



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor's Message – Summer 2025

Hello friends and neighbours,

It's been a while since we've provided a more fulsome update, and with the summer season now upon us, I wanted to share some information on key projects, community priorities, and a few seasonal reminders.

Beach Season Reminders

Slocan's beach is already buzzing with activity, and we've been lucky with some truly beautiful days. A reminder that dogs are not permitted at the beach park, and that this is a shared space—your care and consideration help everyone enjoy the area.

Each year during spring freshet, we see natural debris accumulation on the beach. This is a seasonal reality of living at the south end of a south-flowing lake. This year, the debris load was heavier than usual due to wildfire damage upstream.

While we know high water is coming, we don't know exactly when—and for cleanup to be effective, we must wait until the lake has peaked and begun to recede. That's why the community Beach Cleanup is scheduled a couple of weeks after peak water levels, once most of the debris has landed. A community Beach Cleanup is in the works — watch for the date coming soon.

If you're feeling motivated before then, feel free to rake and stack material on the east side of the beach—every bit helps. Please use care when enjoying the beach. Navigating driftwood and debris is part of the seasonal adventure here in Slocan, but a little caution goes a long way.

Thank you in advance for your patience, participation in Slocan's beach cleanup, and community spirit.

Boat Launch and Swim Platform Repairs

The Village will be moving ahead this fall with repairs to the boat launch and swim platform. After reviewing bids—neither of which fully met our ideal design or budget—a decision was made by Council. It was a split vote, and I want to acknowledge that it was not an easy decision.

The selected bid will provide safe and functional repairs using long-lasting composite materials. The damaged breakwater will be removed, and log breaks will be installed to protect the boat launch and discourage unauthorized moorage. This approach is cost-effective, fits with Slocan's natural log boom aesthetic, and leaves the door open to restoring the original breakwater in the future, if there's community will and funding. Most importantly, we will have a safe, reliable and functional lakeside site—and we can build on this foundation going forward.

Harold Street Beautification

The long-anticipated Harold Street Beautification Project is now set to move forward in 2026. Although originally planned for 2025, this revised timeline provides a valuable opportunity to collaborate with local businesses, prepare logistics, and start the next phase of planning and permitting to ensure a successful implementation.

Thanks to past work on concept and detailed design, we successfully secured a provincial grant of over \$800,000 for implementation. The project will focus on the northwest block of Harold Street, where we've seen recent infill, and will include pedestrian pathways, organized parking, landscaping, and placemaking features.

There is strong evidence that a vibrant, attractive downtown boosts community pride, economic vitality, and local resilience. This project represents a big step forward for Slocan—and a chance for businesses and residents to shape something meaningful together.

Expo Park Field Revitalization

The Expo Field revitalization is in full swing. The new irrigation system has been tested, and fresh sod will be laid soon. The upgraded field will be able to accommodate soccer and baseball, creating new opportunities for recreation and events.

We'll also be reaching out for volunteers to help install a batter's box and home plate, and paint the dugouts and backstop—keep an eye out for details. If all goes well, the field will open this fall. Thank you again for your patience and support!

Affordable Housing – Ready to Break Ground

The affordable housing project located across from the school (just north of the tennis court/skating rink) continues to move forward. The building permit has been submitted, and landscape and architectural design is complete. A construction management company has been procured, and we're on track to break ground this fall.

The project will provide a mix of 1, 2, and 3-bedroom units, offering long-needed housing for a range of residents. Huge thanks to the Slocan Valley Housing Society, M'akola Development Services, and BC Housing for bringing this vision to life.

Waterfront Symposium – Thank You

To everyone who participated in the Slocan Waterfront Commons Symposium in May: thank you. Your energy, curiosity, and contributions made the event truly special. From healing landscapes to heritage storytelling, economic development, and nature-based design, the ideas shared will shape the future of the mill site and beyond.

If you missed the event or want to learn more, please visit www.waterfrontcommons.ca. The conversation continues—and your ideas matter.

In Closing

Our village is truly special. As we move through the summer season, we're seeing more visitors and renewed energy in the community. It's a time to connect, celebrate what we share, and support one another.

Please remember to be kind and patient as we navigate busy public spaces together. And please make a point of supporting our local businesses—this summer season is important for their continued recovery and long-term success.

To all the volunteers, community groups, and event organizers: thank you. You make Slocan vibrant, welcoming, and fun.

And a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated Village team. Your dedication ensures things run smoothly and allows all of this progress and enjoyment to happen.

Wishing everyone a safe, joyful, and community-rich summer.

Warmly,
Mayor Jess Lunn