



Town of Watson Lake Consolidated Quarterly Department Report

Coverage: Bylaw Enforcement, Emergency Management, Fire Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works Department, Solid Waste Department and Utilities Department

Report for: *Quarter 2, 2025 (April-June 2025)*

Sources: **Town of Watson Lake Quarter 2 Departmental Reports**

Bylaw Enforcement

This quarter, the Bylaw Enforcement focused on community standards, animal control, and permit approvals.

- Staff worked with property owners to improve yard maintenance and community cleanliness, receiving strong cooperation from residents.
- 13 development permits were approved, and the department responded to six complaints, with most resolved promptly.
- Animal control efforts included managing 35 dogs and 4 cats, ensuring community safety and responsible pet ownership.
- Staff continued professional development through training in enforcement, safety, and communication techniques, with more advanced courses scheduled later this year.

Emergency Management

Watson Lake made major progresses in strengthening emergency preparedness.

- ICS 200 and Planning P training was completed by Town staff, Council members, and community partners, enhancing coordinated response capacity.
- Position-specific go kits with tablets, printers, and essential tools were assembled for emergency operations.
- An After-Action Review identified improvements for future planning.
- The Emergency Management Manual was finalized, providing a structured guide for preparedness and response across departments and partners.

Fire Department

The Watson Lake Fire Department continued advancing training, equipment and community engagement initiatives.

- Members completed 9 of 16 NFPA 1001 Level 1 chapters, with over 635 training hours year-to-date.
- New SCBAs, breathing air compressor, and protective gear were received and placed into service.
- Firefighters participated in joint wildfire training and community FireSmart events.
- The department hosted BBQs for Canada Day and charity fundraisers and welcomed a local kindergarten class for a fire safety visit.

- Call volume decreased by 50% compared to last year, which is taken as a sign of both prevention and community vigilance.

Parks and Recreation Department

Summer 2025 is a lively and productive season.

- The pool opened early (May 17) and now operates six days a week, offering aquafit, lane swims, and swimming lessons for 68 registered participants.
- The Northern Lights Centre reopened alongside the Visitor Centre, increasing attendance and revenue by over 30% year-over-year.
- Summer camps (sports, STEM, jiu-jitsu) and youth programs kept kids active and learning.
- Parks crews maintained and beautified local spaces; residents have praised the landscaping and flowers around town.
- Upcoming Q3 projects include completing the gym relocation, installing a new children's indoor playground, setting up a dog park, and starting ice-making earlier to open the rink by October 1.

Public Works Department

The Town of Watson Lake Public Works Crew focused on road maintenance and community upkeep.

- Work included ditch mowing, street sweeping, pothole repair, and tree clearing along Ski Hill Road.
- The department faced supply challenges for cold mix asphalt but plans to complete repairs once materials arrive.
- The BST resurfacing for Frances Avenue was postponed to 2026 due to high bids but remains a top priority.
- Staff also completed mosquito control training and continue in-house fleet maintenance to control costs.

Solid Waste and Recycling Department

Alongside regular operations, the team concentrated on safety, education and operational upgrades.

- Work progressed on perimeter fence repairs and a new camera system for the public drop-off area.
- 188 free loads totaling 34,630 kg were accepted during the Spring Clean-up initiative.
- The Recycling Club launched, and staffing transitions strengthened daily operations.
- Training upgrades and weigh-scale calibration were completed, helping ensure accurate data tracking and reporting.

Utilities Department (Water and Sewer)

The team continued ensuring safe, reliable water and wastewater services.

- The department maintained 81 hydrants, performed flushing and valve checks, and took weekly water samples for lab testing.

- Average daily water consumption was about 500 m³.
- Preparations are underway to repair curb stops and use leak detection equipment to minimize water loss.
- Boiler replacements at the Water Treatment Plant are nearly complete, improving efficiency and reliability.

Summary:

Overall Snapshot

In Quarter 2, all department reports:

- 0 Safety Incidents across all infrastructure departments.
- An increase in community satisfaction
- In Quarter 3, Facility upgrades, continued training and winterizing.

In Closing

Across all departments, the Town of Watson Lake continues to focus on public safety, reliable infrastructure and upkeep of overall community pride. The Crew had done their best to ensure that public infrastructure is clean and operable, upgraded emergency management and fire equipment shows that the Council supports the Town's endeavours and fulfilling long-term goals outlined in the Official Community Plan.

The Staff and Partners of the Town of Watson Lake are in continuous collaboration and are working hard to make Watson Lake a great place to live, work, play and visit.