



## Village of Lytton Update for October 13, 2021

### Updates from Re-Entry Coordinator, Tim MacLeod

*As the sifting draws to an end, many were able to recover at least some of their treasured items. Although I didn't watch the sifting in progress, I often met with families before and after as they signed out after completion. Several came with family members or others from the community to show their support. As I watched the caring and kindness the community showed each other, I couldn't help but remember an old saying I'd heard years ago, "the most valuable antiques are old friends". It is inspiring to watch how connected the community is, and it re-enforces my own commitment, which is to assist in the cleanup and get the Village to a point of re-entry in preparation for the rebuilding of the structures. We have a team of capable and dedicated contractors preparing in the background, getting things lined up for the larger and more visible tasks. As we move forward, I encourage Lyttonites to never lose that community spirit. It will be contractors who rebuild the houses, but it will be you as the community who turn them into homes. Stay Lytton Strong!*

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

*Thanks,  
Tim*

#### RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

- Christian Aid Ministries completed sifting for those who had registered with their organization. Although they weren't here long, they were appreciated and reminded us all that Lytton matters.
- Team Rubicon is working diligently with two teams of volunteers and have almost completed sifting for those who registered with their group. Team Rubicon has an anticipated end date of October 13<sup>th</sup>. They put out a final call last week and believe they have completed sifting for all who had requested and are finishing up and planning their exit strategy. Team Rubicon will be missed by many and have left a lasting mark on the community.
- There were several local volunteers who joined forces with Team Rubicon and to those, I extend a special "thank you". Neighbours helping neighbours: just another example of what makes Lytton Strong.
- BC Heritage Society sent up a team of volunteers, with many of them being students from UBC. This groups sifted the Chinese museum and found several items of irreplaceable value. They will be returning to sift through the Lytton Museum the week of October 12<sup>th</sup> and hoping for the same success.
- As the sifting reaches completion, we are moving to the next steps and although there are many, much of the preparation has been going on in the background and next steps are ready to be actioned.
- Insurance assessments are now completed. To add some clarity, the GHD report (soil samples) identified the hazardous area in general, being the excluded area, which is behind the fencing. The Insurers required an assessment of individual properties to

identify “All Hazards”. All Hazards include things beyond what was identified in the GHD report, like structural risk. For example, chimneys or foundations that may cause a safety issue during the removal of the debris. From this All Hazards report, a safe work plan is created and submitted to Work Safe BC. Many of the Insurers have now completed their Safe Work Plan and submitted “Notice of Project” for approval to Work Safe BC. Many of the Insurers have completed bid packages and are in the selection process of choosing a contractor for the removal and disposal of debris. It should be made abundantly clear that there will be no works on private property without the consent and pre-approval from the property owner.

- Winterizing the homes that were not destroyed is almost complete and those property owners are coordinating with their insurers to retrieve some items.
- Surveying will be done in a staged process, beginning with setting up monuments to triangulate from and re-set property pins that were either destroyed by the fire or anticipated to be destroyed during the cleanup process. Once the cleanup is complete, the surveyors, using the monuments, will have the ability to re-establish the property boundary pins.
- The danger tree assessment on public property, which has been completed, identified some of the trees that were obviously destroyed (burnt) and must be removed. The report also identified the trees not as clear but considered “danger trees”. Of the trees in this category, there were very few and those too will be removed. The trees with damage that can be saved will be pruned and are expected to survive. The destroyed trees are being cut and stacked for removal from site using a consolidated effort with other items for disposal.
- Urban Systems Ltd. continues to work with Interior Health to restore the water system and complete any necessary repairs.
- Security fencing will remain in place and will be monitored on a 24-hour basis to ensure the security and privacy for property owners, but also to ensure the safety of the general public until the All Hazards are removed.
- Main Street will continue to be open to general traffic and the security with privacy fencing will be kept in place. The 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.
- We have relocated the security station (entry check point) on Highway #12 located just past the Fire Base where old Highway #1 once connected Highway #12. This was done in preparation for the anticipated contractor activity, where they can muster and get their safety briefing and don the appropriate personal protective equipment before entering the exclusion area.
- **Request to residents** – I have been trying to reach out to property owners with items such as the vehicles that were not insured. For those applicable that I have not spoken to, please reach out to me through the [communication@lytton.ca](mailto:communication@lytton.ca) email address. We may be able to assist with your personal action plan to have these items of value removed.