

ANNOUNCEMENTS

we are **CALLING OFF** the



The Veterinarian's Mobile Vet Truck has underwent unforeseen issues.

We are so sorry to announce that the Veterinarian has cancelled their mobile clinic plans for the year due to equipment issues on the Mobile Vet Truck. Just like you, they want the best for our furry friends too, and we can't have them treated on places that are not up to standards.

The good news is; that they are putting Watson Lake as one of their priority communities to visit in May.

POSTPONED



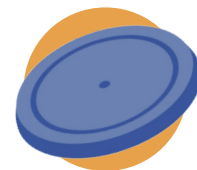
WATCH OUT
PUBLIC WORKS WILL BEGIN
ROADSIDE ALLOWANCE AND
DITCH BRUSHING TO PREP
FOR SNOW REMOVAL THIS
COMING WINTER.

please keep an eye out for flying
debris and dusty conditions.



WATSON LAKE GOES
#YUKONWILD
the official community newsletter of the Municipality of Watson Lake
VOLUME1 | ISSUE 3 | September 2024

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



2ND ANNUAL RAVEN PINES

DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Raven Pine Disc Golf Course (Skatepark),
Start time: 12:00pm. 2 Player Best Disc
Format. BBQ and prizes provided. All
skill levels welcome! Discs provided by
Recreation Centre.



PICKLEBALL

AT YOUR OWN TIME!

**NOW AVAILABLE AT THE
RECREATION CENTRE**

We still have the regular pickleball social
at the highschool Tuesdays and Thurs-
days, but if you find yourself with extra
time, come swing by at the rec centre
and play a round or two!

REC ANNOUNCEMENT



THANK YOU

for a great summer!

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CENTRE
WILL CLOSE FOR THE SEASON
ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

A Word from Mayor and Council: Thanks for a Successful Term

As we near the end of our term, Mayor and council would like to take this opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the progress we've made together as a community. Your ongoing support and involvement have been invaluable, and we are proud of the accomplishments we've achieved during this term.

One major project has been the installation of lights along Two Mile, improving safety and accessibility in this important part of our community. This initiative has been a long process, but with consistent pressure, the lights will be there for everyone's safety for years to come.

We have also made significant strides with the Frances Avenue extension, providing more space for future residential growth. Paired with the \$2 million housing accelerator fund, it should assist with critical housing needs in our community.

In essential services, the commissioning of the new Municipal Services Building marks a significant step forward in ensuring our local government can better serve the needs of Watson Lake. And with the introduction of the public waste drop-off site, we've improved waste management and disposal for all residents.

Additionally, we upgraded the projector at the Northern Lights Centre, enhancing this cultural cornerstone of our town.

This term also saw the acquisition of structural protection units, better preparing us for emergencies and protecting our town from disasters.

We were also recognized by the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) for our energy efficiency

improvements at the Recreation Centre—a significant accomplishment that underscores our commitment to sustainability.

The completion of inground infrastructure projects further sets the stage for growth and development, ensuring our community has the foundation it needs to thrive.

These are just a few of our accomplishments, with many more set in progress.

Last but not least is our commitment to fiscal awareness. Every step has been focused on creating a better community.

Our budget has grown, and we've consistently contributed to our reserve accounts, saving for future growth.

As a council, we are proud of what we've achieved, but none of it would be possible without your support.

Thank you for trusting us to lead and for your dedication to making Watson Lake a wonderful place to live.



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“As a Council, we are proud of what we've achieved, but none of it would be possible without your support.”

Mayor Christopher Irvin
Town of Watson Lake

written by Mayor Christopher Irvin
Town of Watson Lake



AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL

13 Applications Funded

Mayor and Council Allocates Extra Funds to Accommodate All Eligible Housing Accelerator Fund Initiative Applications

Watson Lake is taking a significant step forward in addressing its housing needs. Recently, the town announced the approval of 13 applications under its grant program to help build new dwellings. This exciting news comes after Mayor and Council made the decision to increase the allocated budget from the original \$400,000 to accommodate these additional applications. Truly a move that not only reflects the council's commitment to supporting community growth but also demonstrates their responsiveness to the needs of Watson Lake residents.

Small Steps, Right Direction

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mayor and Council for their unwavering support and foresight in increasing the budget allocation. This decision allows for three more applicants to be approved than initially planned, increasing the number of new dwellings from the original 10 to 13. This expansion

is a testament to the dedication of our local government to fostering a vibrant and growing community.

The Town of Watson Lake congratulates all the applicants who have been approved for the grant. Your commitment to improving Watson Lake's housing stock is invaluable as it aligns with the town's vision as outlined in the Official

Community Plan (OCP) stating that "Improving the quality of the housing stock and ensuring there are a range of housing types available in Watson Lake is very important to residents. Appropriate and safe housing is vital to community growth and high-quality housing will help to attract and retain individuals and families."

Another Funding Opportunity

To those who were not eligible or missed the funding grant this time, keep your eyes peeled as according to the most recent town meeting, another funding opportunity under the Housing Accelerator Fund initiative will be announced soon. This new funding stream might be the perfect chance

for you to reapply and take part in Watson Lake's ongoing development efforts.

With the expansion from 10 to 13 new dwellings, Watson Lake is on the path to the future that best represents our vision as a community. Thank you to everyone involved for your role in shaping Watson Lake into a place we are all proud to call home.



**ARE YOU ONE
OF WATSON
LAKE'S NEXT
LEADERS?**

Watson Lake's Undercover Makeover

SEPTEMBER 2024 UPDATES

As summer transitions into fall, Watson Lake's infrastructure projects are progressing steadily, promising significant upgrades to enhance daily life and support future growth. In collaboration with major contractors, the Town of Watson Lake is making headway on crucial inground infrastructure upgrades along the Alaska Highway and in various neighborhoods, and some projects that align with the town's community plan, ensuring that there is ample land for residents to thrive and meet the town's evolving needs.

Inground Infrastructure Upgrades

Norcope is set to complete waterline work on Stikine Avenue by this month, paving the way for further

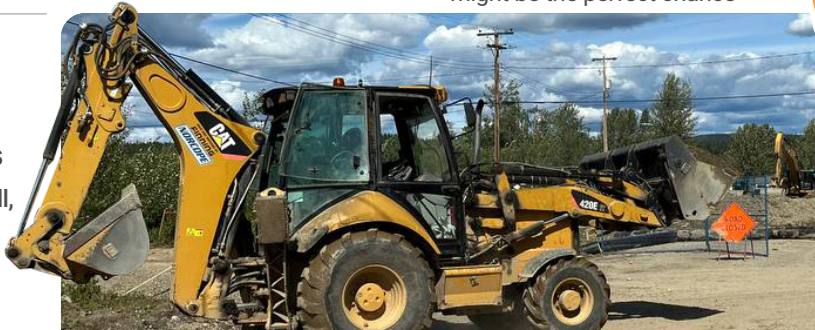
services in the area. Along with this, we greatly appreciate the patience of Tintina Way residents during these essential upgrades and we are glad to announce that the area is now back on the main waterline and the road finishing procedures and grading concluding as well.

Currently, waterline work in Stikine has been ongoing and Norcope begun road resurfacing procedures on Adela Trail. They are currently on track to be able to finish out the year as they resurface Stikine and complete the Frank Trail road work.

Frances Avenue Extension and Lift Station Updates

According to the head of Operations the Frances Avenue Subdivision Extension and the wastewater lift station are on track for mid-September completion. Once ready, these new developed lots will be transferred to the Government of Yukon for sale, supporting Watson Lake's commitment for our overall community growth and development.

Power installation will be completed late fall, and the Lift station construction is still underway.



**DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES
TO SERVE AND ACT ON THE BEST
INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY?**

**DO YOU WANT TO RUN AS A
MAYOR/COUNCIL CANDIDATE?**

**DO YOU KNOW THE
RESPONSIBILITIES THAT COME
WITH THE ROLE?**

**IF NOT OR IF YOU NEED A
REFRESHER; TAKE A MOMENT TO
READ THE JOY OF GOVERNING BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW!**



OR FOLLOW THIS LINK:
yukon.ca/en/joy-governing



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

**STEP UP AND TIME TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

LEARN ABOUT THE CANDIDACY PROCESS ON THE
FOLLOWING PAGES!



DID YOU KNOW?

LOTTERIES YUKON

There are More Ways to Fund Your Community Dreams!

We've talked about the Community Lottery Fund, but did you know that the Yukon Lottery Commission offers many other funding streams to support initiatives from passionate individuals like you!

There is funding for: **SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND:** Where a larger one-time community project that has a potential to make a lasting impact can be funded to promote local culture and wellness.

ARTS FUND: Supports projects that enrich the community's cultural life, from public performances, exhibitions, workshops cultural events, etc.

RECREATION FUND: Aims to promote active lifestyles, this supports projects that encourage physical activity, like building or upgrading sports facilities or developing recreational programs.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: If you are planning to represent Watson Lake on a bigger stage, this program in collaboration with Sport Yukon provides travel funding to athletes, artists and cultural groups competing or performing around the territory.

Lotteries Yukon is committed to enriching the lives of Yukoners through diverse funding opportunities. Explore these programs and see how they can benefit you and our community.



<https://lotteriesyukon.com/funding-programs>
LEARN MORE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE

Your Voice, Your Town: Is Running for Office Your Next Move?

As a resident of Watson Lake, you might be closer to community leadership than you think. Local government isn't just about politics—it's about serving your neighbors and making meaningful changes right where you live. Whether it's advocating for better public services, enhancing community programs, or driving sustainable growth, your voice could be the one that makes a difference.

The journey to becoming a mayor or council member is about more than just governance; it's about understanding the heartbeat of your town and being its advocate. Think about your own experiences

and insights—your unique perspective could bring fresh ideas to the table. Running for office along with these things requires commitment; and though commitment and passion; you might change Watson Lake for the better.



Scan the QR Code for the 2024 Candidates Guide
<https://yukon.ca/2024-candidates-guide>

MUNICIPAL CANDIDACY CHECKLIST:

ELIGIBILITY:

- ☐ You must be at least 18 years old,
- ☐ a Canadian Citizen and;
- ☐ You must have lived in the Municipality for at least 12 consecutive months before the election.

NOMINATION:

- ☐ Obtain a sufficient number of signatures from eligible voters in the community.
- ☐ Complete and submit nomination papers by September 26, 12pm.
(Nomination forms are available at the Town Office starting September 18)

REMEMBER:

- ☐ To understand and adhere to all local electoral rules and procedures.



the **WATSON LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY** is hosting an **Antiquarian Book Sale**
sale is until **September 30, 2024**
BOOKS ARE CURRENTLY 50% OFF THEIR MARKED PRICES

don't leaf it to chance and
PREPARE FOR FALL

a crisp air of fall begins to settle in and the cold lurks just around the corner, so it's time to prepare for the coming months ahead. Here are some tips to keep you safe, warm and ready:

DRESS IN LAYERS:
fall in yukon brings unpredictable weather, when it gets too cold, start wearing your moisture-wicking base layer, a warm middle layer, and finish with a windproof and waterproof outer layer.

PREPARE YOUR HOME:
you can never go wrong with checking your heating systems to make sure that they are working efficiently. if you are using a woodstove, it's now a good time to contact our local guys in town to stock up on firewood to use throughout the winter.

STAY ACTIVE:
even tempting, staying just indoors all the time is a no can do; we have tons of recreational activities to do indoors, like pickleball at the high school, or using the weight room and bowling at the rec centre, when going out, make sure you have reflective gear and flashlight, helping you stay visible to drivers.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE
vehicle maintenance is important too, check your tire tread, brakes, battery and windshield wipers, you'll never go wrong keeping an emergency kit in your car too, food, water, a shovel and a bag of sand or cat litter for traction on icy roads.

NEWS BITS

Watson Lake Blooms: Community Garden Cultivating Growth in Connection

One of the goals of Queer Yukon in Watson Lake is to create a safe, inclusive space where everyone can come to connect and grow, through their efforts, they are now converting an empty space by the parking lot of the Northern Lights Centre, into a soon-community-driven garden designed specifically for the LGBTQ community.

According to Austria Lopez, the community engagement coordinator of Queer Yukon in Watson Lake, they will be planning to invite local gardening experts in town to assist and share tips through workshops that can further their cause to make sure that the program be truly open for everyone, regardless of skill level.



TOWN CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 DISC GOLF	02 LABOR DAY	03 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING PICKLE BALL	04	05 DISC GOLF, PICKLE BALL	06	07
08 DISC GOLF	09	10 PICKLE BALL	11	12 DISC GOLF, PICKLE BALL	13	14 HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY
15 DISC GOLF	16	17 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING PICKLE BALL	18 ELECTION NOMINATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT TOWN OFFICE	19 DISC GOLF	20	21 FAMILY FALL FUN DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT
22 DISC GOLF	23	24 PICKLE BALL	25 BOARD OF REVISION SITS @COUNCIL CHAMBERS (6-8PM)	26 DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATION FORMS DISC GOLF, PICKLE BALL	27	28
29 DISC GOLF	30 NORTHERN LIGHTS CENTRE CLOSURES FOR THE SEASON NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION	01 PICKLE BALL	02	03 DISC GOLF, PICKLE BALL	04	05

LEGEND:

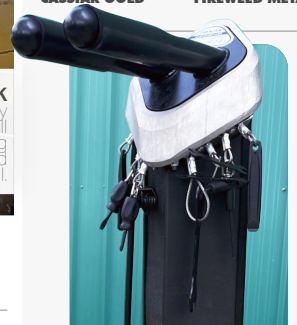
- TOWN OF WATSON LAKE
- RECREATION
- PROGRAMS
- DEADLINES
- HOLIDAYS



RECREATION

Lane Line,
Gold Mine!

The Town of Watson Lake extends our heartfelt thanks to Coeur Silvertip, Cassiar Gold, and Fireweed Metals for their generous donations. Their contributions have enabled the purchase of new racing lanes, for the Dennis Ball Memorial Pool that will be used next year by the Watson Lake Swim Team and those who enjoy Lane Swimming. These mining companies are making waves in our community, supporting both local sports and fitness. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to helping us improve our facilities!

One-Stop
Shop

The Town would like to thank RPAY for donating a bike service station at our Recreation Centre making quick service to bicycles possible. This made the town's go-to place for fun activities more capable on serving the community's recreation needs, whether through the facilities they offer the food or the convenience.

Seasonal Check-Ups
Wrapping up for the Cold

As fall draws near, Watson Lake is gearing up for colder weather, and several projects that were started this summer are wrapping up to be ready before cold snaps begin to happen.

Ski Chalet Facelift

Recently, the Mt. Maichen Ski Chalet, received a much-needed facelift: The exterior wooden parts of the Chalet have been restained that giving it a fresh look, and the aging outside deck was deemed structurally weak and at the time of writing being replaced.

While the restaining of the chalet has been completed, final touches on the decking are still in progress and is expected to finish soon.

HVAC Upgrades

In addition to these, the Town of Watson Lake acknowledges the federal funding received for HVAC System

upgrades for the Town Hall, Northern Lights Centre and the Recreation Centre to make sure that the interior environments of these places are efficiently maintained. However, the actual upgrades will commence in the near future as the project just entered its design phase.

New Public Waste Dropoff: To
a more Sustainable, Cleaner
Waste Area

The Town of Watson Lake is nearing the completion of its upgrades to the public waste drop-off facility, which will soon function like a small-scale transfer station.

Although the new system will be generally for non-commercial waste loads, implementing a transfer station-like model makes garbage intake more manageable and systematic for the landfill. A long term-goal of this facility is to minimize environmental impact and improve operational efficiency, and upon implementation, will focus on improving safety and reducing liabilities by adding a layer of protection to the landfill to avoid incidents from happening.

There is no final date as to when the new system will be implemented but rest assured that the town will give out instructional materials regarding the new waste drop-off system, especially on how to use it once finalized and ready



WASTE ON TRACK

The Town of Watson Lake recently acquired a crawler-loader to help in landfill operations. Its primary purpose is being able to streamline waste management and maintain upkeep of the landfill.

to go. Through these upgrades, Watson Lake aligns the residents towards better practices for waste management and environmental stewardship.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

From Local to Legendary:

WATSON LAKE'S YOUNG TRAILBLAZERS

We see the youth of Watson Lake striving to make a difference every day, whether through volunteering or bringing fresh energy to the community. But it's not every day their efforts are recognized across the territory or celebrated nationally. We spotlight two young individuals who have achieved just that.

Rachel Anderson

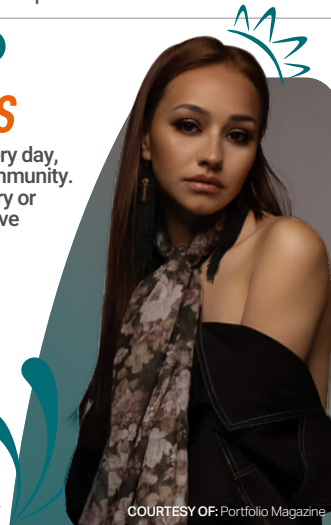
Rachel Anderson, one of the 2024 Outstanding Youth Achievement Award recipients, has supported her community through helping out on the community's recreational events, the local schools, hospitals, and helping tourists at the Visitor Centre. She is awarded with a certificate and a medallion, and will be recognized through posters

across the Yukon.

Jasmine Lewis

Meanwhile, Jasmine Lewis through modelling, is proud to represent her rich indigenous culture, earning her a spot on Portfolio Magazine's 112th issue cover.

Their stories show how youth, through their own ways can inspire others and make a lasting impact. Congratulations, Rachel and Jasmine!



COURTESY OF: Portfolio Magazine