

ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

April 2016

Issue #13

Note from Mayor Kathy

I am very pleased to welcome our new Chief Administrative and Corporate Officer, Bryan Teasdale to the City of Rossland. Bryan has served as the senior officer in Montrose as well as the Manager of Infrastructure for the Kootenay Boundary Regional District. In other staffing news, we have hired a new Manager of Finance. Ms. Elma Hamming, CPA from Smithers will be joining us July 4th. Elma has been with the City of Smithers' financial department for over 16 years. Prior to her municipal experience she worked in the private sector. We look forward to welcoming Elma and her family (of avid skiers) to our community.

I enjoyed an evening with senior staff from Columbia Basin Trust and the Northern Initiatives Trust. Mayor Mike Martin and I were invited to share our experiences working with CBT in our communities.

CBT continues to host a lunch meeting with mayors from Nelson, Castlegar, Trail and Rossland to build rapport, and to work on shared issues such as our hospitals and airports. It's always enjoyable and productive.

The pedestrian and sewer pipe bridge in Trail is coming along, mostly on time and on budget. Our share of the \$7.2m cost will be determined by the flow we contribute; right now our cost is about \$1.4m. We hope to decrease it further as we continue to repair our sewer lines.

As usual, there are so many great things going on in our community; here are just a few:

- I was invited to give some welcoming words to the Early Years Educators conference in town. There were about 190 educators in attendance.
- Rossland hosted 9 Legion branches at the spring zone meetings and Councillor Cosbey made opening remarks.
- Selkirk's 1st year Environmental Planning class came to tour our wetland sites.
- The library held their AGM and have a number of new, energetic board members.
- 7 Summits Learning Centre had an open house to describe some very exciting future developments for this unique learning option.

Councillor Morel and I attended a Drought, Water and Climate Change conference in Nelson. Lots of good information and climate science was shared and there was much interest from elected officials for this very serious issue.

The annual meeting of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments was held in Kimberley this month. It's always a great opportunity to meet and learn from our peers as well as to participate in informative sessions. Rossland will host the meeting next year.

Council News:

The April 13th review of our **financial plan** at the Prestige was very well attended. Thanks to all who came out to be informed and provide input. The five year plan and the tax rate bylaws will be finalized in early May. For 2016, property taxes will increase by 3.5%, water and sewer rates will each increase by 4.5%. The powerpoint is available on the city's website. www.rossland.ca

In an effort to start our planning early for 2017, Council will be working with Terry Miller to **engage the public** on aspects of financial plan to determine what the community values and how much we are willing to pay for it. Creative ideas and solutions are also welcome. Kamren Farr will help gather input for the business plans that we are preparing for all of our facilities. In addition, Thoughtexchange has generously offered to assist us with public engagement. Only with good, fact based information can Council make good decisions.

The award of the **exterior work for the Miners Hall** has been made to two local companies, DJM and Trail Roofing. Work will be underway in early May.

Council allocated \$287.5k in **community support grants** to local organizations such as the library, the museum, Tourism Rossland, WildsafeBC, the Sustainability Commission and many others.

Council considered applications for \$51.7k of CBT funds through the **Community Initiatives Program**. This is a wonderful fund for small non-profits, some of whom are ineligible for other grants. Over 30 applicants received funds. Over \$125k was requested.

The **Commercial Hockey League** came to ask for assistance with the extra fees that they are charged by Trail. While sympathetic, Council turned down the request. We recognize that the policy set up this year to subsidize recreation in Trail is inadequate to meet everyone's recreation needs. We hope to restart our negotiations with Trail soon. In any case, the policy will be reviewed next year.

Council approved a request from the **Golden Bear Daycare** to make improvements to the city owned building. The changes will be funded by the society.

Council approved a request from the Arts Council for 2 hours of public work's help to install the latest sculpture "**V-formation**" that the Arts Council is leasing. Thanks to RCAC for beautifying our downtown core.

Council is pleased to offer **Search and Rescue** a spot adjacent to the arena parking lot to construct a building for their equipment and to serve as SAR headquarters. With a location established, they can now seek grant money from other sources for the project.

Council approved zoning for a **small lot duplex** on St Paul. We support infill development- it is a very efficient use of our existing infrastructure and helps diversify our housing options in town.

The regional manager for economic development in the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training has offered to facilitate a session for business people and the City to look at how we can **make doing and establishing a business in Rossland easier**. Should be a very interesting session. Stay tuned for details and how you can be involved. We want to hear your ideas.

Local poet and author Jennifer Ellis read one of her poems to open our recent council meeting. Rossland participates in Calgary Mayor Nenshi's **annual poetry challenge**. It's important to recognize the significance of the arts in the public realm.

Washington Street update

As the lowest bidder, Copcan Construction was awarded the contract. Full accounting of the project will be made. In addition to the \$2.1m grant we received, we also got a grant from ICBC for \$40.3k for road safety features like sidewalks and bike lanes. Other grant applications are still pending. Construction will be done in 3 phases starting from 1st to 3rd Ave and moving up the street. Each phase will take about 6 weeks to complete. Check our website or get on our email list for regular updates.

Wetland update: Good news! Our mosquito expert has tested the Jubilee Park site and, as expected, found no mosquito larvae. Please allow the new plants to get established in the wetland. Temporary fencing has been installed with signage asking people to stay out of the area. Permanent fencing and signage will be installed by the fall. It will be a great space for kids and adults but it needs time for the plants to develop. The spring freshet has brought a lot of water into the area that will be directed into a storm drain. Patience, please.

Did you know?

The **Rossland Skate Park Association** was successful in getting \$150k from the new Columbia Basin Trust

recreation fund. This money ensures that the project can get underway this summer. Many thanks to CBT!

Rossland won the **Voter Turnout Challenge** in this friendly competition between 14 local governments. We increased our voter turnout in the last federal election by over 12% with a total turnout of 81% Mayor Moore accepted the award on behalf of all Rosslanders.

Doggie parking spots now available: Behind Tails (thanks!) behind Ferraro's, behind the BC Liquor store, east side of city hall, west side of the cold beer and wine store, in the alley by the PO, and next to the library.

Earth Day Celebrations organized by the Sustainability Commission were very successful; there was a chicken crawl and compost tour, widespread litter clean up, (please use the trash cans!) information shared about the importance of not idling your car. (We have a bylaw prohibiting it too) as well as the annual Doggie Doo Waa Waa (Please pick up after your own dog!) Thanks to all who participated and to all the volunteers.

Don't forget: Spring clean-up May 2nd and Water main flushing May 9th.

Downtown businesses are now enjoying **broadband**, high-speed internet connection in Rossland. This is a huge opportunity for economic growth in our community. Many thanks to the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation for using Rossland as a pilot program.

Miners Hall, Museum and Library Fundraising Campaigns are still underway. Help support the facilities and projects you love by making a donation.

Check out the **fantastic fundraising video for the Miners Hall** done by Nadine Tremblay, Liam Barnes and assorted community members, it's wonderful!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0ZxZxm7Hil&feature=youtu.be>

Check out the series of **Sustainability Action Heroes-** to learn about great ideas in our community.
<http://visionstoaction.ca/sustainability-action-hero-podcasts>

Be in touch! City Hall 362-7396
Reach Council through www.rossland.ca

Newsletters could be electronic but we need more people to sign up to receive them that way. Please go to www.rossland.ca. 'E-Mail Updates'

Next Council meeting: Monday May 16th at 6pm.
Come join us! All are welcome!