

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

the official community newsletter of the Municipality of Watson Lake
VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 3 | Summer and Fall 2025

SERVICES SIMPLIFIED

@ <https://www.watsonlake.ca>

We've freshened up our website. It's plainer to read, easier to search, and well laid out so you can find what you need without jumping through multiple webpages. Facility and service rentals at the Rec Centre can now be booked online, and next month, we'll be integrating an e-billing feature so you can pay your Town of Watson Lake invoices, utility bills, and property taxes from home.

Visitors will be greeted with a simple interactive guidebook to help them get around our little town at the Gateway to the Yukon. For residents, there's an interactive garbage-pickup map, clearer department pages, and we've integrated a Spotify Audio Player so you can

listen to previous Town Council Meeting audio recordings. Through the site, you will have easy access to all our forms, bylaws and policies. Have a look. If something's hard to find, let us know - we'll fix it. This is your site.

BookingEvents

Recreation Centre Facility Rentals •
Outdoor Gear Rentals • Get a Recreation
Centre Gym, Showers or Activities
Membership • Event Equipment Rentals

StreamliningInformation

Interactive Maps • Official Newsletter •
Public Services • Local Businesses • Mayor
and Council • General Information • Staff
Directory • Initiatives • Forms

PayingBills

DECEMBER 1ST
Property Taxes • Utility Bills • Town of
Watson Lake Invoices

Read: SPOOK TACULAR HALLOWEEN



Watson Lake
Charges into Fire Safety
Fire Prevention Week 2025

Stories Available
on Page 3

Watson Lake
Rent Equipment or Book your Next Event
at the Watson Lake Recreation Centre Online!
AVAILABLE NOW!

Town of Watson Lake Parks and Recreation Department
Welcome to our new Online Facility, Services and Membership Platform

We're excited to introduce our new online booking platform for the Watson Lake Recreation Centre. Now it's easier than ever to access the programs, facilities, and memberships that keep our community active and engaged. Whether you're booking ice time, reserving a meeting space, or renewing your Rec Centre membership, you can do it all in just a few clicks—24/7. This online facility so you can plan faster and spend more time enjoying everything our Parks & Recreation Department has to offer.

Recreation account so you only enter your information once and receive helpful updates for the Recreation Centre, our outdoor spaces, and more.

Watson Lake
-3.9° Overcast Clouds Air Quality: Good

Search Watson Lake...

COMMUNITY VISITORS GOVERNMENT

NOTICES

- Emergency Measures Training... WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 AT 12:00 AM
- Spring Clean-Up - Free Landfill... MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025 AT 12:00 AM
- Prescribed Fires in Watson Lake... TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025 AT 12:00 AM
- 2025 Mosquito Control Program... WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025 AT 12:00 AM
- Introducing Voyent Alert! Th... TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024 AT 12:00 AM

NEWS & EVENTS
UPCOMING EVENTS

- Council Meeting TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 AT 6:00 PM
- Council Meeting TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 AT 6:00 PM
- Council Meeting TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020 AT 6:00 PM
- Council Meeting TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 AT 6:00 PM
- Council Meeting TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

VIEW ALL EVENTS

BOOK FACILITIES AND RENT EQUIPMENT ONLINE NOW

Watson Lake Parks & Recreation brings people together through programs, events, and spaces that support fun, connection, and active living. From facility rentals and memberships to seasonal activities and community celebrations, everything is now easier to access with our new online booking system. Sign up, explore programs, and get involved today!

Book Online **The Parks and Rec Department**

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
We have the best of what the community has to offer, ready for you, consolidated into bite-sized pieces!

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE FORMS
Almost all processes begin by filling out a form. You can now choose to electronically fill or print out our forms to submit them online, or by visiting the Town Office.

GARBAGE COLLECTION DAYS
No more second guessing or missing your garbage pickup day. An interactive, color-coded map of the Town of Watson Lake Residential Garbage Collection Schedule is now available for viewing through the link below!

JOB BOARD
Looking for work? Browse municipal and community job postings in Watson Lake and take the next step in your career.

SERVICES
The Town of Watson Lake operates essential day-to-day services in the community. These services range from fundamental infrastructure like water, sewer and maintenance for local roads, to ensuring that essential community programs like recreation, waste management and emergency response exist.

Explore our Departments Page by clicking below to find our latest projects, activities and more.

TOWL Watchdesk: *Notes from the Recent Council Meetings*

The Watchdesk is your quick, easy-to-digest pulse on Council. Here is what's moving and what's coming up next; the decisions Council made a couple months ago and how they shape services in Watson Lake. The past couple meetings talked about safer services, involved talks for clearer rules, updates on the betterment of our roads and facilities, and of decisions that affect you,

Setting-up Standards

Council awarded the contract to WSP to define servicing and subdivision standards so builders and residents have a standard to follow when building in Watson Lake.

"The manual would outline infrastructure standards for future development and expansion" (From Admin Report, Sept 2025)

Water and Sewer Rates Review

A data-driven comparison across the territory are being done to see where the Town of Watson Lake stands in terms of rates for water and sewer.

"Our water and sewer rates are the lowest out of all other municipal rates [in the territory] at this time" Admin Update, Nov 2025.

Fees and Charges: Tune-up

Periodic alignment of municipal fees with regional benchmarks are done to keep services sustainable without sticker shock to residents.

Right-sized fees help keep everyday services running strong

Short-term Accommodations

A short public survey is available online and at the Town Office. There will be a December 10 Town Hall Meeting to gather public input and discuss opportunities/challenges.

"Airbnbs provide a better experience for families and team travel" Public Gallery Input, Sept 2025 Council Meeting

Build-Commitment Rules

Formal timelines were determined to serviced lot sales so parcels don't sit idle and neighborhoods in the Town of Watson Lake keep growing.

"This bylaw sets conditions to ensure that properties are developed in a timely manner" First Reading, Building Commitment Bylaw, May 2025

Budgets and Reserves

Council underwent the second reading of the 2026 Budget. Administration suggests establishing dedicated reserves to tackle Road Maintenance and Fire Emergency

Residents are always invited to attend the Town of Watson Lake Regular Council Meetings every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers, 710 Adela Trail. You will hear updates, an opportunity during Committee of the Whole Meetings to ask questions, and see how ideas become actions. Keeping engaged helps steer the work.

Get Involved

Engage with Mayor and Council on the December 10th Town Hall Meeting

This is your chance to learn and share your input with Mayor and Council to help in their decision making on current and upcoming initiatives like the:

- Presentation on Local Infrastructure Projects,
- Discussion on Short-term Accommodations (like AirB&Bs) and the
- Town of Watson Lake O&M and Capital Budget for year 2026.



Scan to access:
Town of Watson Lake
Short-Term Accommodations Survey

Winter's Coming and Snow is Here: *Your responsibilities as a propertyowner*

For propertyowners with dogs staying outside

- 1 Make sure that they have warm shelter. Help insulate their doghouses with blankets and hay. Allow a longer leash so they can move around.
- 2 Water freezes. Please check their waterbowl regularly so they have access to fresh water.

If you operate a business

Please note that business licenses expire on December 31st, 2025.

Please renew as soon as possible.

Unneutered Pets

Having an unneutered pet means they are ineligible for lifetime pet licenses. Annual pet licenses acquired this year expires on December 31st.

Please renew as soon as possible.

Clearing your road right-of-ways

Please ensure that personal property is off the Road Right-of-Ways and away from Fire Hydrants.

This helps the Town Public Works crew with snow clearing operations and retaining access to water in cases of emergency.

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN

Watson Lake just wrapped up a real stand-out fall season. This year, with the Parks and Recreation Team setting the pace, we were able to introduce some first-ever thrills and some timeless Halloween traditions. Thank you for showing up, as we made memories in the cold that felt downright warm.

A WORLD-FAMOUS HAUNT

For the first time ever, the World-Famous Sign Post Forest turned into a "Saw"-esque haunted walk. Familiar paths became eerie corridors, with clever sets, safe scares and just the perfect jump moments are delivered. Families, teens and brave children moved through in waves, some; uncountable times, laughing, shrieking, and snapping photos. It's proof that a hometown landmark that we pass through on everyday is still capable of surprising us.

COMMUNITY TRADITION

Over at Wye Lake, our Halloween nights once again delivered: crackling bonfire, hot chocolate, hotdogs and a sky-brightening fireworks finale. Treat-or-Trickers warmed up, and enjoyed the show. A HUGE thanks to the Grads for stepping up, the Watson Lake Fire Department for the awesome show, sponsors like the Signpost Seniors for the best homemade hot chocolate and snacks, Liard First Nation and our dedicated Rec Staff who made this all possible.



03

DEPARTMENTS



Fire Prevention Week 2026

Fire safety never stops in Watson Lake. It grows with our kids and carries into our homes. This fall, WLFD's Fire Prevention Week events put students in the lead with a Fire Safety Poster Contest. The school selected class finalists, and two students were named winners earning their class a pizza party and an ice-cream party. Alongside the fun, the Fire Department was able to impart lithium-ion battery basics, like only buying listed devices/batteries, charging only with the supplied charger on a hard, clear surface, and how to recycle batteries properly. The Fire Department also shared these tips through their Facebook Page.

Community FireSmart Assessors

This November, 18 community members completed the Advanced FireSmart Home Assessment Program training, strengthening local knowledge in enhancing individual homes' resilience to wildfires in Watson Lake. We have participants from Yukon Wildland Fire Management, Watson Lake Fire Department, Liard First Nation, Daylu Dena Council and the Wildfire Resiliency Consortium of Canada.

Participants learned how to spot common ignition risks, like decks and porches, gutters

and vents, roofing, sidings and nearby yard fuels. How embers travel and what fixes we can recommend to homeowners in town to prioritize, as households make small year-round FireSmart changes in their property, neighborhoods become more resilient, which mitigates fire risk, buys responders time, and reduces the spread of damage caused by wind-driven embers. Through our FireSmart Ambassadors, we can help spread WildFire awareness from one neighbor to another.



Austria Lopez
Recreation Programmer

Austria is instrumental in making sure that the community will have year-round programs that bring us together. She plans activities and coordinates major events like Canada Day, Discovery days and The Christmas Parade.

She moved from Mexico City to Watson Lake in 2008, and has been with the town for 11 years. She shares a loving family with their dogs, watching mystery shows, and cooking Mexican meals.

Austria thanks the team for making it possible for her to perform her duties and making events happen in Watson Lake.



Darren Law
Parks Lead Hand

Through his role, Darren supports the daily operations of the Parks and Recreation Department year-round, through various maintenance duties and by assisting the Rec staff during events. Among many other tasks, his crew ensures that flags by Alaska Highway are put up, and the skating ice remains in good condition.

Outside work, Darren loves spending his time watching sports, and weather-permitting, playing a round of golf. He's been with the Town for 23 years and raised three children in Watson Lake.



Accessible By Design

Town of Watson Lake completes
three playground projects



This Fall, Watson Lake's three-site playground project crossed the finish line, delivering welcoming accessible places to move imagine and

belong. These designs focused on delivering inclusive play for kids ages 2-12, and pairing ground level activities and transfer points with ramp free routes and social play zones.

At Dennis Ball Memorial Pool, families will find multi-user swings, an inclusive see-saw, spinners and imaginative-play features, easy to reach and to enjoy. Over on Teslin Crescent, a tall tower, tunnel slide and a thrill inducing zip-rail was added alongside sensory play, so children of different abilities can share the same space.

A new nautical themed-playspace with two ships, a hammock, monkeybars and an inclusive roundabout for side-by-side spinning is ready for play at the Wye Lake Park. Across the project, pieces were carefully selected to encourage social connection, strength building and sensory regulation, because we believe that play should have no barriers.

CONGRATULATIONS MLA Patti McLeod

Congratulations to MLA Patti McLeod on her election to represent the Watson Lake- Ross River- Faro Riding. As a long-time resident of Watson Lake, she brings a deep understanding of our communities' needs to the legislature.

We look forward to her work in advancing the Yukon Party's goals in housing, rural services, public safety and community opportunities.



Employment Opportunities

The Town of Watson Lake is looking to fill two unionized positions as a Part-time, Auxiliary Custodian for the Parks and Recreation Department and a Full-time Permanent Equipment Operator 1 to operate a variety of equipment at the Watson Lake Landfill.

If you think that you are a good fit for either of these positions, please take time to see the Full Job Descriptions for these roles and to find out [how to apply](#).

Custodian

Part-time, Auxiliary Position
Parks and Recreation Department

Equipment Operator I

Full-Time Permanent Position,
Public Works-Solid Waste Department



Scan to access:
Town of Watson Lake
Employment Opportunities
Webpage
www.watsonlake.ca/employment-opportunities

It's the most wonderful...

Community Events Calendar

NOV
22

Christmas
Craft Fair
Watson Lake Community Library

DEC
5

Christmas Parade and
Moonlight Madness

DEC
6

Ski Hill
Auction
Watson Lake Ski Club

DEC
10

Town Hall
Meeting
Town of Watson Lake Mayor and Council

DEC
11

Community
Christmas Dinner
3rd Annual Christmas
Tree Decorating Contest

DEC
14

Christmas
Crafts

DEC
19

Christmas
Decorating Contest

DEC
20

Skate with Santa and
the Grinch



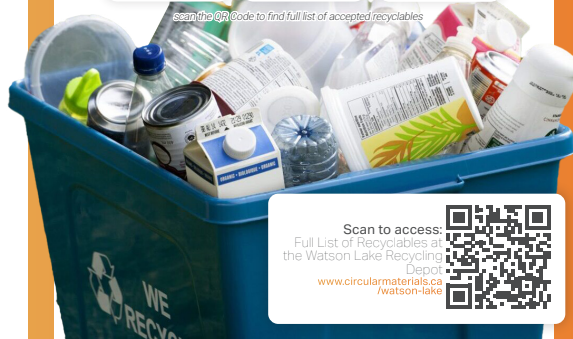
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) makes producers responsible for managing products and packaging at their end-of-life. As Yukon EPR evolves and implement changes across the territory, note that there haven't been many changes on what you can recycle at the Watson Lake Recycling Depot;

We still accept:

paper, cardboards, bottles, metal cans, etc.



Scan the QR code to find full list of accepted recyclables



Scan to access:
Full List of Recyclables at
the Watson Lake Recycling
Depot
www.circularmaterials.ca/watson-lake

