



Letter from the Mayor: A Commitment to Serve and Engage



"Thank you to every resident who took the time to vote - your voice matters, and I am excited to represent our community in a new capacity."

Mayor Lauren Hanchar
Elected Mayor, Town of Watson Lake

Dear Residents of Watson Lake,

I'm beyond humbled and honoured to have been elected as your new mayor. Thank you to every resident who took the time to vote – your voice matters, and I am excited to represent our community in a new capacity.

I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who put their name forward to run in this election. It's not an easy thing to do, so I thank you for your willingness to step up and serve. Congratulations to returning councillors Thomas Slager and Denina Paquette, as well as new councillors Billy Whimp and Norma Puckett, who will now join me on town council.

A special acknowledgement and heartfelt thanks goes to Mayor Chris Irvin. Thank you for your years of dedicated service on council and as our mayor. Your contributions have made a significant impact, and we are grateful for your leadership. Also, a big thank you to Councillor Dale Burdes for his service over the last three years. It was a pleasure working alongside you.

With the election out of the way, council will be receiving some orientation and training, and then we will dive right into the budget process. I welcome your feedback and ideas, so please feel free to reach out if there is something that you think we need to focus on, or even better – I encourage you to attend a council meeting! We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and there are options to participate in person or by Zoom.

Once again, thank you for your trust and support, and I look forward to engaging with you soon.

Lauren

Town of Watson Lake Mayor and Council: Term 2024-2028

The 2024 Municipal Elections have brought together a dedicated team of community leaders, each with their own unique strengths and commitment to the town's future.

Mayor Lauren Hanchar

Leading the charge is Mayor Hanchar. A lifelong Yukoner, and raised in Watson Lake, Lauren is no stranger to the needs and aspirations of her community. With 13 years of working in Parhelion Medical Services and six years as a Councillor and Deputy mayor, her leadership is grounded in real-world experience

and a deep connection to her hometown. As mayor, she is determined to advocate for transparency, collaboration, and sustainable growth, making Watson Lake a thriving place for all residents.

Councillor Thomas Slager

Thomas is well-known for his generosity, loyalty, and love for Watson Lake. As a long-time volunteer and a teacher in local schools in town, he brings a genuine dedication to public service. His vision for Watson Lake is one of improved infrastructure

and community-focused development, having already made strides in streetlight improvements and tax relief, during his previous terms holding office.

Councillor Norma Puckett

Norma is a resident of Watson Lake since 1987, she has worn many hats in the community—from a gas station attendant to medical records clerk. Norma's enthusiasm for learning and her passion for community engagement make her a great advocate for the people. Elected in the town council for the first time, she

brings both excitement and a humble drive to serve her community.

Councillor William Whimp

Another new face on the council is Councillor William Whimp, many know him by his nickname "Billy". Born and raised in Watson Lake, Billy has been working hard to support the community through his logging and firewood business. Known for his resilience and love for his hometown, Billy's focus is on providing for his community's basic needs, including warmth and safety.

Councillor Denina Paquette

Denina calls Watson Lake her home for over 25 years. Her efforts in the previous council on land development, affordable housing, and community safety speaks volumes about her commitment to making Watson Lake a better place. Denina's re-election shows the trust her community places in her ability to foster relationships with First Nations, local businesses, and government partners, all while advocating for a safer and more inclusive town.



elections 2024

THE RESULTS ARE IN...

Official results of the
2024 Municipal Elections in the
Town of Watson Lake held on
October 17, 2024

MAYOR

1 st	HANCHAR, LAUREN (277 Votes)
2 nd	ELLIS, ROBERT (54 Votes)

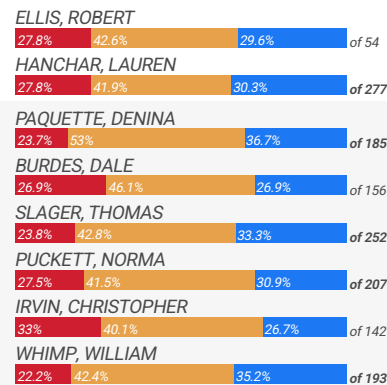
COUNCIL

1 st	SLAGER, THOMAS (252 Votes)
2 nd	PUCKETT, NORMA (207 Votes)
3 rd	WHIMP, WILLIAM (193 Votes)
4 th	PAQUETTE, DENINA (185 Votes)
5 th	BURDES, DALE (156 Votes)
6 th	IRVIN, CHRISTOPHER (142 Votes)

Elected Mayor: **Hanchar, Lauren**
Elected Councillors: **Slager, Thomas**
Puckett, Norma **Whimp, William**
Paquette, Denina

RESULTS BREAKDOWN:

— ADV. POLL — WL WEST — WL EAST



BAR GRAPH ON APPROXIMATION, ARRANGEMENT ACCORDING TO BALLOT



Frances Avenue Updates: Yukon Government Turnover

Progress on the Frances Avenue Extension lots is moving forward steadily, with the Town of Watson Lake nearing substantial completion. Final touches and necessary remedies are expected to be finished by mid-November. The only outstanding task to fully service the lots is the installation of power by ATCO, which is anticipated to happen soon.

The Town is currently in negotiations with the Yukon Government to determine when these newly developed lots, which have been in the works over the past few years, will officially go on sale. Once the turnover takes place, the sale of the lots will fall under the responsibility of the Yukon Government.

Before the lots hit the market,

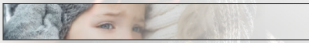







Watson Lake is focused on ensuring that all services are in place, making the lots ready for future residents. This preparation aims to provide

a smooth transition and offer fully serviced lots for both current and new residents of Watson Lake.

Rescue is a few hours away, will you make it?

Emergencies are unpredictable, and you usually won't know when you'll be drawing the short-end of the stick. If you're travelling this Winter, are you equipped to stay safe and comfortable should the vehicle you are on gets into trouble? When travelling in the cold make sure to bring:

	SPARE WARM GEAR		BLANKETS
	FIRST-AID KIT		CANDLES AND MATCHSTICKS
	NON PERISHABLE FOOD AND WATER		PORTABLE HANDWARMERS



Watson Lake targets better waste management and reduced hazard exposure with New Drop-Off System

Watson Lake is excited to announce that we are in the final stages to the implementation of our new public waste drop-off project, aimed at improving waste disposal for households. This new system will allow residents to drop off their waste in designated bins without having to navigate through the landfill site, saving time and effort, particularly during muddy or snowy conditions.

The facility will feature roll-off trailers with three separate compartments for more efficient disposal of smaller loads. While large loads can still be taken directly to the landfill, this new drop-off model adds convenience for everyday residential waste disposal. By keeping waste contained within these compartments, the town gains better control over how garbage is

managed, reducing the chances of wildlife interference or waste being scattered by the wind.

This system also enhances safety and reduces residents' exposure to hazardous materials by minimizing direct contact with landfill waste. With the landfill getting new equipment upgrades, and with the development of this new drop-off system, we hope to streamline landfill operations,

making the process of household's dropping off waste more efficient and environmentally friendly.

Although a final launch date for the new waste drop-off facility is yet to be announced, the Town of Watson Lake will provide pamphlets and instructions to ensure residents understand how to use the new system once it is operational. These improvements aim to make waste management safer and more sustainable, promoting better environmental practices for the entire community.

Have you gotten wood stacked and the transformers on?



Yes, it's that time of the year where you have to light your fire or to turn your boilers on to keep the house warm and cozy.

This is a friendly reminder to also turn your transformer switch on, get the heat trace working to keep water on your lines from freezing and causing unforeseen inconveniences.

Inground Infrastructure Upgrades Phase I concluding soon.

We would like to thank the entire community for bearing with us and the crew who worked tirelessly under Norcope and other contracting companies in order to upgrade our inground infrastructure in the Phase I area.

The Phase I area encompasses sections of both Adela and Frank Trail, which serve as access roads for businesses, and some residential areas, including Tintina Way and Stikine Avenue are part of this too where the crew replaced old, deteriorating sewer lines and installed new waterline pipes.

Majority and critical aspects of the Phase I upgrades are done, with resurfacing the affected areas left to do on the bucket list, aiming for substantial completion of this part of the project Mid-November.



Johan Madera
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Johan Madera, a fresh resident of Watson Lake, has been designated as the Town's Director of Finance. He carries a strong background in the financial field having served as a banker at the Development Bank of the Philippines for over four years; one of the country's two government owned financial institutions. He also worked part-time in an accounting office where he became a certified bookkeeper in 2018. The skills he brings to the table enables him to transition smoothly into his role, which is to supervise the Town of Watson Lake's financial operations.



The brisk October air brought excitement to Watson Lake Secondary High School's Grade 12 students as they set out on an unforgettable journey. From October 7th to 11th, a group of 10 students embarked on the second annual cultural hunt at Frances Lake, marking what is fast becoming a cherished tradition for the graduating class.

The hunt serves as more than just a trip—it is a chance for students to connect with the land, learn about Kaska culture, and build lifelong memories alongside their peers. Organized in collaboration with the Liard First Nation citizens, their elders, RCMP, the Conservation Officers, and the First Nation School Board, the five-day experience offers a hands-on approach to land-based learning, blending cultural education with teamwork.

"We want the students to gain a deeper respect for the land and its significance. It's about coming together as a community and

learning from one another, all while working towards a common goal," said Ryan Hewgill, the principal.

The trip was a success in many ways. The students harvested three moose—one donated to the hospital and the other two shared among the students and their families, the lessons learned and just the experience went beyond the hunt itself. For many, this was their first time hunting, and it became a journey of personal growth.

For most students, this was their first hunting trip. Despite the wet and cold environment and the hard work involved, they thrived. "We

worked together, and by the end, it felt like we had all bonded through the experience," shared one of the students.

The annual hunt highlights the school's commitment to land-based learning and cultural inclusion. It provides a unique opportunity for students, regardless of their background, to connect with Kaska culture and learn the values of respect for the land, community, and teamwork.

As the students reflect on their trip, this experience will remain with them far beyond their final year of high school. With hopes high for future trips, the cultural hunt at Frances Lake continues to foster deep connections—both to the land and to the diverse community of Watson Lake.

"I think it was a really great experience, there is a lot of lessons taught and cultures shared. It was a very successful hunting trip."

Watson Lake Secondary High School Student
On her thoughts about the 2nd Annual Grad Hunt

The Town of Watson Lake moved to using:



Receive notifications for **emergency alerts, critical information and community updates** through SMS, email or phone calls, and customize the types of information you receive!

Residents who were registered from the previous system will automatically be transferred to Voyent Alert.

To make sure that you aren't left out, call or visit the Town Office today to register.

Watson Lake Community Library Annual Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, November 23
11:00 am

Are you a vendor? Book your table(s) at the Library, First come first serve.

come and support the library's major fundraiser of the year.
all proceeds go towards library programs, services and equipment.



GEAR UP FOR THIS SEASON'S MINOR HOCKEY

VISIT THE WATSON LAKE MINOR HOCKEY FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION

WATSON LAKE BOWLING LEAGUE

Come watch, heckle and socialize
Friday nights, 7:00-9:00 (ages 16+)
(licensed event, ID required)

Snowy Days are Here :(

Let's Help our Public Works Crew Clear the Roads More Efficiently

Please make sure that your vehicles are kept clear of the roads when not in use. Also, remember to bring your garbage bins back from the curb to your property line after collection or on non-collection days.

Landfill Holidays:

Landfill Closure Schedule 2024-2025

NOVEMBER

12 REMEMBRANCE DAY (OBSERVANCE)

DECEMBER

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

26 BOXING DAY

JANUARY

01 NEW YEAR'S DAY

Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day Ceremony 2024

Let us take a portion of our time to remember those who served and sacrificed for Our Country during military conflicts.

On November 11, the doors of the Recreation Centre Community Hall will open for everyone at 10:30AM for the Remembrance Day Ceremony.



town of watson lake COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER

12TH

watson lake recreation centre
doors open at 5:00pm



Mt. Maichen Revamp: Gearing up for Peak Performance



As the cold season lingers and snow blankets the slopes, Mt. Maichen is gearing up for a thrilling new season. This year, the ski hill welcomes skiers and snowboarders with notable quality-of-life upgrades, that'll make your time on the slopes exhilarating and your breaks at the chalet cozy and aesthetically pleasing. These improvements were made possible by summer renovations and the Ski Club's push to get better equipment that can keep the hill in operation in it's best possible conditions.

The Town of Watson Lake undertook structural and aesthetic upgrades during the summer by replacing the chalet's decking with composite plastic, which is proven to be more durable than wood due to its water-resistant properties. This upgrade is designed to extend the longevity of the structure, ensuring a better experience for visitors.

A Brand-new Trail Groomer

On another note, the Town of Watson Lake, along with the Watson Lake Ski Club, is thrilled to announce the acquisition of a brand-new grooming machine, to replace the aged equipment thanks to the generous support from Lotteries Yukon and funding through the Community Development Fund. This new groomer will make trail maintenance smoother and safer, a

significant step forward in enhancing the quality of life for all skiers.

Watch Out!

As part of the preparations for the upcoming seasons, be on the lookout for the early bird sale for season passes, that will give you the most time and the best prices on the slopes.

The Watson Lake Ski Club will also be hosting the annual Ski Hill Auction on December 7th as part of its fundraising efforts. We invite the community to come together and contribute to the continued success of the ski hill. The proceeds will help maintain hill operations for the upcoming season and fund future investments, helping one of Watson Lake's recreational facilities reach new heights.

town of watson lake

EVENTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER

01	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
10	ADVANCE POLLS OPEN
14	THANKSGIVING DAY
17	ELECTION DAY
30	HAUNTED HOUSE
31	KIDS HAUNTED HOUSE
	HALLOWEEN FIREWORKS

NOVEMBER

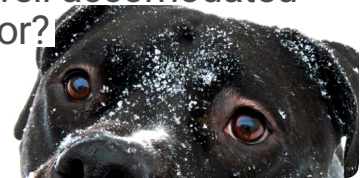
01	HAUNTED HOUSE DAY 2
02	BLACKLIGHT PARTY
05	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
11	REMEMBRANCE DAY
19	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

WEEKLY EVENTS

S	DISC GOLF
M	BADMINTON (7:00-9:00PM)
T	PICKLE BALL
W	NINJA TUMBLING
TH	DISC GOLF
F	PICKLE BALL
	BOWLING LEAGUE (OCT18-NOV29)

*as we transition to cold seasons and snowy weather conditions, please watch out for announcements regarding changes on recurring events on community pages such as **WATSON LAKE SUNSHINE!!!**

Cold days are here, are your furry friends well-accomodated for?



During cold winters, pets need extra care to stay safe. Animals should primarily be kept indoors, but if outdoors, ensure they have extra food and unfrozen water. Providing a proper doghouse with straw bedding, and watching out for paw damage from salt and ice is essential. Be mindful of potential garage dangers like antifreeze fluids and always check your car engine for small animals seeking warmth.



<https://bit.ly/cx/animalcare>
READ THE FULL GUIDE
BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE

WATSON LAKE PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS:

THE NIGHTS OF HORROR FRIGHT



THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID ABOUT.
VISIT ME IN MY HAUNTED HOUSE

WATSON LAKE RECREATION CENTRE

OCTOBER 30 AND NOVEMBER 1, 5:00-8:00PM
OCTOBER 31, 11:00-1:00PM AND 2:00-3:00PM
(FOR KIDS 10 BELOW, NO ANIMATIONS)

ADMISSION:
KIDS / YOUTH / SENIORS - \$3.00, ADULTS - \$5.00
FAMILY - \$12.00

PARENTAL DISCRETION ADVISED



TRICK, TREAT,
EXPLOSIVE FEAT!

JOIN US FOR A CHILLY HALLOWEEN
EVENING BY WYE LAKE PARK!

WATCH THE FIREWORKS LIGHT UP THE SKY WHILE ENJOYING
THE BONFIRE AND HAVING A SIP OF FREE HOT CHOCOLATE AND
HOTDOGS SERVED BY OUR VOLUNTEERS.

SEE YOU AT **WYE LAKE PARK**
OCTOBER 31, 5:30PM ONWARDS



DRESS UP, GET GROOVY,
SEE YOU AT THE
BLACKLIGHT HALLOWEEN PARTY
NOVEMBER 02, 8:00 - 2:00AM

FEATURING **DJ ROXX HUNTER** AND **PRIZES FOR THE BEST COSTUMES**

TICKETS - \$13.00 (19+ ONLY, BRING YOUR ID)