

## ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

October 2017

Issue #30

### Message from Mayor Kathy:

I am happy to announce that **Kim Deane** has been selected to receive the coveted **Senate of Canada 150 Medal**. Kim is being honoured for his years of dedication to the development of outdoor recreation. Projects such as his work to establish the Rossland Recreation Area, the Friends of the Rossland Range and the Seven Summits Trail. This award will be presented at an upcoming council meeting on behalf of Senator Nancy Greene. Of course, Kim modestly views this as an award to the whole community.

In mid-October I attended the Columbia Basin Trust Symposium. This is a terrific community-centric event held about every three years. Everyone is invited. The event is free. Col. Chris Hadfield was the keynote speaker. What an inspirational human being. Perhaps viewing our planet from space gives him a unique perspective on what humans can accomplish when they cooperate and collaborate.

Due to the **CBT Symposium**, I was sorry to miss the Grand Opening Celebration for the Miners Hall. Many thanks to the hardworking Rossland Council for Arts and Culture volunteers for creating such a successful event. Artists, musicians, magic and more was enjoyed by all.

At the end of September I had a productive week at the Union of British Columbian Municipalities' annual convention. This is always a great opportunity for municipal leaders to meet, network, learn from our peers and express our priorities to the Provincial government. Along with other mayors from our region, I met with Provincial ministers for continued support for the Highway 3 Mayors and Chairs Coalition road improvements. We also met with the Ministry responsible for , arts and culture to promote our destination development strategy that has been in the works for the past year. The RMI mayors advocated for the continuation of the Resort Municipality Initiative with the Minister. The RMI provides 14 BC resort communities some extra revenue to enhance our visitors' experiences. Another hot topic concerned the roll out of the legalization process for cannabis and the importance for local government to have some revenue to cover potential increased costs in our community. With over 150 resolutions to consider, it was a busy week.

### Council News:

**The new business license bylaw has now been adopted.** A big change is that fees have been reduced (most will be \$125) and new rules have been put in place for operators of short term rentals. Please check with City Hall so you know what is expected if you want to operate a short term rental. It is in your best interest to follow the new rules as non-compliance will result in some hefty fines.

We adopted changes to our **Zoning bylaw** to conform to the new regulations for short term rentals. Again, contact City Hall for details. In a nutshell, short term rental regulations will apply to anyone renting an accommodation for 30 days or less.

There will be requirements for zoning, business licensing, (including posting the license number on any online platform) a safety inspection, an annual fee to Tourism Rossland and parking rules. Be sure to understand the new requirements. They will go into effect January 2018 but you are encouraged to start the compliance procedure right away. There will also be a limit to the number of short term rentals allowed per block (1) and in town (no more than 5% of residential properties), so first come is first served. Once our limits have been reached we will not authorize any more. These are reasonable regulations put in place to level the playing field for all serving our visitors.

### The Spokane/Leroi and First Street infrastructure improvement project

is substantially complete and it looks marvelous! The new sidewalks, curbs and fresh paving look great but the biggest benefit is all the work underground. Hopefully the water and sewer pipes will last an additional 100 years! The project was completed on time and on budget! It's also been nice to see all the pavement repair work being done around town.

Council has given staff some direction on creating our next **5-year financial plan** by approving a tax increase next year of up to 4.8%. We also deferred a few projects in hopes the actual increase can be limited to 4%. A Trails Master Plan and a review of the Design Review Guidelines were moved to 2019. Lots more work and information will be forthcoming as the plan starts to take shape but we continue to prioritize tackling the back log of infrastructure projects that need attention.

**Invasive Plant Strategy:** Japanese knotweed is an invasive and pervasive plant. Left untreated it can ruin your foundation, municipal infrastructure can cause a host of issues resulting in huge financial damages. Council has adopted a bylaw and will put into place a strategy to fight this invasion. We will also be working with Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) on a public education program. Watch for details.

Council heard the results of a recent project done by the **Rural Development Institute** at Selkirk College in conjunction with the City and other partners on the specific impacts and actions to mitigate climate change in our community. Rossland, along with Kimberley, participated in a pilot project. Read the report: [http://www.rossland.ca/sites/default/files/agenda\\_regular-meeting\\_october-23-\\_2017-10-23.pdf](http://www.rossland.ca/sites/default/files/agenda_regular-meeting_october-23-_2017-10-23.pdf). Here are a couple of important takeaways: We need to continue our good work to conserve water and reduce water loss. Residents need to address water leakage on private property. The City needs to continue to plan our infrastructure projects with potential impacts from climate change in mind, as we have been for the last several years. We should be actively monitoring the streams in our watershed instead of using less accurate proxy data from Sheep Creek. Very importantly, as individual residents, we need to improve our 72 hour emergency preparedness plans and kits. There are helpful brochures in City Hall to assist everyone. Please pick one up.

Council approved proceeding with an application for an **Age Friendly grant from the Province** to help us develop a plan for our community. Much of the information that was gathered as part of a CBT funded age friendly initiative will form the

basis of this plan. Montrose and Trail are also applying for the same grant and if successful we will work together with the Whistler Centre for Sustainability to collaborate on the plans.

**Streetlight Improvement project.** We are phasing in LED lights, and removing redundant or unnecessary lighting around town. Council heard comments both for and against installing or removing lights in lower Rossland. We made the adjustments that were possible from an operational perspective to keep light out of people's homes and on the street. We intend to make modest adjustments to our policy to allow some lights to remain at the end of some dead-end streets. The program is moving into Upper Rossland so please look carefully at the lights around you. If you see bagged lights, those are slated for removal. If you want to have a light changed, retained or removed, contact us using the form at <http://www.rossland.ca/streetlight-improvement-project>. Council will meet to review all the requests we've received about upper Rossland concerns at a future council meeting.

We are determined to see some construction on the **Mid-town Transition lands** (EMCON lot) and are moving forward with the work necessary to prepare for future development. Stay tuned for details.

**Recreation:** The City is in the process of hiring a Manager of Recreation and Events, as well as a part-time recreation coordinator. We were so pleased at the number of qualified applicants we received for the position. The new Director will have a strong mandate to move the department forward for creative recreation and event programming.

Council discussed the relative merits and risks of **reducing the size of council** from seven members to five but decided against pursuing it. The challenge of getting a quorum of three at some times in the year and the impact it would have on making good decisions if it only took 2 members to decide significant matters did not justify the change. The likelihood of issues being postponed until a full council of five was available has been a real challenge in other municipalities. Since we are so modestly compensated, we decided that the cost savings would not off-set the efficiencies of moving matters forward expeditiously.

Council has just a year left in its mandate; time flies when you're having fun! This fall we will run through a scaled down **strategic planning exercise** that prioritizes what we still want to do in our last 12 months in office and set the course for the future. To give us your input, find the current plan at: [http://www.rossland.ca/document\\_archives?desc=strategic&category=All](http://www.rossland.ca/document_archives?desc=strategic&category=All). Email us your thoughts.

On that subject, it's not too early to think about **running for Council or Mayor!** Elections next year will be on October 20th. Talk to anyone on the existing Council to get an idea of the responsibility (and rewards!) involved. Rossland has so many dedicated and talented people, and we only need seven of them to help guide the ship of state for the next term! Be a part of the continued success of the community you love. You won't regret it!

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

This is actually embarrassing to have to say but **dog owners please pay attention:** It's good that you pick up after your pooch but you **MUST** take the bag with you. There is no benefit, and in fact is much worse, to put the poop in a bag and leave it or worse, toss it into a neighbour's yard.

**Trail manners:** Also, reminder to all: If you are using the trails at the end of Kootenay Columbia heading towards the old mining school above Happy Valley, please obey the parking signs. Do not drive to the end and block residents, do not drive through the gate and park farther up. That area is for city vehicles and snow plows only to turn around. Please be considerate of the neighbors.

**Congrats to the Museum!** A \$10k Rural Dividend grant for phase 2 & 3 planning of the renewal project has been awarded to plan the Mining Experience and atrium addition to the facility. Attendance is up, programming is exciting and the museum is truly being renewed!

**News from the Rossland Library:** The final Rossland Reads debate will be on November 7th. Down to the final two - who will come out on top? Place: Gold Rush Books. Time: 6:30pm

**Deconstructing Dinner Film Fest** at the Miners Hall. Join the Rossland Sustainability Commission for a showing of two gastronomic films: **Bugs** and **Garlic** on Wednesday Nov 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm. Entry by donation. \$10 suggested donation. Includes insect and garlic themed snacks (Yummy?)

The **Rossland Council for Arts and Culture** would like to extend a sincere thank you to the community for supporting the Miners Hall Opening/Canada 150 events in October. The RCAC is pleased to present the next event, "Shakespeare After Dark" on Friday, November 17th at 7:30 pm at the Miners Hall. This live comedy show is the highbrow fusion of Shakespeare served with a side of improvisational mischief. With a genuinely off-kilter professional actor volunteering every night, no two shows are ever the same. Tickets are available online or at "Out of the Cellar".

Construction of the **Rossland Skatepark**, located on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Washington, is well underway. After more than 25 years of work to get a skatepark in Rossland, it's good to see it coming together. However, users will have to wait a little longer to try it out as the concrete will need several weeks to properly cure. Many thanks to Copcan, Valley Curbing, DJM Contracting, Simms Contracting, Cana Steel, KonKast Products Ltd, and Corix Water Products for their very generous contributions of time and material. They showed true community spirit with all their help.

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

**Next Regular Council meeting: TUESDAY November 14, 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.