

NOVEMBER 2022

Stewart News

District of Stewart Newsletter



Newsletter Highlights

Winter Driving

WildSafeBC- Bats

Winterizing Your Home



Message from CAO and District Staff

Serving in Municipal Government is a big commitment, the District of Stewart would like to thank the Mayor and Councilors for the dedication to the community as we transition and move forward with a new term of council, welcoming 6 new members.

Our outgoing Mayor and Council have served the residence well over the last 4 years, through one of the most difficult times in recent history, Covid-19 Pandemic.

District of Stewart is better prepared for the future because of their commitment to serve.

The District of Stewart would like to wish Mayor and Council all the best with their future endeavors!

New Community Development Director

The District of Stewart would like to welcome Jessica Hill! "I am very excited to be joining the District of Stewart Team as the Director of Community Development and look forward to serving the community of Stewart! My office is located at the Old Firehall, please stop by to see Kathy and I with any questions or suggestions you may have"

DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
NOVEMBER 11
(Remembrance Day)

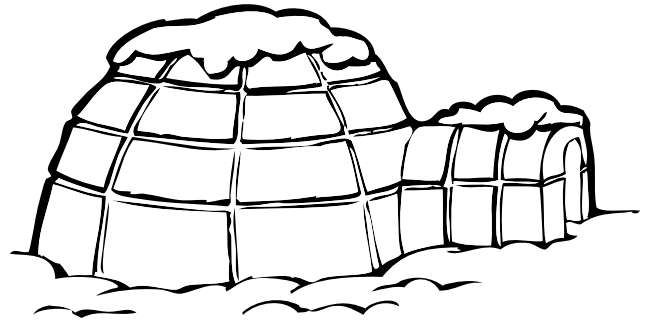
COUNCIL MEETING DATES
NOVEMBER 7 (Inaugural)
& 28 - 7 PM

Meetings will be held in Council Chambers
at 705 Brightwell Street

Winter Shelter

Winter is a great season for winter sports enthusiasts! But it can also be dangerous to venture out into the backcountry if you are not fully prepared and/or lacking knowledge on what to do if you get lost. For example, if you didn't have a tent with you, would you know how to build a shelter? Heat loss is your greatest threat, and finding or constructing a shelter to keep you dry and out of the elements is crucial. If you are not able to find a natural shelter, like the windless side of an overhanging rock, cave, or a niche under a tree, there are few things you can do:

- Pick a medium-sized tree with branches close to the ground that has snow piled around
- Dig out a trench around the trunk or, if a large branch is buried in the snow, dig a pocket just big enough for you beneath it, using the branch as a roof.
- Snow is an excellent insulator and windbreaker. Avoid direct contact because it cools the body. Build on top of it to provide additional insulation.
- Build a nest or bed out of evergreen boughs or leaves, to provide insulation from the cold/damp ground.



Following these suggestions may increase your chances of survival, however, it can also be difficult for a search and rescue team to find a person in a shelter. Make sure to leave signs telling searchers you are nearby.

For more information and safety tips, please visit <https://www.adventuresmart.ca/>



Driving in Winter

Winter has arrived in Stewart and other parts of the Northwest BC, and it's time to shift into winter driving. As road conditions worsen, it's important to keep few safety tips in mind:

- Watch for slow moving vehicles with flashing lights.
- Turn on headlights in all weather.
- Slow down and drive to conditions.
- Allow at least four seconds between you and the vehicle ahead.
- Check road and weather conditions on DriveBC.ca before heading out.

Also, a reminder that winter tire is required on major roadways in Northwest BC from October 1 to April 30.

Community Services - Hours of Operation

**** Hours are subject to change ****

Border Town Residents Society (Thrift Store)

720 King St (Old Pool Building)

Thursday 5 PM - 7 PM

Saturday 1 PM - 3 PM

Pat: 250-636-2767 / patriciagrue@hotmail.com

Bottle Depot

Thursday 5 PM - 7 PM (Old Pool Building)

Pat: 250-636-2767 / patriciagrue@hotmail.com

Food Bank Contact

To receive a monthly or emergency food box, please contact Pat at 250-636-2767.

Transfer Station

Tuesday & Thursday - 12 PM - 6 PM

Saturday - 12 PM - 4 PM

See www.rdks.bc.ca for holiday hours

Stewart Public Library (222 5th Ave.)

Monday to Friday: 1 PM - 5 PM

STEWART MUSEUM / STEWART

HISTORICAL SOCIETY (703 Brightwell St)

Please contact for availability

Golden Triangle Gym (613 6th Ave)

Open 365 days 24/7





Information on Bats

Bats are the only flying mammal in BC (the flying squirrel is really a glider). All BC bats are insectivores and can eat more than half of their body weight in insects each night. This makes them important allies for managing insect pests that impact agriculture as well as forests. There are 15 species of bats known to breed in BC. This number can vary slightly as increased surveys and new information becomes available. Bats in BC face many threats including habitat loss, direct persecution from humans, predation by domestic cats, and White-Nose Syndrome. About half of BC's bats are listed as "species-at-risk" with populations considered vulnerable or threatened with extinction.



WildSafeBC, Credit T. Luszc

Bats are currently the only animals known to carry rabies in BC however less than 0.5% of wild bats test positive. Nevertheless, it is important to use precautions to avoid being bitten or scratched by a bat and to ensure pets receive the rabies vaccine. If you are bitten or scratched, seek immediate medical attention.

Conflicts with bats are rare unless they accidentally fly into your home or roost in an inappropriate area such as a shared living space. Bats have been known to enter dime-sized holes to establish summer roosts in attics. Explore WildSafeBC's Conflict Reduction page on tips to manage these situations. Bats are neither rodents nor pests and are protected under the BC Wildlife Act and other legislation from harm, harassment and intentional killing.

Bats are fascinating mammals and you can help them by learning more about them, supporting bat habitats, installing summer roosts (bat boxes), participating in local monitoring and conservation research, and reporting any dead bats to info@bcbats.ca. Learn more about these fascinating animals by checking out:
<https://wildsafebc.com/species/bats/>
<https://www.bcbats.ca/>
<https://batweek.org/>

WildSafeBC at Stewart Museum

Thank you to Melissa Colwell, our WildSafeBC Stewart Coordinator, for a very engaging presentation about bear safety in our community and a fun scavenger hunt for the students at the Bear Valley School, grade K - 4. It was a fun afternoon for everyone!



Winterize Your Home!

As colder weather, especially freezing rain & heavy snow, rolls into Stewart, it's important to winterize homes to be better prepared for the weather. Here are few tips:

- Prepare an emergency kit for your household, such as battery-powered flashlights, radios, non-perishable food items, water blankets etc.
- Change furnace filter.
- Check weather stripping around the entry doors.
- Get a generator or if you have one, ensure it's working properly.
- Disconnect any garden hoses and roll them up.
- Ensure gutters and downspouts are clean of debris like leaves, and are working properly.
- Protect entry floors from road sand and melting snow by using interior and exterior mats.
- Assess surrounding trees and remove branches that could fall on your home or power lines during strong winds.



"Killer Style" Wine & Cheese Event

DATE: Saturday, November 5, 2022

TIME: 7 - 11 PM

(arrive between 7 and 7:30 PM for a special presentation)

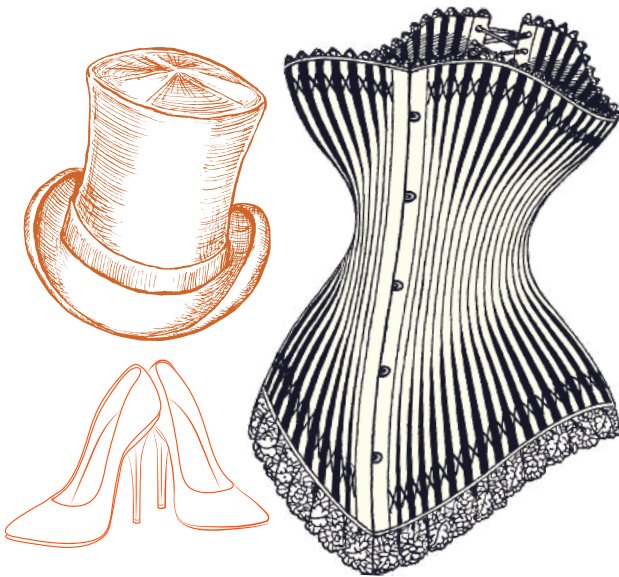
VENUE: Al Lawrence Memorial Arena

COST: \$20 per person (incl. one glass of wine)

Cash, Debit & Credit Cards Accepted

Join the Stewart Museum / Stewart Historical Society for a frolicking evening of history, murder and mystery!

To reserve your tickets, call Stewart Museum at 250-636-2229. It's recommended that you reserve your tickets in advance, limited amount of tickets will be available at the door.



NOVEMBER EVENTS

5 "Killer Style" Wine & Cheese @ 7-11pm (Al Lawrence Memorial Arena)
Hosted by STEWART MUSEUM / STEWART HISTORICAL SOCIETY

11 Remembrance Day Ceremony
Followed by tea/coffee + sweets at the Visitor Centre. Hosted by Stewart Community Connections Society

26 Christmas Market @ 11am – 3pm (Bear Valley School)
Hosted by Stewart Community Connections Society

30 Book Club "The Guest List by Lucy Foley" @ 6pm (Stewart Public Library)
Hosted by the Stewart Public Library