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# THE TOWN CRIER

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December 2015

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Hello everyone,

On a somber note, November 14, 2015 near The Stadium of France in the city of Paris there were two bombings plus an attack at a nearby pub that resulted in killing over 120 people and injuring hundreds more. We would like to take the time for a moment of silence to honour the fallen of this heinous crime.

Sur une note sombre, sur le 14 November 2015, pres du Stade du France a Paris en France, il y avait deux attentats a la bombe et une attaque contre un pub voisin qui a entraine a tuer un de 120 personnes et en blessant des centaines d'autres. Nous aimerions prendre le temps pour un moment de silence pour honorer la tombee de cet attaque odieuse.

As you probably know Christmas is just around the corner, it starts with the Christmas Fair and Moonlight Madness in early December. It will be a busy time and I hope to see everyone out and about.

Every council meeting is open to the public and for the month of December it will take place on the first and the fifteenth which is the first and third Tuesday for that month. As well we are having a special open house for the new zoning bylaw on December 15, 2015. Copies of the proposed bylaw are available at the Town Office or on the Town of Watson Lake web page under bylaws.

Finally I would like to thank the students and the teachers at Johnson Elementary School for their excellent Remembrance Day ceremony as well as the guests of honour for coming out to the event.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Recreation Center. Thank you to all the rec. staff for setting up this event. The R.C.M.P for the Marching of Colours.

A big thank you to our speaker Stephen Pederson, Patti Mcleod for her words and the graduating class of 2016 for their participation and the laying of the wreaths.

I would also like to thank everyone for attending and donating at The Shaya Giesbrecht Fund Raising Dance and The Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl for the Kids Sake. Great attendance at the annual Halloween dance! Awesome costumes and a great Band.

I want to remind everyone that this is your community. It is important that you have every opportunity to participate in every step of the way. Please remember that the door is always open should there be any questions or ideas to improve our community.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Justin Brown

## WINTER SNOW REMOVAL

As winter approaches we would like to remind all residents of the Town of Watson Lake Snow Removal policies.

During snow removal from public roadways the Town will attempt to use the 'driveway trap' on the grader to clear the windrows of snow at the edge of the traveled portion of the road and the driveway or road approach to a property". If the plow truck removes snow from public roadways, the windrows of snow cannot be "trapped" and therefore the removal of the windrow will be the responsibility of the property owner.

The location and snow depth in the driveways affect the use of the driveway trap therefore the success of each trapping is dependent on circumstances.

"Snow removal between the traveled portion of the road and the property line, together with the driveway and any other entrances is the responsibility of the property owner."

"Any snow from private property may not be piled within 15' of any fire hydrant. "

"Snow removed from private property may not be placed on the traveled portion of any highway. When conditions warrant, the Town may limit the area of highway right-of-way available for placement of snow removed from private property. "

Please ensure that vehicles are not parked or stored on the right-of-way. The Town will not be responsible for any vehicle damage incurred.

The Traffic Bylaw and the Snow Removal Policy may be read at the Town Office.

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Merry Christmas



### **2016 Property Assessment Notices**

The 2016 YTG property assessment notices will be sent out to property owners in November. If you disagree with the assessed value of your property, please contact YG Property Assessment and Taxation directly at 667-5268. An assessor will review all the facts and answer any questions that you may have.

The Town of Watson Lake is required to set property tax rates on or before April 15th. Please review your assessment notice for any discrepancies, as your 2016 taxes will be based on the information provided.



### **WINTER SNOW REMOVAL**

As we are into winter, it is a busy time of year for snow removal. In order to keep our streets clean and safe, please ensure that vehicles are not parked or stored on the Town's right-of-ways. Vehicles parked in such a way that obstructs snow removal or regular street maintenance could be subject to fines and the possibility of being towed.

Additionally, to all snow removal contractors and property owners, when removing snow, please do not place your snow between the travelled portion of the road and the property line or to obstruct traffic control devices such as stop signs, or placing snow near fire hydrants.

During snow removal from public roadways the Town will attempt to use the 'driveway trap' on the grader to clear the windrows of snow at the edge of the traveled portion of the road and the driveway or road approach to a property". The location and snow depth in the driveways affect the use of the driveway trap, therefore the success of each trapping is dependent on circumstances.



### **UTILITY ARREARS**

Any utility account that remains in arrears over 60 days may be transferred to and form part of the tax account for the property to which the service was supplied. Once transferred to the tax account these amounts may be recovered in the same manner as other property tax.

Notice: Any utility account that is in arrears as of November 30<sup>th</sup> will be transferred to the applicable property tax account.



### **HOME FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame. Use hot water or a UL labeled device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.
- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family

And remember.... This is the time of the year to get your furnace serviced and your chimneys cleaned!!!!

Contact your local fire department at 536-8008 for advice if you have a question on Home Fire Safety.



### **Annual Christmas Food Drive**

Watson Lake Volunteer Fire Department is proud to announce their annual food Drive on

Thursday, December 3rd, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

For more information, please call Scott Maclean at 536-4755

Any donation large or small is greatly appreciated by those in need.

Tis the season to give



Christmas tree fires are always a threat, so please remember the following helpful hints:

- Water constantly
- Place away from any heat source
- Make sure artificial trees are labeled as "fire retardant"
- Replace frayed or damaged electrical cords
- Unplug lights when leaving home
- Make sure your tree stand is designed not to tip

The Recreation Advisory Committee committee is a committee formed by the Council of the Town of Watson Lake. The mandate of the Committee is to provide recommendations to Council on issues related to the recreational activity of the community in an effort to promote community health and well-being. The committee is further mandated to recommend to Council projects and user groups  
**Greetings from Recreation!**

The season for snow is finally upon us! Honestly I couldn't be happier and can NOT wait for the ski season to begin! They are hard at work on our beautiful Mt. Maichen getting it ready for the season. We are so lucky to have a ski hill in our little community, and hardworking volunteers to keep it up and running. If you haven't been up there please come and check it out, the view of the lake and the mountains from the top is breath taking. Not a skier/snow boarder? That's ok, come up and have some of Ang Miller's epic burgers and watch the action on the hill. 'Tis also the season for all of the other wonderful outdoor activities! Snow shoeing and cross country skiing are long standing northern fav's.



### **Accounts Receivable**

Any client account with the Town of Watson Lake that remains in arrears over 90 days may be transferred to and form part of the property tax account of the client.

Once transferred to the tax account this amount may be recovered in the same manner as other property taxes.

**Notice: ANY CLIENT ACCOUNT THAT IS IN ARREARS ON December 30<sup>TH</sup> Will Be Transferred to the clients Property tax account.**

I spent last weekend at the Recplex, and it was wonderful to see our building as the heart of the community! The Old Timer's hosted a wonderful hockey tournament, it was a lot of fun cheering them on. So fun in fact, that I lost my voice! Elizabeth Lexow hosted a bowling tournament fundraiser for Big Sisters and Brothers that sounded like a lot of fun, I only heard good things and I am sad I missed out. Next time! I hosted a Yukon Women in Music Coffee House Concert that was well attended and a lot of fun. It was great seeing the building busy and all of the families, not only from here but Whitehorse and Dease Lake as well. Made me all warm and fuzzy inside.



### **TOWN OFFICE CLOSURE**

The office will be closed from noon on December 24th to December 28th opening on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Then closing again at noon on December 31 and opening for regular business hours on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Yukon Women in Music was a lot of fun, there were 4 lovely ladies from Whitehorse and two local ladies; Chelle Fraser and Kendra Hotson. They performed beautifully and every one that was there was proud that our local girls were such an inspiration. We shall have to pester them for more of there amazingness..muahahah.... If you know of anyone else who is interested in music perhaps we could get a local thing going, say once a month. Or whatever works for us. Having music in Watson Lake has been something that I have been working at since I got my position as Rec Programmer. When I went on mat leave and Marie Wilson covered my position she had the brilliant idea to start Arts in the Park here. We have talent within our community that we can draw on to create more of an artistic and musical culture here. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please come and see me. These are things that change our community and culture in a positive way. I can not do this alone; I need your help. Thank you to everyone who comes out and supports



**Recreation Advisory Committee**

these events, without you we would not be able to host them here. I really appreciate the support of the community when it comes to these concerts and Arts in the Park.



Christmas is just around the corner, not quite sure how that happened! We will have our annual Christmas Light Decorations Competition, so get decorating! Please call me with the information provided below to enter your house. The categories will be:

- Festive
- Classic
- Business
- Non-profit



Get decorating Watson Lake! The new town decorations have me all inspired!! Good job to my coworkers who have been busy decorating the community with winter cheer! I LOVE the massive Christmas tree in Wye Lake Park. We were trying to find a big decoration for the top, and everything was expensive so Darren Law decided he would make the large star on top. He did a fantastic job. I have seen a few pictures on Facebook with it. Good job Darren!!



I have always wanted to go Christmas Caroling, like they do in the movies and decided that this year we are doing it! Although we were unable to track down a horse drawn sleigh, we have a truck, trailer and some hay bales. If you are interested in caroling, please call Meaghen at 536-8023 so that I have an idea of numbers beforehand. This is going to be a lot of fun!! Start practicing in the shower!



We are still on the hunt for a name for our new Winter Festival, coming **January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**. This festival is not taking the place of Kiki Karnival, Kiki will take place on the second weekend of February just as it always has. The main reason that I decided to do this was that Kiki is so busy it is hard to have other activities. Most of the adults are busy playing hockey or volunteering and I thought it would be fun to have a weekend that is all about family fun and winter activities. If you have anything that you would like to volunteer to make

happen during the weekend, please contact me!! I want this festival to be great and will need your help to make it so! We need to start with an epic name for years to come. Personally, I like the idea of a name that incorporates things specifically to Watson Lake and the Yukon. An example would be the use of the word Skookum- which is Yukon slang. Get creative Watson Lake!!



I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season; it is always such a busy month in Watson. I hope that you all have a happy and safe holiday and I will see you all on the other end. Try and get outside and enjoy the winter weather. I know for some that sounds awful but if you find something that you like to do outside, winter will be more enjoyable. We live in a breath taking part of the country, literally so cold it takes your breath away! Hah! Just kidding! Our Yukon is a very beautiful and awe inspiring place. Enjoy!

Yours in health and recreation,  
Meaghen Kimmitt  
Recreation Programmer  
[fitness@watsonlake.ca](mailto:fitness@watsonlake.ca)  
867-536-8023

Meaghen Kimmitt  
Recreation Programmer/  
Personal Fitness Trainer  
Town of Watson Lake  
[fitness@watsonlake.ca](mailto:fitness@watsonlake.ca)  
Work: (867)536-8023

*“Enjoy life...and you will be well” –  
Unkown*

*Recreation`s purpose is not to kill time, but to make life; not to keep a person occupied, but to keep them refreshed; not to offer an escape from life, but to provide a discovery of life.*

### **The Recreation Centre will be closed**

December 24<sup>th</sup> at Noon and will reopen on December 29<sup>th</sup> at 8am.

We will also close at Noon on December 31<sup>st</sup> and will reopen on January 2nd at 10am

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season



## Watson Lake Recycling Centre

536-7104

Email: [recycling@watsonlake.ca](mailto:recycling@watsonlake.ca)

### HOURS OF OPERATION:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Landfill 10AM – 5 PM

Recycling 10 AM – 5:30 PM

### Holiday Hours:

December 25 to 28 Closed

December 29, 30 & 31 OPEN

January 1 CLOSED

January 2 OPEN

January 3 & 4 CLOSED  
(regular closed day)

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:

Some items you may be using over the holiday season that are Household Hazardous Waste and should not be disposed of in the garbage are:

Window decorating sprays  
Cooking spray

Please set these aside for now so you can dispose of them properly at our annual Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day which will be the second Saturday in September each year. Call us if you have any questions.

**WRAPPING PAPER:** Most gift wrap is recyclable. The wrap that isn't recyclable is the metallic plastic wrap. It just goes in your garbage. Paper wrap is to be packed tightly into a box and set on the pallet inside the depot. If you bring your paper in bags, you will be asked to box it up. Plastic (non-metallic) goes in the bag with your other soft plastics.

### RECYCLING CLUB 2015

The 2015 Recycling Club has now ended and no more points can be earned. There are two important deadlines all participants should be aware of.

Last day to order prize certificates is **Wednesday December 16.**

Last day to redeem your prize certificates is **Saturday January 9.**

Prize certificates are ordered online at [www.yukonrecyclingclub.ca](http://www.yukonrecyclingclub.ca) or by phone at 867-633-5269. If you need assistance drop by the Depot one day before December 16 and we will help you out. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT TILL THE VERY LAST DAY IF YOU NEED OUR HELP.**

The Northern Lights Centre is participating again this year. For 4800 points you can get a book of 5 Matinee Movie passes and for 8000 points you can get a book of 5 evening movie passes.

### INSIDE SORTING FOR NON-REFUNDABLE ITEMS:

Now that the weather is cooler, I'd like to pass on a reminder that we have racks inside the building and can provide a nice, warm place while you deal with your non-refundable recycling.



### The Northern Lights Centre

#### The Regular hours of operation are

- Wednesday 11am to 6:30pm
- Thursday 11am to 6:30pm
- Friday 2:30pm to 10pm
- Saturday 2pm to 10pm
- Sunday 11am to 5:30pm
- CLOSED Monday and Tuesday

### We have the following to offer you;

- Birthday parties w/gaming, 3D movies etc...
- Public computers w/Internet
- We have a Friday and Saturday night movie and gaming on Sundays
- Rental space, hourly or daily

**The December Movie Schedule and Holiday closures are as follows**

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - Before we go

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> - Shaun the sheep and Cooties

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - Video games drop in

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Ant man

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> - Minions and Transporter refueled

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - Video game drop in

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - Fantastic 4

Dec 19<sup>th</sup> - Ted 2 and Maze runner 2

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> - Video game drop in

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> - Children's x-mas matinee and evening movie

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> CLOSED

Dec 30<sup>th</sup> - Children's x-mass matinee and evening movie

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> & Jan 1<sup>st</sup> CLOSED

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> back to Regular hours

Please call Chad at 536-7827 or 536-8028

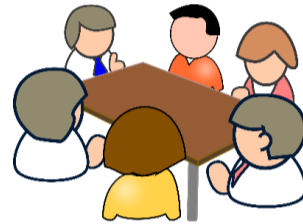
For more information and costs



**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**Mayor:** Justin Brown

**Councillor:**  
Brenda Leach  
Brian Lund  
Chris Irvin  
Stacy Bauer



**TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council Meetings are held the first & third Tuesday of every month. The next scheduled Council meeting is Tuesday, Dec 1 at 7:00 pm. Please approach members of Council on any agenda item that you wish to bring forward.



Happy Colouring!!!