

## ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS May 2017

Issue #25

### Message from Mayor Kathy

It is great to see what wonderful stewards of the **Jubilee Park Wetlands** students at all of our local schools have become. A number of the classes have used the area to further their understanding of wildlife and nature.

Unfortunately there have been some problems with the area that need to be mentioned. The wetland is a wildlife viewing area. It is not a place for dogs to run or people to wade or play. Please respect the "No Dogs" signs in Jubilee Park and in the wetland area. The space needs to be left undisturbed for wildlife to flourish. A pair of mallards had been seen there but they are unlikely to return if dogs and people are causing a ruckus. Please respect the wetlands so all native species can thrive.

In addition to the ducks there are killdeer with babies present that need peace and space. Our wetland experts are hopeful that the Spotted Sandpiper may return too. The frogs that can be heard right now are the earliest to breed and are called Pacific Chorus frogs. They will be mating for a couple more weeks, so soon people can look for egg masses and tadpoles that will be seen in the ponds. Thank you for being considerate of this lovely spot right in the middle of our town.

### Council News:

Council awarded the tender for our **Spokane Street infrastructure improvement project to Copcan Civil Ltd.** Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin on May 15<sup>th</sup> and will finish up in the fall. Check the website for a map and more details. We will issue news updates.

Copcan has done excellent work for our community on both the Columbia Ave. and Washington St. projects. We were disappointed that we only received one bid and that it was substantially higher than what we were expecting. In total, including the investment we've already made in engineering and other costs, this project will cost about \$6m. The sudden and welcome flood of grant money by both the Provincial and Federal governments had the unintended consequence of creating a feeding frenzy for contractors. There are a tremendous number of major projects available throughout the Province and not enough contractors to do them, thus the pricing came in higher than anticipated.

At least with Copcan we know we have a reliable and competent team that will do the job right and help enhance our community. Last year Copcan committed to digging the skate park bowl in 2017 as a community donation. We all appreciate Copcan's good will and hope

this community spirit will continue. ISL Engineering will handle project management and Darrin Albo will be our owner's representative.

Thanks to a successful Clean Water and Wastewater Fund grant application, Rossland will be completing a **comprehensive sanitary sewer Inflow and infiltration strategy in 2017**. The project starts on Monday, May 15 with an anticipated completion date in the late fall 2017.

"Inflow and Infiltration" (I&I) refers to rainwater and groundwater getting into the City's sanitary sewer network. The objectives of the 2017 strategy are to reduce the amount I&I entering the system, thereby reducing Rossland's share and cost of treating the sewer flows at the Columbia Pollution Control Centre in Trail.

The strategy will include: **Video inspections** of all sewer mainline pipes within the City and the identification of all infiltration locations; **Home inspections** of all residences and identification of properties with groundwater issues; **Development of a long-term strategy** for the installation of future storm sewer works, which will target high priority and problematic locations.

**Home Inspections:** Groundwater infiltration into homes is a common problem in Rossland. Many of the affected residents do not have a storm service available to dispose of the infiltrating water. As a result, residents have been forced to pump or direct the accumulated water, either onto the ground outside their home, or into their sanitary sewer service. The City has retained ISL Engineering and Land Services for this project. The ISL inspector will go door-to-door, to investigate the groundwater issues for every property in town. The inspector will request brief, chaperoned access to your home as well as your assistance to complete a short questionnaire regarding the groundwater and drainage issues on your property. **Residents are not obligated to permit the inspection of their home, but your cooperation and assistance is much appreciated.**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Darrin Albo (250) 362-7396 x1237 or Sean Annan, P.Eng (250) 509-0347. Thank you

Council continues to work with our consultant CTQ to find the **best and most feasible use for the Emcon lot**. We are looking at affordable multi-family residential units as well as some office space. It's important to note that we need to generate some revenue from these lands. Final decisions have not been made and those who fear we intend to turn it into a parking lot, should be reassured that is not the plan. Parking is determined by our bylaws based on use but variances can be allowed if it makes sense. Right now we are in the process of determining what will be the best use for the site.

**Council adopted our financial plan and taxation bylaws for 2017-2021.** Thanks to the citizens who attended the excellent public presentation by our Chief Financial Officer. Municipal taxes will increase by 4.75%, water and sewer taxes will rise by 4.5%. Taxes we collect for the Hospital board and the Regional District will remain about the same due to their reserves on hand. Details are on our website. [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca)

**Council approved a request from Ms. Jackman's grade 2 class at RSS to paint yellow fish on the drains that flow into the Jubilee Park wetland.** These students have been monitoring and studying the wetland. Ms. Jackman's class has discovered many pollutants flow into the wetland from the drains. They worry about the health of the ecosystem and want to see it protected. The group has also raised funds to establish a shared storage shed for the site for tools. The shed is a collaborative effort with the woodworking students at Stanley Humphries Secondary in Castlegar, community members and local businesses. Bravo to these dedicated folks!

**Council approved a grant of \$500 to support the Family Action Network in 2017.** FAN is a vocal proponent for early childhood education and the benefits of developmental testing. FAN is a regional initiative that we are proud to support.

**Council was very pleased to see the updated IT implementation strategy.** Significant progress has been made to improve City online services and employee productivity. Modernizing the corporation has been a long-term goal, but only now is the project progressing. Many thanks to our terrific staff for making this happen.

Our CFO provided us with an update of our **actual versus budgeted revenue and expenses for operations and capital.** It's wonderful to have these regular reports. The City's finances are in excellent shape and are being well managed.

### ***Did you know?***

**The Rossland Youth Action Network is getting a new home (and could use your help!)** Based on diverse youth input during its first two years of operation (2013/14), the YAN heard that a dedicated youth space in Rossland is a high priority for teens. In March 2015 a short-term storefront location was opened in downtown Rossland. The Rossland YAN is a program of the City of Rossland with core funding from Columbia Basin Trust's Basin Youth Network. In December 2015, the City, in response to the request of Rossland youth, reallocated a building on Washington Street to create a sustainable, rent free, dedicated youth space in Rossland. The

location between Rossland Summit School and the site of the Rossland Skate Park is ideal for youth engagement and programming but requires extensive renovations.

Planning and fundraising to turn the building into a vibrant space for youth and community has been underway for the past year and a half. The plan is to complete a considerable portion of this amazing project with the help of community volunteers and donations. The YAN has received promised in-kind services from many local businesses and have written a number of successful grant applications.

The YAN is reaching out to our community for contributions to give the final push necessary to complete the project and have the new YAN Space open in October 2017. Donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt. You can donate online at <http://yanreno.yodel.org> or drop a cheque made out to the Rossland Youth Action Network at City Hall.

The south bay of the building will be fully renovated to include meeting space, an office, small kitchen, and two bathrooms (one only accessible to the outside to serve the skate park and other users). An engineered beam and posts will be added to bring the roof up to current snow load code. A mezzanine section will be added to increase usable square footage for additional programming space. Exterior windows will be added for natural lighting. The exterior of the building will be sided, and a mural created by youth will be prominently displayed. The north bay will be renovated into an open concept, multi-purpose area for youth & community programming.

To volunteer or for questions, please contact YAN Coordinator Mike Kent at [yancoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:yancoordinator@gmail.com)

**Online Financial Services update:** The City is upgrading our services and will include payment options for utilities, property tax, and pet licences.

We appreciate your patience during this transition. Once the site is active, register with your PIN Access code, even if you were previously registered on the old online site. Your PIN # is on your utility bill and property tax notice, or contact the finance department for help. 250-362-7396.

**Be in touch! City Hall 362-7396.** Contact Council through [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca)

**Next Council meeting: TUESDAY May 23rd at 6pm.** Come join us! All are welcome! Public input starts at 6pm- Briefly share your thoughts and concerns. For longer topics, get on the agenda as a delegation. Contact City Hall to learn how.

