



Village of Lytton Update for September 28, 2021

Updates from the Re-Entry Coordinator, Tim MacLeod

Lytton Strong! Of all the things I've discovered since I took on this assignment, I've found that "Lytton Strong" is so much more than just a catchy phrase. It is the heart, courage, strength, dedication, and determination of the community as a whole. I've now met many of the residents in person and spoken to many more over the phone. The one resounding thing I've heard is that residents of Lytton were, are and always will be true Lyttonites and I am honored to play even a small part in working towards making that a reality once again. As the country watches as Lyttonites rebuild their lives and community, they too will see "Lytton Strong!"

Below is a list of some of the activities to date and steps moving forward. Please contact communication@lytton.ca if you have any additional questions or concerns.

*Thanks,
Tim*

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

GHD Report

- The GHD Consulting report has been finalized and uploaded to the Village website. The GHD report identifies the environmental hazards and recommendations for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to enter the property in general. In brief, it identified the overall hazards and what PPE is required to be within the excluded area for residents, sifters and assessors as they identify the hazards specific to a particular property.

Sifting

- Samaritan's Purse continues with their sifting process. They have now sifted over 60 properties. As their volunteers found themselves at a point of exhaustion, they reached out to another like-minded organization called Christian Aid Ministries to work alongside them. As more requests are still coming in, Christian Aid Ministries agreed to stay on and continue with the valuable work they do. Christian Aid Ministries have set up a toll-free number to contact them for this service.
- I think I speak on behalf of all homeowners assisted by Samaritan's Purse when I say "thank you" for their heart and dedication in helping Lyttonites recover some of their valuable treasures.
- Team Rubicon has been in touch with many residents and has committed to returning to begin their sifting operations in the Village. Their start date was Monday, September 27th.

Safety and Access to the Site

- To protect the safety and privacy of residents during this difficult time, we have put the following requirements in place for sifting and viewing:
 - Re-entry will be done on a scheduled basis.

- Property owners will be able to view their property from the street or sidewalk only.
- Permits will be granted to residents by one of the two volunteer groups on behalf of the Village. A representative from the volunteer group will accompany residents to and from their property.
- Property owners must use appropriate PPE, which will be provided by their sifting group of choice.
- Property owners must sign a waiver which will be provided at the scheduled meeting time.
- Property owners with homes not destroyed by the fire have also been permitted to return to remove some undamaged items. Entry has been permitted using the same process as above, although with the properties not destroyed, residents were allowed to enter to remove some undamaged items.
- Some residents who had items stored in metal containers were permitted onto their property, where they could safely open the containers to document the condition of those items. This was done using the same permitting process and the site condition was evaluated to ensure the task could be safely done without disturbing or removing items.
- As we get closer to the next phase of the process, which is the removal of debris from properties to prepare the sites for rebuild, you are encouraged to register with one of the volunteer sifting organizations or to contact us to ensure you have had the opportunity to return to your property if desired to make way for the cleanup of the properties.

Security

- The evacuation order remains in place, and therefore 24-hour security also remains in place to ensure security and privacy for all property owners.
- Security fencing will remain in place on a 24-hour basis to ensure the security and privacy for property owners. We are relocating the security station to a safer place for residents and contractors to check in and put on the appropriate PPE before entering the exclusion area. The security building and check point will be clearly visible, located closer to the south end of town on Highway 12 below the fire base where old Highway 1 used to enter Highway 12.
- Main Street will continue to be open to general traffic and the security with privacy fencing will be kept in place. Lytton First Nation has agreed to work in conjunction with the Village where traffic will be diverted back through the First Nation at an interval that will not impede their own works.

Site Response

- Structural and Hazmat assessors are now inspecting the insured properties to create a safe work plan so they can begin the cleanup process in compliance with health and safety requirements.
- Tree assessments on Village right of ways has now been completed and a report is being produced to identify danger trees. The danger trees will be cut and stacked for removal from site using a consolidated effort with other items for disposal.
- The Village is in discussions with insurance providers relating to the insured homes, businesses, and municipal buildings, to remove the hazardous material and return the properties to a build back ready condition. This is an ongoing discussion and will be based in part on the assessments, which are being reviewed by a cost management company who will price out the projects on a cost share basis. Limiting the contracts to

one, or even a few, not only shows significant cost savings, but also helps to manage the safety of the workers and provides completion in a shorter time frame.

- Tree assessments on Village right of ways has now been completed and a report is being produced to identify danger trees. Removal is planned to begin the week of October 4th. The debris will be stored within the exclusion area to be disposed of as part of a coordinated disposal task.
- The RCMP have removed all sensitive materials and installed fencing around the old detachment. They plan to have their structural engineers on site mid-October to determine the best method to have their structures removed and the site cleaned up. They are also proactively working towards setting up a detachment and considering locations for the short-term until the Village is rebuilt. In the meantime, they have clearly increased their presence back in the community.
- BC Hydro has removed all overhead power lines and poles (cut & drop) to remove mechanical overhead risks. The wires and poles have been left on site but off roadways, to be removed as part of a general site cleanup. All transformers have been removed from site for immediate disposal. They are currently scheduling a return to remove a small amount of soil that had traces of oil caused from damaged transformers.
- Surveying will begin the week of October 4th. The intention is to determine the location of some of the survey pins and then install monuments in locations that will not be disturbed, so after cleanup they can use these monuments to triangulate to install new pins where required.
- Urban Systems is the Engineering firm contracted to assist the Village with response and recovery efforts and they are actively working to restore water. Currently only the Loring/Ponderosa area, as well as the area west of Hwy 1 (Kumsheen Secondary School/Esso Service Station area) are being serviced with Village water. This water is being provided with a *Do Not Consume* order, and Urban Systems is working closely with Interior health to have this order lifted. There is currently no water supply to IR 17. Work is underway to have this service restored.