

## Wildfire Safety

Wildfire season is here! As always, please stay informed about any existing burning regulations, practise diligent fire safety and obey backcountry closures as we head into the warmer months.

It's important to understand that wildfire spreads quickly from tree-to-tree and can produce sparks and embers that may travel distances of **up to two kilometres**.

These embers may land on trees or homes well-ahead of the fire, making wildfires extremely dangerous.

For more information on wildfire safety and preparedness, visit:

- [www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC](http://www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC)
- [www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca](http://www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca)
- [www.FireSmartBC.ca](http://www.FireSmartBC.ca)
- [www.BCWildfire.ca](http://www.BCWildfire.ca)

## Bleeder Valves: OFF by May 1

Did you forget? Never fear, here's your reminder: as per Elkford's bylaws, residents must turn off the bleeder valves in their residences by **May 1**.

Please ensure that your valve is in working condition before you turn it off. For more information, please contact Public Works at **250.865.4025**.

## Spring Cleaning and Encroachments

This is a friendly reminder that District lands and greenbelts are not for personal storage or dumping. The District offers designated spots for dumping of organic material and the transfer station is the right place for most other things.

Have questions or concerns about dumping? Contact the Public Works Department at **250.865.4025** or the **Elkford Transfer Station** (owned and operated by the Regional District of East Kootenay) at **1.250.489.2791** to find out more.

## 2024 Scholarship Applications



Heading to college or university? Let us help with that! District of Elkford 2024 scholarships are open to students graduating from Elkford Secondary School who are pursuing their post-secondary education.

You can download your application form at [www.elkford.ca/scholarships](http://www.elkford.ca/scholarships) or request one by contacting [Info@elkford.ca](mailto:Info@elkford.ca) or **250.865.4000**.

Note that all applicants are required to provide proof of:

- Residency in the District of Elkford.
- Attendance at Elkford Secondary School.
- Registration in a post-secondary institution.

**Application deadline: May 31, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. (local time)**

## Closed May 20 for Victoria Day

All District of Elkford facilities are closed on **Monday, May 20** for Victoria Day. We will reopen on **Tuesday, May 21** and look forward to seeing you then!

## Watering Restrictions in Effect

Did you know that watering restrictions are already in effect? To ensure capacity of Elkford's reservoirs in the event of a fire emergency (and adequate water for all throughout the summer) watering between **April 1 and September 30** is to take place on odd-or-even-numbered days that correspond with your residential street address. On the calendar days that correspond with your street address (odd or even), remember that you may only water within the hours of **7 p.m. to 10 a.m.**

## Spring Bear Safety Reminders

This year, we're again asking for your help to protect our local bear population and keep them wild. Following a few simple guidelines can help reduce wildlife attractants—and the risks of urban encounters—dramatically for the entire community.

You can help by always disposing of your trash properly and storing it securely, feeding your pets indoors, cleaning barbecues regularly, removing bird feeders while bears are awake, walking your pets on-leash, using a wildlife-resistant garbage bin and regularly harvesting all fruit and berries from your trees.

A friendly reminder from Bylaw Enforcement that conflict with bears and other wildlife in Elkford should be reported \*directly\* to the RAPP Hotline. The RAPP Hotline is a confidential, toll-free, 24/7 tip-line manned by B.C. Conservation Officer Service, and reports can be made by calling **1.877.952.7277**. You can also complete their online form at <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>.



# May 2024

## Campground Opening on May 17!

Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines and load up the camper: the Elkford Municipal Campground opens for the 2024 season on **May 17!**

Enjoy a wilderness staycation at our lovely local campground, containing 78 sites, a shower house with flush toilets, pit toilets and a cookhouse shelter. Featured amenities include fire pits, electrical hookups, picnic tables and complimentary firewood. Learn more at [www.elkford.ca/campground](http://www.elkford.ca/campground).

Book your spot today! Call **250.865.4010**, email [recreation@elkford.ca](mailto:recreation@elkford.ca) or visit **750 Fording Drive**.



## Wildcat Days Early Bird Parade Registration

Join us for Elkford's annual Wildcat Days Parade on **Saturday, June 29**. The parade is one of the most popular events during Wildcat Days and each year, we strive to make the parade bigger and better! Registration is now open, and there is no cost to enter!

Parade entry forms are available at:

- **Dignitaries:** [www.elkford.ca/2024paradedignitary](http://www.elkford.ca/2024paradedignitary)
- **Non-dignitaries:** [www.elkford.ca/2024paradeentry](http://www.elkford.ca/2024paradeentry)

Register before the deadline of **Monday, June 17 at 5 p.m. (local time)**.

Questions? For more info—as well as for maps and guidelines—contact the Community Conference Centre at **750 Fording Drive, 250.865.4010** or [events@elkford.ca](mailto:events@elkford.ca).

**Stay tuned: the 2024 Wildcat Days event line-up and official event brochure are also coming soon!**



*elkford*  
Wild at heart.

PHOTOS: Tasha Chorneyko

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PHOTOS: Tasha Chorneyko



### May Council & Committee Meetings

May 7	5 p.m.	Youth Action Network Commission (at 750 Fording Drive)
May 13	6 p.m.	Regular Council
May 27	6 p.m.	Regular Council

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place in Council Chambers at 744 Fording Drive. For regular council meetings, electronic attendance is welcome. Visit <http://zoom.us/join> and enter the meeting ID: **250 865 4000**, then click join and wait for the host to let you into the meeting.

### Sweeping Away Winter

In mountain towns, residents know it is not the groundhog, but the street sweeper that heralds the arrival of spring. This is the true Canadian symbol of hope, renewal and retiring your trusty snow blower for the season.

Now that the grass is turning green and winter's finally over (we think), it's time to get cracking on your yard work and spring cleanup! The Public Works Department is asking everyone to please have all debris off your lawn and onto the road by the evening of **Sunday, May 12**. Final rounds for street sweeping will begin on **Monday, May 13**.

Here's how you can help the sweepers do their job safely and efficiently:

- Avoid placing branches or large piles of leaves/grass on the road.
- Place debris within approximately one vehicle width from the curb and avoid dispersing it into the centre lane of the road.
- Park your vehicles OFF the street.
- Get rid of the bulk of your yard waste by placing leaves and grass clippings in the compost bins around Elkford. Please remove plastic bags and put the compost into the bins (not on the ground beside the bins).

Questions about street sweeping? Contact Public Works at **250.865.4025** or [publicworks@elkford.ca](mailto:publicworks@elkford.ca).



### Wildfire Community Preparedness Day: May 4

**Saturday, May 4** is Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a national campaign that encourages people and organizations everywhere to come together on a single day to take action to raise awareness and reduce wildfire risks.

You can help promote wildfire protection by participating in risk reduction projects on or before the first Saturday in May. Studies show that measures taken at the home and in the area within 100 feet of it, known as the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ), have a significant impact on minimizing damage and loss. Something as simple as clearing the immediate 5-foot zone around the home can assist in making a huge difference in avoiding a catastrophe.

Read more at [wildfireprepd.org](http://wildfireprepd.org).



### Congratulations to Jamie Robertson, Elkford's 2024 Citizen of the Year!

The District of Elkford is thrilled to announce the 2024 Citizen of the Year: Jamie Robertson!

A long-time local and mother of three, Robertson has one of the most recognizable faces in town thanks to her many years of dedicated volunteer work. Her current volunteer positions include president of the Elkford Curling Centre, vice chair of the Elkford Secondary School (ESS) Parent Advisory Council, Youth Action Network Commission member, Rock-a-Rama fundraiser committee member and volunteer for Wapiti Ski Club—but there have been many, many more.

"Jamie is one of the most selfless, kind-hearted people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing," says one of her nominators. "She is always looking out for others and strives to give them recognition for what they do. Despite her commitment to volunteer work, she's never been one to put herself in the limelight, and she deserves to be celebrated and recognized for all she does for her community."

Robertson has called Elkford home for most of her life, and she loves its small-town vibes, scenic views, community spirit and its people. For these reasons, she and her husband, Brett, decided this would be the perfect place to raise their growing family. When asked what motivates her to volunteer, Robertson credits her family—since becoming a mother, she has lent her time to nearly every single sports team, club, association, fundraiser and school initiative that her kids have ever participated in.

"I volunteer mainly for my kids," says Robertson. "Of course, I volunteer for other reasons too, but one of my biggest motivators is showing my children the importance of being involved in their community. I want them to understand that we don't always need something in return for our hard work—that if we truly care about something or enjoy it, helping it succeed so that others can enjoy it too is payment enough!"

Unsurprisingly, many of Robertson's volunteer roles focus on advocating for Elkford's youth. As a member of the Youth Action Network Commission, she helps to generate action and opportunities for youth, and through her role on the Parent Advisory Committee at ESS, she takes part in promoting school-related activities and initiatives. Robertson has also coached girls' volleyball at Rocky Mountain Elementary School (RMES) and is part of the committee for the ESS school fundraiser, Rock-a-Rama, in 2024. She recently became the president of the Elkford Curling Centre, as well, where she was previously a coach for junior curling.

"It's no secret that Jamie helps out wherever and whenever she can," adds another of her nominators. "She volunteers *so much* of her time without asking for any recognition, and she's gone the extra mile to help keep some of Elkford's nonprofits and clubs running when they were in danger of folding. She sees the good in everyone and is just such a positive person."

"On behalf of the District of Elkford and our community, we thank Jamie for her outstanding contributions to our community," says Elkford's Mayor Steve Fairbairn. "Jamie has dedicated countless hours to the organizations, teams and clubs that make Elkford such a wonderful place to live, and she never stops advocating for others to do the same. She's both an exemplary individual and citizen, and it's truly an honour to congratulate her on being named the 2024 Citizen of the Year!"

Visit [www.elkford.ca/2024cotyjami Robertson](http://www.elkford.ca/2024cotyjami Robertson).



IMAGE: "Elkford's 2024 Citizen of the Year, Jamie Robertson, and Elkford's Mayor, Steve Fairbairn" by Chantel Dawson