

ROSSLAND CITY HALL NEWS

April 2011

Greetings from your Mayor and Council

Wildlife Attractant Control Bylaw

Unfortunately, 16 bears were killed in Rossland in 2010. To reduce risk of harm to bears and people, the City is now working towards becoming a Bear Smart Community.

As part of this strategy, Council is moving forward with Bylaw 2505. This bylaw regulates disposal of garbage and other waste. In essence, it states that no one may store refuse in a manner that attracts and is accessible to wildlife. Specifically, garbage may only be put out between 6am- 6pm on the day of collection, fruit must be picked up within 3 days of falling, and bird feeders need to be secured out of reach of wildlife. Composting activities are exempt, provided they do not attract wildlife. Please abide by the terms of this bylaw, and do your part to keep our community (and the bears) safe. Failure to comply can result in fines.

Source Protection for Our Water #2504

A new bylaw amending the Official Community Plan will apply a 30 metre setback for all development along Topping Creek. Topping Creek is one of the main sources for our community water. This additional setback will provide added protection to our water supply. The current setback is 15 metres but 30 metres is the standard throughout much of BC.

New Cut & Fill Permit Required

Bylaw 2499 was adopted to address soil removal and deposit issues. Contractors and homeowners should be aware that a permit is now required for all cut and fill activities. Soil removal and deposit activities can only occur between 7am and 7pm during the week. There are more details in the bylaw so be sure to check it out before beginning any land works. Or contact Jason Ward, Manager of Infrastructure & Facilities.

Washington Street and Columbia Ave Infrastructure Project- update

In conjunction with the Ministry of Transportation's plans to repave Columbia Ave, the City of Rossland is looking to redo the aging water and sewer pipes beneath both Columbia and Washington. ISL Land Engineering has been selected as the engineering firm to do the preliminary design for the project.

Financial Audit

The firm of Berg, Naqvi Lehmann has completed the annual audit of the City's financial reports and complimented City staff on a thorough and excellent job. There were no irregularities found and the financial position of the City is strong. Council has accepted the 2010 financial statements. See the 2010 Financial Statements at www.rossland.ca

New Bylaw 2503. Water Meters and Water Rates

Rationale: Having all water users on meters will help to:

- reduce the need to develop new water supply sources,
- reduce the need to add new infrastructure for water storage, treatment & disposal,
- keep water and sewer rates at a reasonable level in future,
- identify quantity and location of water leaks, and
- more easily qualify for grants

In addition, meters will result in less demand. Less demand will allow us to leave more water in the creeks, thereby promoting healthy streams and riparian areas.

Bylaw 2503: requires water users to install meters by December 2011. *Please note:* While water users must pay for installation costs, the City is providing the water meters free of charge. Get your meters from City Hall. Front desk staff have a list of installers.

Water rates: The City adjusts water rates annually to ensure that the costs of running our water utility are recovered from water users. The 2011 rates for metered and non-metered services are in the bylaw. Text of the bylaw can be found at: www.rossland.ca

In 2011, detached single-family homes **without water meters** will pay a **flat annual rate of \$387 (\$32.25 per month)**. Customers will get a portion of their flat rate credited to their account when they install a meter.

With a water meter, that same home would pay a **base amount of \$16.75 per month, plus** an amount calculated on how much water is used in each month. The cost of water rises as usage rises -- the first 30 cubic meters of water cost 25 cents each in addition to the base rate, the next 70 cubic meters of water will cost 40 cents each, and after that (over 100 cubic meters of water) it costs 60 cents per cubic meter.

For example: In March, a Rossland couple used 10 cubic meters of water (a cubic meter is 1000 litres, so they used 10,000 litres of water that month). Under the new rates, they would pay a total of \$19.25 for water in March -- a base rate of \$16.75, plus 25 cents per cubic meter for amounts less than 30 cubic meters; 10 cubic meters x .25 = \$2.50.

Last July, that same couple watered a large garden, and used 40 cubic meters of water. If they use 40 cubic meters again this July, they will pay a total of \$28.25. That's the base rate of \$16.75, plus 30 cubic meters of water at .25 (\$7.50) plus another 10 cubic meters of water at .40 (\$4.00) = \$28.25.

Their neighbours don't have a meter yet, so they will pay more over the course of the year.

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Extra savings possible on your water bill:

While not required, residential single family homeowners can get a \$50 rebate from the City for replacing one low-flush toilet purchased after April 2008. Bring your receipt to City Hall when applying for rebate.

CBT Watersmart Program

Last Fall, Rossland signed the CBT Watersmart Charter, committing us to reducing water consumption. Twenty two Columbia Basin communities and several Regional Districts are working together to address local water issues. One very exciting benefit of this collaboration is the Ambassador program. CBT will train energetic students to help communities address water education. Rossland's student worker will conduct free outdoor irrigation system audits to help us identify opportunities for saving water. More details will be available soon.

Pitch-In Rossland- To Be Re-scheduled

On April 21st Rossland students got snowed out so could not pick up trash. Many thanks to the student volunteers, their teachers and all the local medical professionals (who donated gloves for the project) This event will be rescheduled. Our 3rd Annual Doggie Doo Waa Waa also had to be postponed due to snow showers. New dates for our community clean up will be announced.

Sustainability Commission (V2A)

Earth Day was celebrated in fine form on April 22. The afternoon event featured educational booths, learning projects, entertainment and a potluck dinner.

The City would like to thank the Sustainability Commission and all of the volunteers who helped make this event a success, including: Maclean students, the Rossland Interact Club, Rossland REAL Food, the Neighbourhoods of Learning Committee, the 'green' businesses, and all of the musicians and volunteers who made this day a great success!

Watch for surveyors at trailheads this summer! The Economic Development Task Force has partnered with Tourism Rossland, the Columbia Basin Trust, the Kootenay Columbia Trail Society and Tourism BC to determine the economic impacts of the trail systems in our area. Surveyors will be looking for information from visitors and locals so stop and have a quick chat with them on your way out.

All task forces are open to new members. Are you interested in energy, water, local economic development or affordable housing? If so, please contact Lea at leathuot@visionstoaction.ca

TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ROSSLAND

- Turn your lawn into a veggie garden
- Replace your gas lawn trimmer with an electric or battery operated model.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Municipal Government 101 - An Information Workshop

Curious about your local government? Wondering if you should run for Council? This informative workshop, hosted by Mayor Greg Granstrom, will give those considering a position on Council a clear understanding of Council's roles and responsibilities and the impact the duties of office will have on their lives.

- Session #1: Tuesday, May 17, from 6:00-8:00pm
- Session #2: Thursday, May 19 from 10:30am-12:30pm
- Both sessions in the Rossland Arena Lounge. Register at the Recreation Department. The \$5.00 registration benefits KidSport—an organization that ensures all children can afford to play.

Spring Clean up

Winter is gone and its time to clean up for Spring. The residential yard and garden waste collection service will be starting soon. Public Works employees will start in lower Rossland allowing more time to those still knee high in snow in upper Rossland.

A flyer will be coming shortly to your mail box and posted on the web to explain the details and dates.

Be a good neighbour, please....

- Pick up after your dog and please don't bring Fido downtown
- To protect our air quality, please don't idle your vehicle.

City Hall: 250-362-7396

Mayor Granstrom 250-231-6525 mayor@rossland.ca

Councillors:

Laurie Charlton, 250-362-9461 laurie_charlton@telus.net

Kathy Moore, 250-362-3319 kathymoore27@gmail.com

Hanne Smith, 250-362-7767 smithhanne@gmail.com

Jill Spearn, 250-362-5367 jspearn@telus.net

Andy Stradling, 250-362-9626 andy.stradling@gmail.com

Kathy Wallace, 250-362-7362 kwallace307@gmail.com

Council Meeting Dates:

7pm at City Hall

May 9- Regular council meeting

May 24- Regular council meeting- TUESDAY

June 13 Regular council meeting

WEBSITE & PAPERLESS NEWS:

Sign up for email news from the City & save paper.
Contact traceybutler@rossland.ca