



Ready, when it matters

A household-level guide, one online emergency hub and a voluntary support registry that puts practical information within reach before, during and after an emergency; built for Watson Lake

Be Prepared: the emergency information guide that goes with you.

Emergencies can happen with little warning. A wildfire, prolonged outage, severe storm, flood or road closure can quickly affect how we travel, communicate and care for the people and animals who depend on us. Having a plan and a few essential supplies ready beforehand can reduce stress and make it easier to respond when it matters most.

The Be Prepared pamphlet will be mailed out to households across the community. The guide is designed to be kept somewhere easy to find and includes practical information about emergency kits, sheltering in place, evacuation instructions, pet and vehicle preparedness, emergency contacts and meeting plans.

Residents can also fill in the included household accountability card with important contacts, usual daytime locations, medications or mobility considerations and designated meeting places. Taking a few minutes to complete the card now can save valuable time during an emergency.

One online place to start

The Town hosts an emergency preparedness hub at watsonlake.ca/emergencies. The webpage brings together Town alerts, Yukon emergency information, 511 Yukon road

conditions, wildfire and flood resources, air-quality information, household planning tools and information about common emergency instructions.

Residents can use the page before, during and after an emergency to find reliable information without searching through several different websites or social-media pages.

Voluntary support registry

The emergency hub also includes access to Watson Lake's voluntary Household Emergency Support Registry. This collects emergency-planning information about local households, such as the number of residents, transportation access, pets and possible support needs.

The registry does not replace calling 911, registering for emergency notifications or following directions from emergency officials.

When the pamphlet arrives, read through it with your household, fill in the contact card and place it somewhere everyone can find. Being prepared does not mean expecting the worst; it means giving yourself and your family a stronger starting point when plans suddenly need to become action.

Live-Fire Training Facility Moving Forward

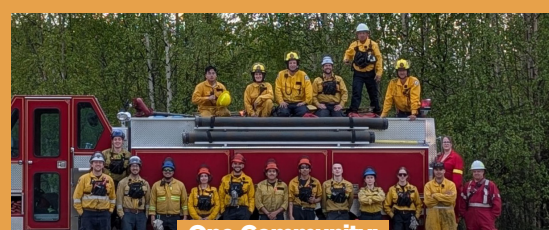


Watson Lake's emergency responders will soon have access to a local facility designed to provide more realistic, hands-on training.

The Government of Yukon approved \$245,406 through the Community Development Fund toward the construction of a live-fire training facility in Watson Lake. This was presented by the Honourable Cory Bellmore during the Association of Yukon Communities conference hosted in Watson Lake.

The proposed facility will allow firefighters and other emergency-response agencies to practise in controlled scenarios that more closely represent the conditions they may encounter during an actual incident. These exercises can strengthen communication, teamwork, decision-making and safe movement in environments affected by heat, smoke and limited visibility.

Having this type of facility closer to home can provide more frequent training opportunities for Watson Lake Fire Department members and other first responder organizations in Watson Lake.



One Community; Shared Preparedness

Watson Lake Fire Department and Wildland Fire Management recently conducted cross-training sessions to strengthen communication, coordination and readiness for wildland and interface fire incidents.

911

Involved or Witnessing an Emergency?

Calling 911 ensures the right emergency services are notified and dispatched without delay.

FireSmart Starts at Home



01 Immediate Zone
Clear the first 1.5m
Remove leaves, needles,
dry grass and combustible
materials beside structures.

02 Intermediate Zone
Manage your yard
Keep your grass maintained,
remove dead branches,
clean your gutters, decks
and porches.

03 Extended Zone
Move stored fuel
Keep your firewood, propane
and other combustibles
away from your house and
outbuildings.

Wildfire preparedness begins with the small maintenance decisions made around our homes and properties. FireSmart work does not have to happen all at once. Begin with the area closest to your home and continue outward as time and resources allow. One prepared property helps; a prepared neighbourhood gives responders more time and more options.

More Resources Available by Scanning the QR Code





From below, to better roads

After several construction seasons of seeing crews work below the surface, residents are now seeing an important finishing stage completed above it. During the week of July 13, Bituminous Surface Treatment work was completed on: Adela Trail, Frances Avenue, Frank Trail, Stikine Avenue, Tintina Way and 8th Street South.

These roads were included in Phase 1A of the Town's inground infrastructure work, where aging water and sewer systems were replaced and services were prepared to support existing infrastructure and future growth.

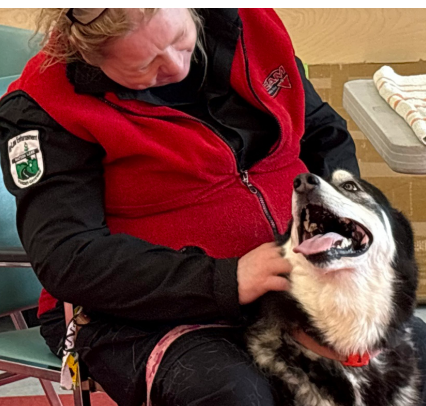
Once the underground systems were installed, tested and connected, the road bases still needed to be rebuilt and given a durable finished surface. The BST work was completed through cooperation involving Yukon Government and the Town of Watson Lake's Public Works crew, with funding provided in part by the Government of Canada through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada.

What is BST?

Bituminous Surface Treatment, commonly called BST or chip seal, combines a layer of asphalt material with graded aggregate. The stone is rolled into place to create a durable driving surface.

BST is commonly used in northern and rural communities because it is more cost-effective than conventional asphalt while still controlling dust, protecting the road base and helping prevent potholes. Depending on traffic, weather and maintenance this road treatment can last approximately 15 to 25 years.

The Town thanks the crews and residents who remained patient throughout the different stages of construction. What began beneath the roads is now becoming visible through cleaner and more durable surfaces above them.



Community dog clinic brings care closer to home.

Dog owners turned out in strong numbers for the May 26 and 27 vaccination and chemical-neutering clinic held at the Watson Lake Municipal Services Building.

Veterinarians from the Government of Yukon's Animal Health and Protection Branch provided wellness examinations, vaccinations, deworming treatments and chemical-neuter procedures for male dogs.

Booster-shot follow-up

Owners whose dogs received vaccinations during the May clinic are encouraged to contact the Town of Watson Lake Bylaw Department. Staff can help confirm whether a booster is recommended and provide information about the next step.

Tap in, Workout

Gym members at the Watson Lake Recreation Centre will soon receive fobs for self check-in, creating a quicker and more consistent way to confirm access. The next stage is planned before and after hours gym entry for eligible members. Because the rollout will happen in phases, watch for details on activation, eligibility, access rules and the date extended-hours access becomes available.



GOLF SEASON, ANY SEASON

New Golf Simulator is now available at the Watson Lake Recreation Centre!



Golfers in Town do not have to venture far before taking their next swing! The Watson Lake Recreation Centre's new golf simulator is now available through rentals and reservations. The system uses a ProTee VX launch monitor with GSPro software, creating an indoor experience for experienced golfers, beginners and residents looking for another activity to enjoy with friends or family.

The simulator measures the ball and club during each shot and translates that information into on-screen play. Users can practise drives and irons, work on consistency or play a complete simulated round.

GSPro provides access to more than 2,550 community-created courses, including detailed digital recreations inspired by real courses.

For experienced golfers, the simulator offers an opportunity to practise throughout the winter. For beginners, it provides a relaxed place to learn without the pressure of playing on a full outdoor course.

View the e-brochure to learn more about the Town of Watson Lake Golf Simulator



read about the
new golf simulator
www.watsonlake.ca/golf-sim

TOWL WATCHDESK**Town of Watson Lake
Council decisions:
In a glance**

These are notes from Council Meetings held from March to June 2026. This section in the newsletter answers what Council moved forward and why.

Housing and Development

Council approved the remaining eligible Housing Accelerator Fund applications and continued permit-related incentives to help active housing projects move forward before the program concludes. (Motion 026-012-106).

Infrastructure and Essential Services

- Recreation Centre backup boiler approved.
- Long-term municipal asset planning advanced.
- Emergency repairs began on the Water Treatment Plant monitoring system.
- Road and trail projects continued.
- Frances Avenue work remained in progress.
- Seasonal capital projects moved forward.

Together, these updates improve reliability across Town facilities, utilities and roads, while helping plan repairs before failures occur. (Motions 026-008-059, 026-010-085 and 026-010-086)

Community Grants and Social Events

Council approved community-grant recommendations, supported the very first Filipino Fiesta celebration by the Filipino-Canadian Association of Watson Lake through direct and in-kind assistance and filled a vacancy on the Recreation Advisory Committee. (Motions 026-009-076, 026-011-096 and 026-011-097)

Speeding Concerns on Residential Areas

Following concerns about speeding in a residential neighbourhood, Council directed Administration to review signage, request additional police patrols and share more public information about safe driving. (Motion 026-008-061)

Environmental Follow-up

Council continued requesting information from territorial departments and researchers regarding contamination concerns connected to fish testing in Watson Lake.

Electric-vehicle Charging

Council directed Administration to first explore whether a local private business would be interested in hosting an electric-vehicle charging station before considering leasing Town property. (Motion 026-011-095)

Bylaws and Municipal Policy

- Updated business-licensing bylaw adopted.
- Vacant-building bylaw approved.
- Bylaw-enforcement rules consolidated.
- Donation policy updated.
- Community-service grant policy advanced.

These changes make Town rules easier to apply, improve consistency and give residents and organizations clearer expectations. (Motions 026-06-045, 026-06-046, 026-06-047, 026-012-109 and 026-012-110)

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027**A New Structure for Business Licenses**

Town Council adopted Business Licence Bylaw 2025-06 on March 24, 2026. The new bylaw does not take effect until January 1, 2027, giving local businesses time to understand a more detailed licensing system before their next renewal.

The new framework organizes businesses by activity, including accommodation, food and beverage, contractors, retail, home-based businesses, transportation and other service types. A business carrying on more than one category under the same name and premises may require a modular licence, while separate businesses or trade names continue to require separate licences.

The bylaw also sets clearer requirements

for specific activities. Depending on the type of business, applicants may need to provide territorial permits, insurance, vehicle information, trade-name documentation or other approvals. It also clarifies exemptions for certain charitable activities, garage sales, short events and other limited activities.

Nothing changes for the remainder of 2026. The current bylaw remains in effect until December 31. Before the 2027 renewal period, the Town will share application information and guidance to help businesses identify the category or categories that apply to them.

The Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings Bylaw

The Vacant and Unoccupied Buildings Bylaw establishes a clear process for buildings that remain vacant or unoccupied and may become a fire, safety, health or neighbourhood concern.

Generally, the framework applies after a building has been vacant or unoccupied for more than 60 consecutive days. Owners may be required to obtain a permit, secure and maintain the building, carry liability insurance where required and allow regular inspections.

SECURE

Prevent unauthorized entry and protect openings from weather

MAINTAIN

Control hazards, pests, deterioration and combustible materials

PERMIT

Complete the Town process when the building falls within the bylaw

PLAN

Show active steps toward occupancy, sale, renovation or another lawful use of the building

IMPORTANT: The bylaw includes exemptions and special circumstances, including certain seasonal residences, active renovations, properties genuinely offered for sale or rent, estates and catastrophic events. Owners should review the official bylaw or contact the Town before assuming it applies to their property.



read about the
Town of Watson Lake Bylaws
www.watsonlake.ca/bylaws

Visit watsonlake.ca/bylaws to access the Town's current bylaws and learn about local rules affecting residents, properties and businesses. Checking the official webpage helps you stay informed and confirm the latest municipal requirements.

HAVE YOUR SAY:

The Yukon Government is seeking public feedback on proposed firearms legislation, including the possible role of a territorial firearms advocate.



Feedback closes: August 7, 2026





Leading, serving.

Commissioner Adeline Webber recognizes Vicky Lin Zheng as the **2026 Outstanding Youth Achievement** awardee in Watson Lake

Watson Lake has many reasons to be proud of its graduating class, and this year Vicky has given the community a few more.

Vicky was named the 2026 valedictorian of Watson Lake Secondary School and received the Town's Zach Bell Award in recognition of her academic achievement, leadership and contributions to the school community.

She was also selected as one of four recipients of the Government of Yukon's 2026 Outstanding Youth Achievement Award. Commissioner of Yukon Adeline Webber presented the award to Vicky during the July 18 Parks Day celebration at Wye Lake Park.

A year of milestones

Her contributions extend well beyond the classroom. Vicky has volunteered at Watson

Lake Community Hospital and Johnson Elementary School, served as student council president and yearbook editor-in-chief, captained the girls' volleyball team, represented Team Yukon at the 2025 Canada Summer Games, tutored students and supported community activities.

Together, these accomplishments reflect the kind of leadership built through service, commitment and consistently showing up for others. The Town congratulates Vicky on an outstanding year and wishes her continued success in her next chapter.



"Receiving this recognition means so much to me because they reflect my hard work, and the support I have gotten from everyone.

Throughout my experience, I have learned that leadership is about serving others, inspiring those around me, and leading through example.

I am grateful for this amazing opportunity."

VICKY LIN ZHENG,
2026 OUTSTANDING YOUTH
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEE



Jenny's Volunteer Service Recognized in Watson Lake

Commissioner of Yukon Adeline Webber also formally presented Jenny Skelton with the Commissioner's Award for Public Volunteer Service during the July 18 Parks Day celebration, allowing Watson Lake to share in this special moment of recognition.



Canada Day at Lucky Lake!

**Watson Lake's Community spirit makes
for a memorable afternoon!**

Lucky Lake was filled with activity, laughter and red-and-white community spirit as Watson Lake gathered to celebrate Canada Day.

Events of this size are not possible without many hands working behind the scenes. Volunteers helped prepare the site, serve food, manage activities, welcome participants and keep the event running safely throughout the afternoon.

We would like to thank the residents who came out and made the afternoon a success.

The buzz gets louder



THE GREAT YUKON BUZZ

Ready to turn your attention to the fast-approaching Discovery Days 2026? This year's theme is **"The Great Yukon Buzz"**, a theme that could mean our world-class sized mosquitoes, bees, dragonflies and even wildlife!

Watson lake is excited to see your float! Contact the Watson Lake Recreation Centre for more details and to register!