

# ROSSLAND CITY HALL NEWS

Issue 4

August 2009

## Greetings from your Mayor and Council

We hope you are enjoying this fine summer weather. Here are some of the things that council has been working on:

## Upcoming events

On July 30<sup>th</sup> Rossland hosted the first meeting of the newly reconstituted Highway 3 Coalition Committee. This group of mayors and Ministry of Transportation representatives discussed ideas and concerns common to all of the communities along the Highway 3 corridor from Hope to the Alberta border. The Rossland meeting focused on common concerns, way-finding signage and developing a communications plan.

## TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ROSSLAND

- Consider getting an energy audit of your home and take advantage of Provincial & Federal eco-retrofit rebates for your home. [www.livesmartbc.ca](http://www.livesmartbc.ca) or call 866-430-8765
- Try a clothesline instead of your dryer.
- Consider transforming your lawn into a veggie garden.

## Sustainability Commission

- Congratulations to the **Sustainability Commission and Housing Task Force** for hosting two successful workshops in June: Affordable Housing and Indicator Use & Development.
- Is your home here but your income comes from away? If so, you may be a "nomadic entrepreneur". Please fill out the **Economic Development Task Forces'** survey at [www.visionstoaction.ca](http://www.visionstoaction.ca).
- Sustainability Commission meetings are open to the public. If you would like to attend task force meetings, please email [visionstoaction@rossland.ca](mailto:visionstoaction@rossland.ca) to contact the Task Force leaders for details.
- Sustainability commission information is available on their website: [www.visionstoaction.ca](http://www.visionstoaction.ca)

## Procedures, Bylaws and Resolutions:

- ❖ Approved: The 2008 Annual Report. See report on the city's website.
- ❖ Approved: The Rossland Foodies pilot project to establish a community garden at the north end of Jubilee Park. To get involved contact [rachrous@yahoo.com](mailto:rachrous@yahoo.com) or [journey\\_outside@yahoo.ca](mailto:journey_outside@yahoo.ca).
- ❖ Approved: Design Review Panel's request for a master plan and design charrette exercise related to the appearance of the downtown core in conjunction with the Columbia Ave infrastructure upgrades in 2010.

- ❖ Approved: Closure of Queen Street on Saturday mornings to support the Farmers' Market from now until Oct 31, 2009. Check out local produce, baked goods and more.
- ❖ Considering: The re-zoning of the Rotary Health Centre from Public-Institutional to Commercial in order to allow for better utilization of this community asset.

**Recreation Fees and Charges bylaw:** Council is reconsidering the details of fees and charges for use of city recreational facilities. The goals are to establish more consistent guidelines and to improve the cost recovery for use of city facilities while still respecting community interests and needs. There is still time for residents to provide input on these issues.

**Development Cost Charges (DCCs):** DCCs are charges levied on builders for the added costs of new infrastructure, services and amenities. Not all governing bodies charge DCCs, however they are a tool that is commonly used by resort communities. Council asked AECOM, the consultant hired to advise on DCCs, to draft a bylaw based on their July 2008 report. Deliberations on the DCC bylaw are not complete: The draft will come back to council for further discussion, fine tuning and additional public input. You are encouraged to contact council to express your views.

At this time Rossland's existing DCCs are in the lower 25 percentile as compared to other BC communities. This means that of the BC cities that charge DCCs, 75% of them charge more than Rossland does. If the rates suggested in the 2008 report are eventually approved, Rossland's DCC rates would be in the top 30%. The amount of DCCs are determined by the capital cost burden imposed on the City by development. High DCCs simply reflect the developer's portion of the cost of the infrastructure to be provided to support the proposed development. The July 2008 report is available on the city's website at [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca)

Whatever rates are finally approved will not be implemented immediately. It can take up to 12 months depending upon how much grace time the city builds into the bylaw and how long it takes to obtain Provincial approval. Watch for details about further public consultations and more detailed information in future newsletters.

## Lower Columbia Community Development

**Team:** Council has approved, in principle, the concept of a new economic development function for the east-end communities. This initiative is intended to create more economic opportunities for our local area. The LCCDT is a diverse group of concerned area citizens volunteering their efforts toward beneficial economic

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initiatives such as the current helipad project at KBR Hospital.

**Recreation facilities in Trail:** Rossland and Trail councils have met to discuss issues associated with the cost of running some of the recreation facilities located in Trail. A working committee comprised of two members from each council has been formed to discuss and recommend equitable solutions that meet the needs and budgets of our communities. Rossland's representatives to this committee are Councillors Smith and Charlton. Trail's representatives are Councillors Cacchioni and Romano with both Mayor Boggs and Mayor Granstrom as ex officio members. Meanwhile, Rossland, Warfield and Area B representatives are also meeting to discuss common interests.

**Annual Water Report:** Rossland's water is very good, according to the annual water report prepared by city engineer Mike Thomas. No coliforms or e-coli were detected and turbidity levels were well below the maximum allowed. The exchange of sand in our filters, which was started in 2008, will be completed this year. Both Star Gulch and Ophir reservoirs are full from the spring freshet. The full report is on the city's website.

**Evergreen Subdivision:** A cooperative effort between the developer, KCTS, the city and local residents is underway to create a new trail through the neighborhood.

- **Goals:** 1) recommend trail routes across the Evergreen Ridge property from Pinewood to Happy Valley through both residential areas and in natural settings, and 2) to develop interim access routes during development of the housing project.
- **Process:** The public was invited to participate through word-of-mouth, emails, flyers and the press. A trail route which met KCTS objectives and standards was roughly brushed. The public was invited to walk the trail and comment. Maps, background information and questionnaires were distributed to all interested parties.
- **Results:** 75% of the 28 respondents approved of the proposed trails. The developer has agreed to the interim access routes through Evergreen Ridge, the trails are open and are being utilized by the public. The proposal, which includes all feedback received, has been submitted to City staff and will be available shortly.

Thanks to all involved for a great example of community collaboration. For more information and to see the proposed route, contact [dean@evergreenridge.ca](mailto:dean@evergreenridge.ca)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CAO search:** Council will interview the finalists identified by Waterhouse Executive Search in August.

**Rebates:** The City is offering a 100% rebate on all water meters purchased after April 28, 2008. Water meters are now free. *Please note:* Residents are responsible for all installation costs. All water users have until December 31, 2011 to install water meters in their homes and/or businesses. Those who haven't by the end of the grace period will be subject to penalties. While not required, homeowners can also get a \$50 rebate for replacing one toilet with a low-flush model purchased after April 28, 2008. Bring receipts to City Hall. Both rebate programs are offered for residential single family dwellings only.

**Interactive Mapping:** Residents can now view public information about parcels, zoning, the Official Community Plan, infrastructure (water, sewer, storm), and more as a result of a partnership between the city, RDKB and Selkirk College's Geospatial Research Center. Go to [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca) and click on City Hall, City Departments then Interactive Mapping.

**Gentle reminders:** Please be a good neighbour and do not burn plastics, styrofoam, construction debris or other noxious materials inside your home. These products create toxic smoke which is a health hazard. Council has enacted an outdoor burning bylaw in order to protect air quality, and is now considering enacting an indoor burning bylaw as well.

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**Council Meeting Dates:**

7pm at City Hall

**Aug 17-** Regular council meeting

**Sep 14-** Regular council meeting

**Sep 28-** Regular council meeting

**WEBSITE & PAPERLESS NEWS:**

Sign up for email news from the City & save paper.

Contact [Traceybutler@rossland.ca](mailto:Traceybutler@rossland.ca)

The city website includes an up-to-date calendar, meeting minutes, Rossland Recreation programming and much more. [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca)

**Council encourages your feedback-  
contact one or all.**