

Council approves final Cemetery Strategy

At their Sept. 1 meeting, City Council approved the City's Cemetery Strategy.

Through public engagement and outreach, the City heard support for a range of improvements to local cemeteries. These included more options for cremation, scattering, burial and alternative memorials, as well as landscape enhancements, ecological features and park-like visitor amenities. Accessibility and long-term cemetery planning were also priorities.

Based on this feedback, improvements are planned for the City's four cemeteries:

- Aberdeen Cemetery: A new pedestrian entrance and pathway, a mixed interment (burial) area, added trees and shrubs, and a gathering space with a flagpole for veteran commemoration ceremonies.

- Hazelwood Cemetery: A new pedestrian pathway, gathering spaces, expanded cremation garden, green burial area, memorial boulder walk, more mixed burial space, parking, operations storage, a pollinator meadow, and more trees and shrubs.
- Mt. Lehman Cemetery: A new mixed burial area.
- Musselwhite Cemetery: A pedestrian pathway, gathering space, cremation garden, pollinator meadow gardens, improved parking, operations storage, new trees and hedge, upgraded fence, and two information kiosks.

View the full staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/finalcemeterystrategy.

Council approves funding application for rail crossing improvements

At their Sept. 1 meeting, City Council directed staff to apply to Transport Canada's Rail Safety Improvement Program to help fund up to 80 per cent of the cost of upgrades to the McCallum Road and Clayburn Road railway crossings.

The improvements to the McCallum crossing, by Morey Avenue between George Ferguson Way and Maclure Road, include upgrading the warning system to flashing lights, bells and gates, along with signage, pavement marking and improvements to the crossing surface and roadway to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.

Improvements to the Clayburn crossing, just west of Highway 11 by Riverside Street, include flashing lights, bells and gates, crossing surface extensions, signage and pavement markings.

Construction will take place in 2027.

Council receives election planning update

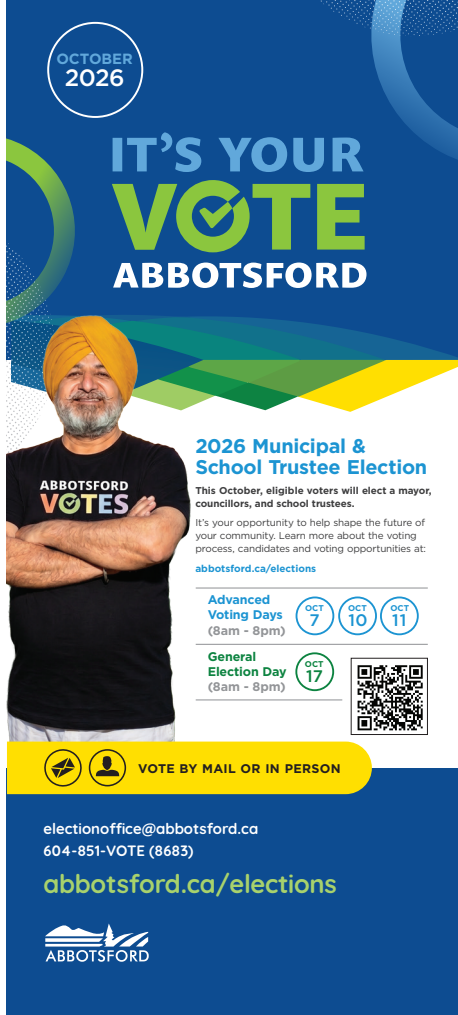
At their Sept. 1 meeting, City Council received an update on planning for the 2026 General Local and School Trustee Election that covered voting opportunities, service delivery initiatives, budget considerations, voter engagement strategies and accessibility initiatives.

Drawing on lessons learned from past elections and a comprehensive review of election contracts, costs and processes, the City has taken steps to improve voter experience, increase voter awareness and participation, and ensure election resources are allocated effectively. These include:

- replacing voter notification cards with informational postcards,
- consolidating curbside voting into a centralized drive-through voting area at Exhibition Park,
- implementing an enhanced voter engagement and public awareness campaign, and
- developing a digital map displaying voting locations and estimated wait times to help voters choose the most convenient and efficient place to vote.

Residents can advance vote on Wednesday, Oct. 7; Saturday, Oct. 10; or Sunday, Oct. 11; or participate in voting on Election Day, Saturday, Oct. 17.

For a list and map of voting locations, or to request a mail ballot package by the Oct. 6 deadline, visit abbotsford.ca/elections.



OCTOBER 2026

IT'S YOUR VOTE ABBOTSFORD

2026 Municipal & School Trustee Election

This October, eligible voters will elect a mayor, councillors, and school trustees.

It's your opportunity to help shape the future of your community. Learn more about the voting process, candidates and voting opportunities at: abbotsford.ca/elections

Advanced Voting Days (8am - 8pm)

OCT 7 OCT 10 OCT 11

General Election Day (8am - 8pm)

OCT 17

VOTE BY MAIL OR IN PERSON

electionoffice@abbotsford.ca
604-851-VOTE (8683)
abbotsford.ca/elections

ABBOTSFORD

Council approves rezoning for Provincial Plant and Animal Health Centre

At their Sept. 22 meeting, City Council approved an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to allow for construction of the Provincial Plant and Animal Health (PAH) Centre on McKenzie Road across from the University of the Fraser Valley.

The PAH Centre is a Government of BC laboratory that provides diagnostic testing services to detect and prevent the spread of plant and animal diseases, including those that can be transmitted to humans.

The new PAH Centre is anticipated to replace the existing facility on Angus Campbell Road, which was in operation for 25 years.

This development advances the City's Official Community Plan and Council's strategic goal of supporting agricultural innovation and agri-tech by facilitating and accommodating education and research activities that directly benefit the agricultural sector.

Council receives annual Energy and Climate Action update

At their Sept. 22 meeting, City Council received the 2026 Energy and Climate Action Annual Update.

The report found that in 2025 the City's corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were 22 per cent below 2007 baseline levels, surpassing the 20 per cent target for the third-straight year. This included reductions of 53 per cent in vehicle emissions, 17 per cent in Public Works emissions and four per cent in building emissions.

Other 2025 highlights by category include:

- **Planning:** Completed the Abbotsforward 2050 Official Community Plan, which updated the community GHG reduction targets to 40 per cent by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050, relative to 2007 baseline levels.
- **Buildings and lighting:** Delivered education and outreach workshops focused on building airtightness and energy efficiency and replaced 13 heating and cooling units at Abbotsford International Airport.
- **Parks and open spaces:** Supported seven community events with 250 volunteers

planting more than 5,800 trees and shrubs.

- **Solid waste:** Launched the residential curbside glass collection program and diverted 20,479 tonnes of compostable and recyclable materials from landfill.
- **Transportation:** Added 15 electric and three hybrid vehicles to the City fleet and initiated the Fraser Valley Zero Emissions Mobility Strategy.
- **Water and wastewater:** Completed a Water Loss Control Strategy to reduce water loss and improve water system efficiency.
- **Finance and governance:** Continued to integrate sustainability considerations into corporate decision-making, including procurement and asset management practices.
- **Climate resilience and emergency management:** Initiated the Climate Resilience Strategy and completed a city-wide Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

View the staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/2026climateupdate.

Council approves Master Joint Use Agreement with Abbotsford School District

At their Sept. 22 meeting, City Council approved the City's new Master Joint Use Agreement with the Abbotsford School District, which will come into effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

Under the new agreement, the school district will be opening certain gymnasiums to City and community use on a more consistent basis, and it is working towards an improved field maintenance program, which aligns with feedback the City received through the Stage 1 Sport Field and Sport Court consultation.

Additionally, fees for extra items like skate and helmet rentals will be waived during school visits to eliminate the administrative burden on the City and school district while making recreation more affordable and accessible to local youth.

Modernizing the City's joint use agreement with the school district was one of the priority items in Council's 2022 to 2026 Strategic Plan.