

# Town encourages residents to be 'water smart, fire aware' over BC Day long weekend

Ladysmith Staff  
The Chronicle

The Town of Ladysmith is encouraging local residents to be 'water smart, and fire aware' ahead of the BC Day long weekend.

This comes as Vancouver Island continues to experience severe drought conditions. A heat warning is in place over the BC Day long weekend with temperatures expected to be in the mid-30s.

Due to this extended period of hot dry weather and increased fire danger, Stage 3 Water Restrictions continue to be in effect for the Town of Ladysmith, Diamond Improvement District and Stz'uminus First Nation.

"The Town took this proactive step with our Cowichan region partners, effective Friday, July 16, 2021, to ensure the ongoing availability of water in the event of a wildfire," the Town said in a press release.

A fire ban also remains in effect for the area, including restrictions on all campfires, fireworks, tiki and similar kinds of torches, chimineas and the use of other items that pose the potential of causing a serious fire incident.

A major fire would require releasing more water from Holland Lake and reducing the amount of water available for residents, which is why water restrictions are in place.

"Ladysmith Fire/Rescue continues to receive complaints about campfires and the use of burning pits which are strictly prohibited right

now by the BC Wildfire Service," said Fire Chief Chris Geiger. "The hot and dry conditions mean potential ignition sources are everywhere and respecting this ban, especially as we head into the holiday long weekend, is helping to keep our community safe."

The current fire danger level for Ladysmith and the surrounding area is classified as 'Extreme', meaning new fires will start easily, spread rapidly and challenge fire suppression efforts.

In direct response to the serious threat posed by soaring temperatures and limited precipitation, the Cowichan Valley Regional District has activated a Regional Emergency Operations Centre for drought planning and monitoring purposes.

"Locally, Stage 3 Water Restrictions are helping to decrease consumption demand and allow us to conserve water for when we need it the most. However, we need the whole community on board to do this effectively," the Town said.

Residents can do their part to conserve water in the following ways, by: Not watering/sprinkling your lawn; Not washing your vehicle, boat, RV, trailer or house; Avoid washing driveways and sidewalk; and Not filling your pool.

All of these actions are requirements under Stage 3 Water Restrictions and are enforceable by fine if property owners are found to be non-compliant.



Holland Lake is Ladysmith's main source of water. (Town of Ladysmith photo)

## Heat warning in place for East Vancouver Island

Marc Kitteringham  
Black Press Media

Environment Canada has issued a heat warning for East Vancouver Island, including from Courtenay to Campbell River, Duncan to Nanaimo and Nanoose Bay to Fanny Bay.

The heat wave is expected to last for the remainder of the week, according to Environment Canada.

"A building ridge of high pressure will lead to rising temperatures for the remainder of this week," says a statement from Environment Canada.

"Daytime highs near 30 degrees Celsius combined with overnight lows in the mid to upper

teens are forecast today through Sunday morning with slightly cooler daytime temperatures expected near the water."

There is higher risk for young children, pregnant people, older adults, people with chronic illnesses and those working or exercising outside.

Environment Canada says to watch for signs of heat illness, including swelling, rash, cramps, fainting, heat exhaustion, heat stroke or the worsening of health conditions.

"Drink plenty of water even before you feel thirsty and stay in a cool place. Check on older family, friends and neighbours. Make sure they are cool and drinking water.

Reduce your heat risk. Schedule outdoor activities during the coolest parts of the day. Seek a cool place such as a tree-shaded area, swimming pool, shower or bath, or air-conditioned spot like a public building," says the statement.

The warning has been upgraded from a special weather statement issued on Tuesday. At the time, forecasters said conditions will not be as hot as late June, when temperature records shattered across Western Canada and the B.C. coroner determined sweltering conditions caused hundreds of deaths.

The heat is expected to last until Sunday morning.

### The Family Summer Literacy Boost

#### More Than a Story: Try Echo Reading!



Dr. Janet Mort  
Early Learning and Literacy

How can we teach fluency skills when primary children are barely reading books? It's easy, it's fun and it's called *Echo Reading*. It's different than curling up for a bedtime story; instead, we practice the fluency skills *expression* and *volume*.

- Choose a book that has an interesting character or a great plot.
- Discuss the meaning of the concepts expression and volume. Choose a sentence from the book and practice ways you can show different feelings. Try being angry, afraid, excited, sad or sleepy. Discuss how you were able to change the meaning with *expression* or *volume*.
- Review *Echo Reading* rules:
  1. The adult reads a sentence (or a part of a sentence) with expression and varied volume while following the print with a finger.
  2. The child repeats the sentence echoing exactly the way the adult read it.
  3. Adult and child re-read the sentences together taking turns while changing feelings, expression and volume.
  4. Act out the sentences. Bring the story to life!

*Echo Reading* is a great way to provide children with reading role models, bring joy into the reading experience and invest in enthusiastic oral readers. Visit our web site at [JoyfulLiteracyOnline.com](http://JoyfulLiteracyOnline.com) for a free video and 20 more detailed and fun Phonemic Awareness activities.

Read more about this topic, and watch a free learning assistance video at [www.vicnews.com/news/parents-will-need-to-fight-covid-learning-slump-over-summer-b-c-literacy-experts/](http://www.vicnews.com/news/parents-will-need-to-fight-covid-learning-slump-over-summer-b-c-literacy-experts/)

**Thank you** to everyone for doing your part to follow public health orders and keep each other safe.

Our collective actions have made a difference and with over 77% of adults now vaccinated B.C. is moving forward with a careful 4 step Restart plan to help bring us out of this pandemic. To learn more about our plan please visit my website [www.dougroutley.ca](http://www.dougroutley.ca)

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- Household Paint
- Light Fixtures and Light Bulbs (ex. lamps, Christmas lights, etc...)
- Printed Paper (newspapers, magazines, telephone books etc...)
- Old Corrugated Cardboard (grocery and pizza boxes, etc...)
- Other Paper Packaging (paper cups, aseptic boxes or cartons, etc...)
- Polyethylene Film Packaging (grocery bags, drink/water case overwrap...)
- Polyethylene Foam Packaging (deli food trays, drink cups, etc...)
- Other Plastic Packaging (plastic jars and trays, garden pots, etc...)
- Metal Packaging (tin cans, aerosol cans, food trays, etc...)
- Glass Packaging (clear of colour bottles and jars, etc...)

**Ladysmith Junction Bottle Depot**

149 Oyster Bay Drive, (Beside Home Hardware)

Mon - Sat: 9 am - 4 pm  
Sunday: 10 am - 3:30 pm

**250-245-7376**