



Village of  
Sayward

## Memo for Information

**For:** Village of Sayward Residents and General Public

**From:** Andrew Young, CAO

**Subject:** Lift Station #1 operations near Village of Sayward Municipal Campground

**Date:** October 14, 2025

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You may have noticed there is caution or danger tape in place around several of the camp sites in the Sayward Campground. The tape was installed as a precaution because we had an overflow of some lift station fluids from a couple of the campsite service hookups last week. Remediation work at the campground is currently taking place. Village staff will be spreading lime on part of the campground in the next day or so to further support remediation of the area. The caution or danger tape will remain in place for another seven to ten days. We hope to be able to remove it at that time. In the meantime, please stay outside the taped area. Please be advised the overflow of lift station fluids has been reported to the appropriate authorities and the Village is following their directions for cleanup and prevention of future occurrences.

In case you are wondering what caused the overflow it is simple. Pump #1 at Lift Station #1 stopped working sometime Tuesday morning (October 7th). Pump #2 at the lift station began working but it also stopped pumping later that night. Under normal conditions the two pumps operate alternatively to manage wastewater flow. Since the two pumps had stopped working it led to increased fluid levels in the lift station's storage tank which culminated in an overflow through the RV connection pipes in campsites #4 and #5, which is the lowest point in the collection system and where overflows would surface.

On Tuesday (October 7th) Public Works staff were able to manually restart Pump #2 and successfully drained the tank. Fortunately, the Village's water services contractor, H2Ops Water Services, was already in Sayward and was able to assist.

Duncan Electric was contacted on Tuesday and came to Sayward on Wednesday morning (October 8th) to troubleshoot the operation of Pump #1. Duncan Electric determined that Pump #1 was plugged and would need to be removed and repaired offsite. A rental pump would need to be installed to take the place of Pump #1 while it is being repaired. However, a plate would

Sayward Village Office, 652 H'Kusam Way, PO Box 29, Sayward, BC, V0P 1R0  
Phone: 250-282-5512 Fax: 250-282-5511 e-mail: [village@saywardvalley.ca](mailto:village@saywardvalley.ca)

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need to be fabricated to support the installation of the rental pump. At the time that Duncan Electric left Sayward at 2:00 pm on Wednesday afternoon, Pump #2 was functioning normally. Public Works staff checked the operation of Pump #2 later and noticed that it had stopped functioning. They quickly contacted Duncan Electric to return to Sayward to correct the issue. Edgett Excavating was also contacted to dispatch a vacuum truck to Sayward as a precaution.

Duncan Electric was able to put Pump #2 back into operation late Wednesday afternoon. There was no buildup in the holding tank for Edgett Excavating's vacuum truck to remove at that time. Unfortunately, Pump #2 stopped working again sometime on Wednesday night / Thursday morning possibly due to overheating. Consequently, we had overflow from the lift station onto some of the campsites again. On Thursday morning (October 9th) Public Works staff restarted Pump #2 and monitored it closely throughout the day and night. No further overflow occurred.

On Friday (October 10th) Duncan Electric removed Pump #1 for repairs and installed a rental pump capable of handling the workload of both pump #1 and #2. At this time, we do not know how long it will take to repair Pump #1 and reinstall it.

Since Friday afternoon and throughout the Thanksgiving weekend, Sayward's Public Works staff have closely monitored the operation of the replacement pump and Pump #2. Both pumps have been operating well and there have been no further overflows or issues with the operation of Lift Station #1.

The Village is looking into options to establish a monitoring and alarm system to alert its staff of potential issues with the operation of all its lift stations.

The Village of Sayward wishes to thank Duncan Electric, Edgett Excavating, and H2Ops for their assistance addressing problems with Lift Station #1. Many thanks are also due to our Village's Public Works staff who kept a sharp eye on the operation of Lift Station #1 over the long weekend. Thank you all !

Andrew Young, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Village of Sayward

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