



# CUMBERLAND

## Wastewater Upgrades Newsletter

An update on Cumberland's high performance lagoon upgrade

ISSUE 10  
APRIL 2026

Welcome to our 10th – and final – issue of our project newsletter for the Cumberland Wastewater Upgrades Project. This newsletter has been used to keep you informed on progress on this critical infrastructure upgrade, and with Phase 1 now completed we will wrap up these updates. For more information about the project overall visit, [www.cumberland.ca/wastewaterupgrades](http://www.cumberland.ca/wastewaterupgrades). Thanks for following along!



In March, members of council, K'ómoks First Nation, provincial government, advisory committees, and the project team came together to celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of upgrades to the wastewater facility.

## Key Cumberland Wastewater Treatment Upgrades Complete

The Village of Cumberland is celebrating the completion of Phase 1 upgrades to its wastewater treatment system. This milestone means the Village is now operating an efficient system that protects the environment and meets provincial standards.

### These upgrades are now fully operational and include:

- ✓ Enhancements to the lagoon system, including the addition of UV disinfection, upgraded wastewater screening, modified lagoon flow paths and increased aeration capacity.
- ✓ Construction of a new operators building
- ✓ Upgraded monitoring and instrumentation systems
- ✓ Improved site security measures

### Planning for Phase 2 is currently underway, with the project in the environmental assessment and permitting stages.

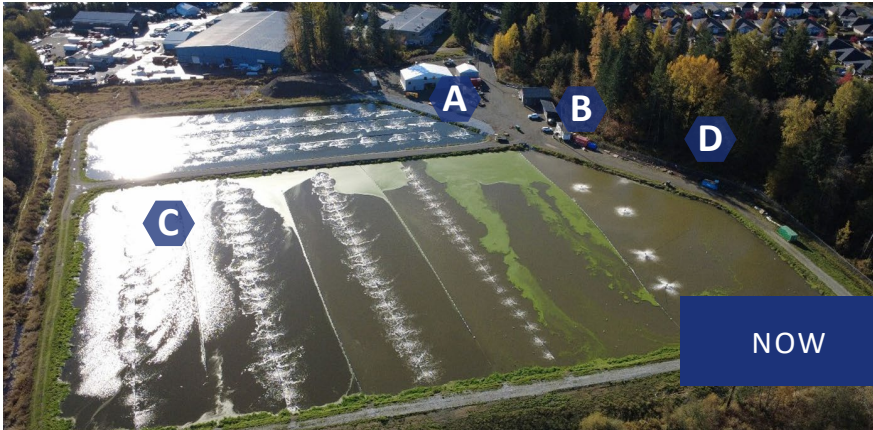
#### The next phase is expected to include:

- ▶ Biochar Reed Bed
- ▶ Wetland enhancements
- ▶ Seismic upgrades
- ▶ Maple Creek improvements

*"The importance of this work for the long-term health of our communities and the environment we all depend on cannot be overstated," said Mayor Vickey Brown. "We are so glad to see this unique-to-Cumberland solution in operation and working well after years of hard work by many people and guidance from the K'ómoks First Nation, who patiently travelled on this journey with us."*

The Wastewater Upgrades Project is Cumberland's largest infrastructure project ever. Work was completed by Maple Reinders and McElhanney, and made possible by funding awarded to the Village through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Environmental Quality. More than \$3.8 million was provided by the federal government and more than \$3.2 million by the provincial government, as well as additional funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund. An additional \$2.5 million was awarded from the Canada Community Building Fund to support Phase 2 of the wastewater system upgrades.





## Improvements at the Wastewater Facility

Cumberland’s wastewater facility is a unique lagoon system. The changes have modernized the facility, ensuring that treatment meets required standards and prepares the Village for community growth. Check out our upgrades:

- A New Treatment Works:** Effluent is pumped from the small lagoon to the new treatment facility which includes initial chemical treatment (suspended air filtration), before tertiary filtration (disc filters) and UV disinfection takes place. The cleaned water then flows out to Maple Creek.
- B Operator’s Building:** A small modular building was added for operators to work out of when on site. Previously, there was no facility on site.
- C Improved Flow and Aeration:** Screened effluent flows into the aerated lagoons starting at the large pond before flowing to the small pond. New baffle curtains ensure the system does not short circuit.
- D Security:** The site is now fenced, with new trails installed through neighbouring forest area. Previously, the site was open and regularly used by walkers. To address this safety and operational risk, the site is now secured.



## WHAT ABOUT PHASE 2?



The Phase 1 Treatment Upgrades included the necessary improvements required to meet provincial standards, such as the addition of disinfection.

While this critical piece of work is now complete, this is not the end of updates to the system. Phase 2 includes the ‘extras’ that were identified as a preference by the community during wastewater planning processes. They included wetland enhancements, seismic upgrades and improvements to stormwater treatment wetland and Maple Lake Creek improvements.

Planning for Phase 2 is still in process and requires approvals from the provincial government. There is no estimated start date for this next scope of work – but the Village will share updates as details come together.

## About the Wastewater Upgrades Project



The Village of Cumberland is upgrading its wastewater treatment system to meet provincial standards, as well as fulfill environmental goals to remove man-made toxins, restore degraded ecosystems and release safe water into Maple Lake Creek and the Trent River, which flows into Baynes Sound.

For more information about the project, visit: [www.cumberland.ca/wastewaterupgrades](http://www.cumberland.ca/wastewaterupgrades)

## STAY IN TOUCH

This update is issued by the Village of Cumberland to keep the community informed about the Cumberland Wastewater Upgrade Project.

To stay updated about the project’s progress:

 [Cumberland.ca/wastewaterupgrades](http://Cumberland.ca/wastewaterupgrades)

 [wwt-upgrades@cumberland.ca](mailto:wwt-upgrades@cumberland.ca)

