reducing fire-related damage. It also enhances long-term community resilience by providing a reliable, cost-effective water source for firefighting. The Dry Hydrant Feasibility Report can be found on our website, and public input is encouraged.





## Housing Accelerator Funds to boost Watson Lake Development

Watson Lake is set to benefit from the recently announced Housing Accelerator Funds, a Federal Government initiative providing \$6.7 million to the Yukon to construct 1,000 homes over the next decade.

Watson Lake's Mayor Chris Irvin and Yukon MP Brendan Hanley announced an allocation of \$2,060,000 for the town's Housing Accelerator Funds' Action Plan. "With federal funding and leadership, we are changing how municipalities let housing get built in their communities," stated the federal government.

The action plan for Watson Lake encourages developing underused parcels of land and converting some commercial properties into residential units. The town's zoning bylaw will remove barriers to "missing middle" housing, defining how duplexes and townhouses are classified. The plan also addresses community barriers to accessing residential financing and aims to develop public-private partnerships for municipal service extensions.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Watson Lake CAO Cam Lockwood, Watson Lake Mayor Christopher Irvin, Yukon MP Brendan Hanley, Carmacks Councillor Justin Lechance, Carmacks Mayor Lee Bodie, Carmacks CAO Matthew Cybulski

Mayor Irvin expressed appreciation to the Government of Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the funding, which will increase the availability and affordability of housing in Watson Lake, ensuring everyone has a safe, affordable homes.

This initiative is expected to stimulate local economic growth through job creation and increased housing availability, marking a pivotal step towards a more inclusive and thriving Watson Lake.

**"We are changing how municipalities let housing get built in their communities"**

Federal Government of Canada  
to address Housing Accelerator  
Fund Initiative

## 2024 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CALENDAR



**SEPTEMBER 18**  
NOMINATION VENUE ANNOUNCED  
the notice for time and place for holding nominations are issued.



**SEPTEMBER 19**  
APPLICATION FOR REVISIONS  
the last day for any applications for revision on the list of electors



**SEPTEMBER 26**  
NOMINATIONS  
nominations for mayor and councillor must be made by noon



**OCTOBER 10**  
ADVANCE POLL  
advance polling stations will open in the Northern Lights Center



**OCTOBER 17**  
ELECTION DAY

a general timeline with the suggested and legislated activities based on the municipal act

Are you considering running as mayor or councillor candidate?  
Learn about your future responsibilities by scanning the QR code through The Joy of Learning



## 2024 Municipal Elections Coming up

The 2024 municipal election is significant for Watson Lake residents. Participating ensures your voice is heard and helps shape policies impacting Watson Lake's future.

Engage in the democratic process, attend forums, and educate yourself on the issues and candidates. For those wishing to run, the town's website has informative videos and information on how to get started. Exercise your right and contribute to making Watson Lake a better place for everyone. By voting and possibly running, you directly influence the community's direction and growth.

## Urban Visitors' Sign Program

Attention all business owners in Watson Lake! Our town has launched the Urban Visitor's Sign Program to boost local economic development and make our town more visitor friendly. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase what your business has to offer to locals and travellers alike.

The UVS Program allows businesses to install advertisement signs along the Alaska Highway Corridor for a fee, making a great first impression on travellers entering the Gateway of the Yukon. These signs will help highlight your business to potential customers passing through our town.

Local businesses can apply for a spot on these signs. The town administrator will review and approve applications based on policy guidelines. Once approved, the town will install and administer the signs, ensuring they are clear and well-kept.

This program is made possible through agreements with the Yukon Government. These signs will help visitors discover what your business offers and encourage them to stop by.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to promote your business and contribute to the growth of our local economy!

## Francis Avenue Extension Updates

Exciting developments are underway as the Francis Avenue Extension project progresses smoothly and remains right on track according to the projected timeline. Work is set to be completed by early fall.

Once the development is finished, the Yukon Government will list the developed and serviced lots for sale, with power, water, and sewer lines set-up. Town of Watson Lake will

assist with advertisements to promote these new opportunities. Stay tuned for further updates as we approach the completion of this exciting project.





# Diving into Summer Fun!

## Dennis Ball Memorial Pool is open for summer!



The pool is now open for everyone to enjoy! Come swim, splash and play through the activities we offer this season. We have Family Swim, Parent and Tot, Lane Swim, Aquafit Classes, the Swim Team and many more! Join for a refreshing experience and don't miss out by checking the schedule attached below. See you at pool and the waterslide.

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
09.30-10.30 FAMILY SWIM	09.30-10.30 FAMILY SWIM	09.30-10.30 FAMILY SWIM	09.30-10.30 FAMILY SWIM	
11.00-12.00 PARENT & TOT	11.00-12.00 SENIOR SWIM	11.00-12.00 PARENT & TOT	11.00-12.00 SENIOR SWIM	
12.00-01.00 NOON LANE SWIM	12.00-01.00 NOON LANE SWIM	12.00-01.00 NOON LANE SWIM	12.00-01.00 NOON LANE SWIM	
01.30-03.00 SWIM TEAM*	01.30-03.00 PARENT & TOT	01.30-03.00 SWIM TEAM*	01.30-03.00 PARENT & TOT	
03.00-05.30 PUBLIC SWIM	03.00-05.30 PUBLIC SWIM	03.00-05.30 PUBLIC SWIM	03.00-05.30 PUBLIC SWIM	02.00-05.00 LUCKY LAKE WATERSLIDE
06.30-07.30 AQUAFIT	06.30-07.30 AQUAFIT	06.30-07.30 ADULT SWIM	06.30-07.30 AQUAFIT	06.00-08.00 LUCKY LAKE WATERSLIDE

you may call the pool for more information at (867) 536-8020 ext. 4 facilities closed on Sundays and Mondays.  
operation of Lucky Lake Waterslide is weather dependent. 2pm-5pm slot will be Public Swim and 6pm-8pm slot will be Adult Swim respectively if weather does not permit waterslide usage.



## Community Lottery Fund to boost Sports, Recreation and Arts in Watson Lake

Watson Lake residents passionate about sports, recreation, and arts have the chance to make a difference. The Community Lottery Program offers funding to provide essential financial support to sustain, grow, and improve programs, infrastructure, and the local economy through these events. By applying, you help create more opportunities for engagement and enjoyment in Watson Lake.

### Who Qualifies?

Individuals, groups, and organizations involved in arts, sports, or recreational activities within the community are invited to apply, with priority given to programs benefiting youth and seniors (55+).

### How to Apply

Community Lottery Program Applications are reviewed biannually, every May 5th and September 5th. Application forms are available at the Town Office or online through the Town's website. Submit completed applications by the deadlines and take advantage of these fantastic opportunities to enrich our community.



## Mayor Christopher Irvin TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

Dear Watson Lake Community,

I am excited to share some updates with you as we continue to work together to make our town a wonderful place to live. First, I would like to acknowledge the Kaska Dena people and

Liard First Nation for their ongoing support and partnership in our community.

We are thrilled to commence and hopefully complete the development of 42 new lots on Frances Ave. Council has been advocating for this development for years and are thrilled it has started to take shape and look forward to the potential it has for our growing community.

I will take this opportunity to remind everyone that our council meetings are held every first and third Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the council chambers downstairs at the municipal building and everyone is welcome to attend. We do have some very exciting initiatives underway and we really appreciate all the feedback we can get.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our municipal staff for their tireless efforts in bringing these projects to life. Their dedication and hard work help our community shine.

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to making Watson Lake the best it can be.

-Chris

### DO YOU WANT TO BE INFORMED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE TOWN OF WATSON LAKE?

you can get the information you want, however you want if you register to our new communication system and get updated with events via

Phone

Mail

Text

**SIGN-UP TODAY**

**BY VISITING [WWW.WATSONLAKE.CA](http://WWW.WATSONLAKE.CA)**

or if you are not online, you may call the Town Office at (867) 536-8000 or visit us at 710 Adela Trail and we can help you get set up.

once you are connected, save us in your contacts and never miss another notice!

## Recreation Centre Updated Fees and Charges

According to the FEES & CHARGES BYLAW

The Recreation Centre offers a myriad of activities towards residents and visitors, but did you know that we had to change some rates and fees according to our Fees and Charges Bylaw? So get back into action right away as we got some of the changes here ready for you!

### Recreational Activities DROP-INS ARE LIMITED TO 2 HOURS AND INCLUDE SKATING SQUASH AND GYM USE

CHILDREN (AGES 4 & UNDER)	-FREE
CHILDREN (AGES 5-12)	-\$3.50
YOUTH AND SENIORS (60+)	-\$5.50
ADULTS (AGES 19-59)	-\$6.50
FAMILY (2A AND 2 C/Y)	-\$15.75

### THESE ACTIVITIES CAN ALSO BE AVAILABLE BY PURCHASING A MONTHLY PASS OR 10 PUNCH PASSES

CHILDREN (AGES 4 & UNDER)	-FREE
CHILDREN (AGES 5-12)	-\$21.00
YOUTH AND SENIORS (60+)	-\$51.50
ADULTS (AGES 19-59)	-\$52.50
FAMILY (2A AND 2 C/Y)	-\$105.00

### SHOWERS/SAUNA

-\$6.50/use

### SWIMMING POOL AND WATERSLIDES

related activities include: public swim, lane swim, family swim, parent & tot, senior swim and aquafit

CHILDREN (AGES 4 & UNDER)	-FREE
CHILDREN (AGES 5-12)	-\$3.50/day or \$21.00/10 punchpass
YOUTH AND SENIORS (60+)	-\$5.50/day or \$51.50/10 punchpass
ADULTS (AGES 19-59)	-\$6.50/day or \$52.50/10 punchpass
FAMILY (2A AND 2 C/Y)	-\$15.75/day or \$105.00/10 punchpass

### Facility Rentals

COMMUNITY HALL fees vary if bar/kitchen is included or will be rented	\$52.50/hour or \$277.75/day
CURLING LOUNGE fees vary if kitchen is included	\$26.25/hour or \$131.25/day
MEZZANINE	\$26.25/hour or \$131.25/day
OVAL ROOM	\$26.25/hour or \$131.25/day
CURLING ARENA summer (no ice)	\$36.75/hour or \$157.50/day
CURLING ICE (per sheet)	\$15.75/hour
CURLING ICE (3 sheets)	\$189.00/day
BOWLING (per lane)	\$7.56/hour
BOWLING (3 lanes)	\$90.72/day
ARENA RINK summer (no ice)	\$25.20/hour or \$110.25/day

You may reach out to the recreation center by calling (867) 536-8020 for additional information and external facility rentals. Summer hours are Weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-6pm, Winter hours Weekdays 8am-10pm, Saturday 9am-6pm. Rental of Arena Ice Rink, the Wye Lake Cabin, the Northern Lights Center and Ski Chalet are available for rentals.





## What We Heard: Sign Post Forest and Wye Lake Trail Upgrades

The Town of Watson Lake is enhancing the Wye Lake Trail and Signpost Forest Trail to promote active transportation, improve accessibility, and enrich community well-being. These upgrades aim to make the trails more enjoyable and accessible for all residents and visitors.

### Project Goals

These trail upgrades aim to encourage residents to walk, bike, and use the trails for non-motorized transportation, to be used for more than just recreation. Improved accessibility ensures usability for people of all ages and abilities, including youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Feedback from the "What We Heard" survey highlighted the primary safety concerns due to lack

of lighting, wildlife, and poor trail conditions that discourage people from using them, and the fact that it is generally difficult to maintain. The upgrades aim to provide a safe and pleasant environment, increase year-round use, and enhance amenities.

### From the Community

Feedback was gathered from the residents through a Town Hall meeting and an online survey in fall 2022.

According to participants, key priorities for Wye Lake Trail improvements include expanded winter access, improved trail surface, and Kaska language signage. For Signpost Forest, additional historical information, more seating, and more garbage/recycling bins were requested.

### Next Steps

Based on community feedback, the top priority is improving active transportation and accessibility. Construction documents are being prepared, and the project will move to the implementation phase this year.

“

*"The Wye Lake Trail is easily accessible and in the center of Watson Lake."*

WATSON LAKE RESIDENT

*"We would like to see acknowledgement of Kaska Territory."*

WATSON LAKE RESIDENT

*"Trail isn't wide enough. It is hard to enjoy a chat with a friend walking that section."*

WATSON LAKE RESIDENT

## Playground upgrades for the young residents of Watson Lake

The Town of Watson Lake is considering an exciting new playground upgrade project! This initiative aims to provide our children with a modern, safe, and fun play area, enhancing the recreational facilities in our community. More details coming your way so keep involved in shaping this fantastic project. Let's make Watson Lake an even better place to play and grow!



**KICKFLIP INTO ACTION:  
JOIN THE WATSON LAKE  
SKATEBOARDING  
WORKSHOP**  
with **ASHLEY SWINTON**

AGES 05-10  
10.30AM-12.30PM

AGES 10 ABOVE  
01.00PM-03.30PM

JULY 31 UNTIL AUGUST 02, 2024  
SKATEPARK, WATSON LAKE

REGISTRATION \$110 AT THE RECREATION CENTRE

Are you planning to host your own event?

Sizzle it up through our

**SUMMER RENTALS!**

the recreation centre offers...



BARBECUES



DISC GOLF KIT



MINI GOLF



FAT BIKE

We also rent out

**PADDED CHAIRS, FOLDING TABLES AND POP-UP TENTS** for external events

## Dog Park Survey

We need your input on a possible community project for our furry residents - a dog park!

Where the town is considering developing a dedicated space where they can play and socialize safely, and we want to hear from you!

By participating in this survey, you can help us shape the project that perfectly meet their needs according to the community. Features that you and your pets want can be considered so scan the QR code below, or follow this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9NR6D63>,

so we can work together on making the Town of Watson Lake a more vibrant, pet-friendly space. We thank you for directly influencing the planning and development of this potential facility.



## Northern Lights Center: Open for shows this Summer

CHILDREN (AGES 4 AND BELOW) - FREE CHILDREN/STUDENTS - \$10.00 YOUTH (AGES 13-18) - \$12.00  
ADULTS (19-59) - \$15.00 SENIORS (60+) - \$12.00



oasis in space • aurora: lights of wonder • search for extra terrestrial intelligence • solar superstorms • mars • black holes • big dark star adventure (kids) • two small pieces of glass (kids)





# Public Waste Drop-off Area: Watson Lake Set for Improved Waste Management

Watson Lake is nearing completion of a significant waste management project with the public waste drop-off area now 95% finished. Since Fall 2023, substantial progress has been made, allowing for new waste management procedures to be implemented soon.

A key feature of the new drop-off area is the roll-off trailers with three bin compartments, set to be installed on-site. This equipment will change waste disposal procedures in Watson Lake.

The project is progressing smoothly and is on track to meet planned

timelines. The new drop-off areas are expected to be operational shortly, with announcements coming on July.

For now, waste disposal continues as usual, but residents should be aware that new procedures will soon require sorting waste into

compartments instead of driving directly to the landfill.

These changes will improve efficiency and reduce the environmental impact, contributing to a more healthy and sustainable environment for Watson Lake. Stay tuned for updates as the project reaches its final stages.



## A Curbside Reminder

According to the  
GARBAGE COLLECTION &  
RECYCLING BYLAW

The Town has new tipplers to make garbage collection more efficient. We thank you for helping our collectors by following these reminders according to our bylaw.

- 1.Put your garbage bins out by 7:00 am on collection day.
- 2.Ensure bins are not blocked by obstacles.
- 3.Return bins the same day after collection.

Proper curbside placement helps collectors use the new equipment efficiently and keeps the street tidy. Incorrectly placed bins require manual adjustment, making their work harder. Thanks for your cooperation!

**Collection Days:**  
Tuesday, Wednesday  
Thursday for residential areas

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### YUKON RECYCLING CLUB

earn **COOL** rewards by teaching children ages 4-16 refundable beverage containers and bringing them to the town's recycling depot.

this awesome program by Raven Recycling lets club members earn points that can be redeemed for amazing prizes! Sponsored by Yukon Government Community Services, and through the help of other partners, our children learn about environmental stewardship, sustainability and community engagement in an early age!

how this works:



points collection start May 4th,  
it's not too late, registration still ongoing



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SAFELY DISPOSE  
OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AT NO  
COST TO YOU!

YOU CAN DISPOSE OF:



OILS    SPRAY CANS    BATTERIES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024  
10AM - 5PM

AT WATSON LAKE RECYCLING  
AND LANDFILL FACILITY

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO COMMERCIAL  
WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION

### DID YOU KNOW?

Some Wastes are  
Unavailable for  
Curbside Pickup  
these include:

**Non-Residential Waste:** such  
as commercial, industrial and  
institutional waste.

examples include: waste from  
businesses or office

**Controlled Waste:** such  
as bulky items, animal  
carcasses, construction  
waste and hazardous  
materials

examples include: old mattresses,  
paint cans, chemicals, etc.

**Improper Waste Handling:**  
such as untied/unsealed  
bags, unacceptable garbage  
containers, exceeding bag  
limits and loose material

you may bring these to the landfill  
for disposal





# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## KIDS & YOUTH



### HIDDEN LAKES BIBLE CAMP

JUNE 24 TO 28 TEEN CAMP

JULY 2 TO JULY 6 KIDS CAMP

Contact (867) 536-4639 or go ask the A Nicer Motel front desk for more information and/or registration



### YOUTH MOVING MOUNTAINS

WATSON LAKE STEM CAMPS

JULY 22 TO JULY 25

YUKONU CAMPUS

Contact Coleen at (867) 536-8800 or Liz at (867) 332-0659 for more information

## REGULAR EVENTS

### ADULT SOFTBALL

FRIDAY NIGHT 7PM

Ages 15+ welcome. There are gear you can borrow and spectators and hecklers are encouraged.

### DISC GOLF SOCIAL

THURSDAYS 6PM, SUNDAYS 2PM

Locations change between Lucky Lake and Raven Pine Disc Golf course. Raven Pine located at the Skatepark. Watch for info on Facebook "Watson Lake Disc Golf". Everyone welcome! Discs can be rented at the Rec Centre.

### DISC GOLF TOURNEY

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

Raven Pine Disc Golf Course (at the Skatepark), 11:00 am Registry Start time: 12:00pm. BBQ and prizes provided. All skill levels welcome! Discs provided by Recreation Centre.

### PICKLE BALL

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS 7PM

All skill levels welcome. No Charge. Equipment provided. Watson Lake Secondary School Gym

### NINJA TUMBLING AND SUNDAY VOLLEYBALL

Are taking a summer break. Ninja tumbling will resume in August. There might be volleyball at Lucky Lake. Announcements posted on WATSON LAKE SUNSHINE

## BEEES AND BABY



### BEE MINDFUL WALKS & COFFEE CHATS WITH JOEY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MENTAL WELLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

EVERY TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS FOR BEE MINDFUL WALKS.

TUESDAYS, COFFEE CHATS WITH JOEY

AT WATSON LAKE BEE YARD

Contact Joey Mitchell at (867) 332-3187 or Lee Covin at (867) 332-0476 or email them respectively at joey.mitchell@yukon.ca or lee.covin@yukon.ca for more information

### WATSON LAKE CPNP PROGRAMS

Visit their Facebook page or contact (867) 536-2125 and email watsonlakecpnp@gmail.com for more information

## TOWN CALENDAR JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>01</b> CANADA DAY	<b>02</b> TOWN COUNCIL MEETING PROPERTY TAX DEADLINE 144 TESLIN AUCTION DEADLINE POOL PICKLEBALL KIDS BIBLE CAMP DAY 1	<b>03</b> POOL KIDS BIBLE CAMP DAY 2	<b>04</b> POOL PICKLEBALL/DISC GOLF SOCIAL KIDS BIBLE CAMP DAY 3	<b>05</b> POOL ADULT SOFTBALL KIDS BIBLE CAMP DAY 4	<b>06</b> LUCKY LAKE WATERSLIDE/POOL PICKLEBALL KIDS BIBLE CAMP DAY 7
<b>07</b> DISC GOLF SOCIAL	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b> POOL PICKLEBALL BEE WALKS/ COFFEE WITH JOEY	<b>10</b> POOL	<b>11</b> POOL PICKLEBALL/DISC GOLF SOCIAL	<b>12</b> POOL ADULT SOFTBALL	<b>13</b> LUCKY LAKE WATERSLIDE/POOL PICKLEBALL
<b>14</b> DISC GOLF SOCIAL	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> TOWN COUNCIL MEETING POOL PICKLEBALL BEE WALKS/ COFFEE WITH JOEY	<b>17</b> POOL	<b>18</b> POOL PICKLEBALL/DISC GOLF SOCIAL BEE MINDFUL WALKS	<b>19</b> POOL ADULT SOFTBALL	<b>20</b> LUCKY LAKE WATERSLIDE/POOL PICKLEBALL
<b>21</b> DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT DISC GOLF SOCIAL	<b>22</b> YOUTH MOVING MOUNTAINS DAY 1	<b>23</b> POOL PICKLEBALL BEE WALKS/ COFFEE WITH JOEY YOUTH MOVING MOUNTAINS DAY 2	<b>24</b> POOL YOUTH MOVING MOUNTAINS DAY 3	<b>25</b> POOL PICKLEBALL/DISC GOLF SOCIAL BEE MINDFUL WALKS YOUTH MOVING MOUNTAINS DAY 4	<b>26</b> POOL ADULT SOFTBALL	<b>27</b> LUCKY LAKE WATERSLIDE/POOL PICKLEBALL
<b>28</b> DISC GOLF SOCIAL	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> POOL PICKLEBALL	<b>31</b> POOL SKATEBOARD WORKSHOP BEGINS			

#### LEGEND:

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

RECREATION

PROGRAMS

DEADLINES

HOLIDAYS



**REINFORCED DEFENSES**  
15 individuals throughout the Yukon participated in an Urban Interface Course to learn about innovative and more efficient firefighting methods to defend the community in events of a fire. This training goes hand in hand in utilizing the two sprinkler trailer units Watson Lake acquired recently

### Watson Lake Welcomes Its New Fire Chief



**John Smith**  
DIRECTOR OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Watson Lake welcomes John Smith as its new Director of Protective Services, overseeing the Volunteer Fire Department and Bylaw Enforcement. Starting as a paramedic in 1999, John joined the industrial rescue team and volunteered with the fire department, eventually becoming Fire Chief in Aircraft Firefighting. His extensive experience and passion make him a valuable addition to our community.

**We Want You.**  
John recognizes the need for fire volunteers in Watson Lake, so he is on the hunt for passionate individuals who would like to try their hand in the exhilarating career of firefighting. According to John, this opportunity will not only teach you a lot of practical skills when it comes to training and rescue, plus having these skills in our pockets will come in handy in our everyday lives as well. To him, the skills you pick-up in firefighting is a lifestyle, and if you join, John, and all the senior members of the crew are more than happy to impart these learnings to you.

**“It doesn’t matter who you are or where you come from, anybody can be a firefighter. You just need to have the drive to try. There is a lot to learn in the Fire Department.”**  
John Smith  
Director of Protective Services  
Watson Lake

## New Firefighting Techniques and Equipment Enhance Watson Lake’s Fire Protection

The Watson Lake Volunteer Fire Department is enhancing its fire protection capabilities with innovative techniques and new equipment, as shared by Director of Protective Services, John Smith. In a recent interview, Smith discussed the department’s advancements, including specialized training and new firefighting tools.

**Urban Interface Course**  
The recent Wildland Urban Interface Course, led by instructors from Slave Lake, brought together 15 students from various departments in the Yukon. This course provided valuable knowledge and hands-on experience in deploying hoses and sprinklers to protect communities during wildfires.

**New Firefighting Methods**  
Watson Lake Fire Department has acquired

two sprinkler unit trailers, significantly upgrading their firefighting arsenal. These trailers can quickly deploy hoses and sprinklers, creating barriers to prevent fire spread. Smith, with rescue services experience since 1999, learned new methods during this training, such as placing sprinklers around structures to ensure water flows from homes and important areas.

Tested in massive wildfires

in Slave Lake and Fort McMurray, these sprinkler systems have proven effective. They can protect 30-40 houses simultaneously, significantly enhancing fire protection capabilities.

**Impact on Watson Lake**  
With advanced methods, equipment, and training, Watson Lake is now better prepared to prevent fires from catching onto structures. The new sprinkler systems and knowledge gained

from the Wildland Urban Interface Course will improve the town’s fire protection measures. Director John Smith is confident these advancements will make Watson Lake safer and more resilient against wildfires.



## Firesmart Begins at Home: How to FireSmart your property and the Wawanesa Home Sprinkler Giveaway

As wildfires in the Yukon become an increasing concern, it’s time to get smart about protecting our homes and community. FireSmart principles, courtesy of the Government of Yukon’s Wildland Fire Management Branch, emphasize that effective wildfire prevention starts at home.

**Why FireSmart?**  
Wildfires are a natural part of Yukon’s boreal forest ecosystem, promoting diversity and providing wildlife habitat. However, as communities extend into forested areas, the risk of wildfire damage to homes and properties increases. FireSmart practices help mitigate these risks, protecting lives and property while supporting the ecosystem’s natural role.

**How Wildfires Spread**  
Wildfires

spread through direct flames, radiant heat, and airborne embers. Flammable materials like evergreen trees, dry grass, and wood piles act as fuel. Sparks and embers can travel up to two kilometers, igniting homes and structures.

**How to FireSmart Zones:**  
It is important to create defensible spaces around your property to prevent fire spread as much as you can.

**Zone 0 (0-1.5 meters):** Clear vegetation and flammable materials. Use fire-resistant roofing, clean gutters, and

screen vents.

**Zone 1 (1.5-10 meters):** Use non-flammable landscaping materials and plants. Keep grass mowed and remove woody debris.

**Zone 2 (10-30 meters):** Thin and prune trees to reduce fire intensity. Remove low-hanging branches.

**Zone 3 (30-100 meters):** Create fire breaks by thinning and pruning vegetation.

**Home Sprinkler Giveaway**  
Along with this, The Fire Department, funded by the Wawanesa Community Wildfire Preparedness program, offers 30 home sprinkler kits on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to secure the kits by providing the

necessary information below. You may submit the following to [fire@watsonlake.ca](mailto:fire@watsonlake.ca):

1. Your name, email, phone number, and address.
2. Photo of a completed FireSmart task or yard cleanup.
3. Proof of emergency preparedness (evacuation checklist, 72-hour supply kit, etc.).

Act fast! Only 30 kits available. Visit the Watson Lake Fire Department’s Facebook page or scan the QR code to apply. Stay safe and FireSmart, Watson Lake!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS APPLICATION FORM

