

# Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

## Winter 2024 Newsletter



Board updates, snow removal, curbside info and more!

### Looking Out For Our Neighbours

A friendly reminder to our residents to “be a good neighbour”.

What does that mean? While it might be hosting barbeques, a friendly wave, or an early morning boost when the battery dies, we’re talking about another aspect of being neighbourly. You might not be friends with your neighbours, but let’s treat them with respect by following the bylaws in your area.



Things like...don’t mow the lawn at 1:00 am, secure your animals in your yard, keep your property reasonably tidy, and dispose of your trash and recycling every week.

If some tasks are too much for you...maybe ask your neighbours for help. Community can be a powerful resource - get involved in yours and be the good neighbour you’d want to have!

Keep informed!  
Follow RDKS on social media



### Dease Lake Volunteer Fire Department in Operation

The Dease Lake Volunteer Fire Department is up and running!

Fire service was re-established in Dease Lake this past October. Recruits have been training monthly with members of the Thornhill Volunteer Fire Department, and Fire Chief Rick Mroch has held weekly training as well.

A big thank you to the volunteer firefighters and to Fire Chief Mroch for working together to support the Dease Lake community.

If you’re in the Dease Lake area and are considering joining the Volunteer Fire Department, please get in contact with Fire Chief Mroch at [rmroch@rdks.bc.ca](mailto:rmroch@rdks.bc.ca).



Members of the Dease Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Thornhill Volunteer Fire Department.



# Message from the Chair

I'm very pleased to serve as Board Chair for 2023/2024 and look forward to engaging with and serving our residents. Ours is the third largest Regional District which can sometimes present unique challenges for outreach, but we are committed to using all possible avenues to connect with our residents - thank you for reading our newsletter. We love to hear from our residents; please reach out to our main office if you have any ideas or concerns.

2023 was another busy year for the RDKS. In March we adopted our new Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2026. The plan identifies four areas of focus: Organizational Effectiveness, Sustainable Service Delivery, Governance and Partnerships with First Nations, and Advocacy. It's been exciting to see the RDKS staff and our Board work together to begin accomplishing the priorities in each area. (Check out the full plan on the RDKS website.)

We were able to connect with our residents on a number of occasions last year. From the delegations that attended the Board meetings to the Community-to-Community event we hosted in the summer attended by Gitksan leaders, it's a privilege to connect with the people we serve and advocate on behalf of.

Speaking of advocacy, the Board also attended the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention in the fall. This event is an opportunity for us to advocate to the provincial government for our regional district, and we met with three Ministers to advocate for a withdrawal management centre in the Northwest, wildfire mitigation in Telegraph Creek, and updated financial models for funding sharing with treaty and non-treaty nations, among other issues.

I'll remind readers that we welcome attendance, in person or virtually, at our monthly Board meetings. This is where we're able to make changes and improve how we operate and serve our constituents. We accomplished some really great initiatives throughout our regional district this year – read on for more details.

I'm looking forward to what 2024 has in store for us and continuing to advocate for, engage with, and support our residents.

Happy New Year!

*Cyra Yunkws, Chair, RDKS Board of Directors*



Front row L-R:

Bruce Bidgood, James Cordeiro,  
Cyra Yunkws, Gail Lowry, Julie Maitland  
Back row L-R:

Ted Ramsey, Angela Brand Danuser,  
Dave Brocklebank, Phil Germuth,  
Tina Etzerza, Eric Nyce, Sean Bujtas

# Thornhill Landfill Closure Project Completion

With the construction of the Forceman Ridge Waste Management Facility in 2016, the Thornhill Landfill was closed. Located about 10km outside of Terrace, the landfill served local residents for many years, however a bigger facility was needed to support the growth of the surrounding communities and address evolving environmental needs.

In order to close the landfill safely, -the area was covered in a process called capping. The cap was then layered with topsoil and grass seed. We're pleased to say that thanks to the RDKS Works & Services department and many skilled consultants and contractors, this work was completed as of October 2023.

The site is located behind what is now the Thornhill Transfer Station, which has been operating since 2016. The Transfer Station acts as a literal transfer site by collecting and distributing waste and organics to Forceman Ridge for processing.

The area will be continuously monitored to make sure the newly seeded grass on the green space is able to thrive and that other environmental factors are unchanged. Tours of the Thornhill Transfer Station and closed landfill are in the works for later in 2024 - keep an eye on our social media if that interests you!



West (top) and east (above) facing views of the closed landfill.



## Greater Terrace Area Curbside



If you're in the greater Terrace Area, you should have received the 2024 Curbside Guide in your mailbox this past December.

The RDKS website has a digital copy of the guide if you're looking for curbside collection information on the go. In addition to a map and the collection schedule, the guide

also contains useful tips on what to include in the three waste streams (garbage, organics, recycling).

You can also access this information and more on the Recycle Coach app! →

### Are you using Recycle Coach?

Have you downloaded the Recycle Coach app yet? It's a handy resource to answer questions like

- What day is my curbside collected?
- Do I put out garbage or recycling tomorrow?
- What do I do with this empty salsa jar?

If you don't want to download an app, there's a handy online version on the RDKS website homepage - look for the Recycle Coach logo!

# Electoral Area Grants-in-Aid

A grant-in-aid is one-time funding for special projects or activities. Here's how some of our Electoral Areas used that funding in support of their communities.

## Area B

The Farm Folk/City Folk Society successfully applied for a \$1,500 grant-in-aid toward their 2023 seed cleaning workshops. The events help local farmers and growers learn how to properly clean and store seeds for sale or future use.

## Area C

The Jackpine Flats Community Association successfully applied for a \$2,000 grant-in-aid toward their annual Community Fall Festival and fireworks display. The event is also funded by local donations as well as a matching contribution from the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association.

## Area E

The Tom and Eliza Thornhill Community Association successfully applied for two \$10,000 grants-in-aid toward supporting their operations and assisting with planned community projects.

# Snow Removal

Did you know that snow removal on our roads is handled by contractors hired by the provincial government?

While road maintenance operators do their best to limit the amount of snow left in front of driveways, some snow is inevitable. Clearing driveways, including the snow left by plows on the road or sidewalk, is the responsibility of the property owner.

Tip: Shovel an open area along the shoulder at the entrance of your driveway. Plows will then push the snow into the area just before your driveway, leaving a much smaller amount in front of it.

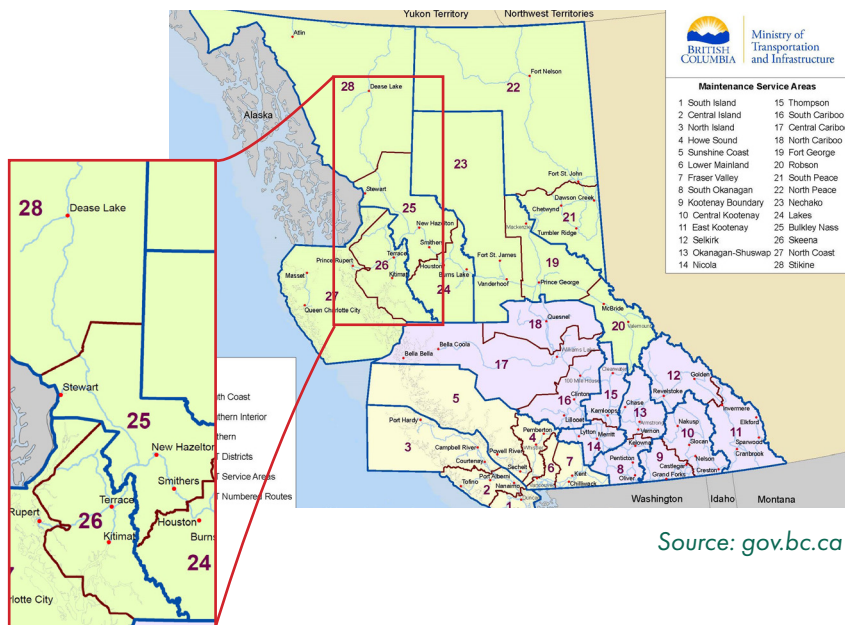
When clearing your driveway, place the snow in an area that will not restrict visibility. Do not place the snow back onto the public road - it's a hazard for road users (and illegal!). Also, don't place anything in the ditches, including snow or yard waste, as this increases the risk of flooding.

If you have concerns regarding the safety of snow clearing in your area, please contact your local road maintenance contractor, or reach out to your closest Ministry of Transportation Regional Office in Terrace, Smithers, or Dease Lake.

**Greater Terrace:** Emil Anderson Maintenance 1-800-665-5051

**Hazelton/Hwy 37 North:** Dawson Road Maintenance Ltd. 1-800-842-4122

**Dease Lake/Telegraph Creek:** Lakes District Maintenance Inc. 1-888 255-8055



Source: gov.bc.ca