

## ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS January 2018

Issue #32

### Message from Mayor Kathy:

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope the holidays were full of fun, celebration, joy, rest and lots of play in the snow. **Black Jack Cross Country Ski Club** hosted a very successful NorAm event in December and Red Mountain Racers will welcome the **Sport Chek National Technical Championships** and simultaneously the **Canadian National Ski Cross Championships**, for 10 days in March. This is a historic event as it falls exactly 50 years after the first World Cup Race ever held in North America (held here in Rossland in 1968 and attended by 7000 people) where our own Nancy Greene and France's Jean Claude Killey raced to victory. This is also the 120th anniversary of the first National Championships which were *also* held right here in Rossland. Rossland's historic reputation as an amazing sports town has never stopped growing! The energy and dedication of volunteers continues to astound me. There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer for the big ski races in March so step right up! Contact Christine, [candison@redmountainracers.com](mailto:candison@redmountainracers.com), to get involved.

Rossland wrapped up another big, successful infrastructure project. **The Spokane St, LeRoi and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave project came in on time and under budget!** This is the second big project in a row to come in under budget. Many thanks to our management team and especially Darrin Albo, our owner's representative. Copcan Ltd. once again did an excellent job. We couldn't be happier with the results. Of course, the biggest part is the underground pipe work that will last for decades. The increased safety provided by the sidewalk is well appreciated and saving about \$250k is pretty sweet too. Yes, the stairs took a bit longer than anyone wanted, but your patience was appreciated.

In December, our Chief Administrative Officer Bryan Teasdale, and I attended a meeting in Vancouver with the 13 other **Resort Municipality Initiative** members. We met with Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Lisa Beares and her staff. It was a very productive meeting and all of the mayors were reassured that the Minister values the contribution made by the RMI communities and appreciate that she is in full support of the initiative. This is a program that allows some funds to be returned to communities that are heavily reliant on tourism. As we know, it is extremely difficult to meet all the needs of residents and visitors alike with a budget that is overwhelmingly dependent on residential taxes.

It's amazing to think this is the last year of this Council's four-year term. Time certainly flies when you are having fun! The **next municipal election will be held in October 20, 2018** and I strongly encourage anyone interested to contact me or any other current council member to learn more about the job. If you ever had an urge to give back to this wonderful community, being on City Council is a very rewarding job.

### Council News:

Council heard a very informative presentation about the new **Lower Columbia Healthy Communities Plan**. This effort is the work of over 40 representatives from a variety of entities in the entire Lower Columbia area. The goal is to improve the health and well-being of everyone in our region. The main pillars to be addressed are: healthy food, mental well-being, vulnerable populations, physical activity and transportation. Council adopted the plan and will use it to inform the review of our Strategic Sustainability Plan. These important elements will be incorporated into our future goals and projects.

In December Council awarded a contract to CitySpaces, a development consultant, to **help us create a plan for the Mid-Town Transition area** (the old EMCON lot). The goal is to build multi-family housing on the site that is affordable for the people who live and work in town. Like many communities, Rossland has a shortage of spaces available for modest income workers in our community. We are also exploring ideas for office space on the site. The goal is to keep the heart of our downtown full of lively and vibrant shops and restaurants while allowing other types of businesses to grow away from the core.

Council has approved several rezoning applications from residents wishing to offer **short term rentals** in their homes. Our intent is to maintain the feel and character of our neighborhoods while still allowing homeowners to augment their income as well as to offer visitors additional choices for accommodation. There are rules and limits as to how many short-term accommodations will be allowed in the traditional city core. If you are considering such a business, contact city hall right away to make sure your property will qualify and that you meet the criteria.

Council is working on our **2018 Strategic Plan**. We hope to create a document that will outline this final year of our term and help guide decisions of the next council as we move the city forwards. Of course, the next council is free to set their own priorities but having a sensible plan to build upon will help make the transition a smooth one. This plan continues many of the initiatives that we have been working on- things such as continued investment in our infrastructure, more modernization of our information technology and modernizing the city services. Our aim is to meet the needs of our residents in the most cost effective and efficient way we can. It's often a delicate balancing act to determine what we can do based on what we can afford with the revenue generated by our predominately residential tax base.

Council has also given direction to our staff on the **annual budget and five-year plan**. This, as always is a dynamic work in progress. We are pleased to say that we are trying out a **new Budget Tool** this year. Very soon you'll be able to click on the Budget Tool link on [www.Rossland.ca](http://www.Rossland.ca). You can insert your latest home value from your BC Assessment letter and learn exactly how your tax dollars are allocated. Please take a few minutes to learn more about each category. You also have the opportunity to indicate which service you'd like to see us allocate more, or less, funding towards. All responses will be compiled in a report to Council and will help guide our budget deliberations in the future. It's a really fun, informative and easy

tool to use. Many thanks to our Chief Financial Officer, Elma Hamming for bringing this new bit of software to us. Please encourage all Rosslanders to participate. The information we get back is only as good as the effort people put into it.

Council gave direction to our planning staff to create a **Forest Park proposal** from lands owned by the City and some owned by private parties on Deer Park Mountain. Some of the guiding principles in our Strategic Sustainability Plan as well as in our Official Community Plan clearly state that we want to maintain green space, support trails, keep our city core compact, preserve wildlife corridors, and focus on in-fill development, not sprawl. Designating a park area will support these goals. This initiative will also protect a delicate wetland located in a little meadow in this area too. The staff recommendation will carve out a couple of lots that are suitable for future development as they are located near utility service infrastructure. The rest of the area will remain undeveloped except for trails.

Council approved requests from the **Rossland Culture and Arts Council (RCAC)** to build a base for a new sculpture to be located outside the Miners Hall as well as an increase in their annual operating fund to \$9k. Council approved several other community support grant requests while still keeping to our goal of limiting community support to 5% of tax revenues. We approved \$3k for the **Youth Action Network's Youth Week** activities, \$5k for the **Heritage Commission** to continue their efforts to preserve and celebrate Rossland's storied history. We also allocated \$500 for "**Wild Voices for Kids**," an environmental education initiative.

**Recreation:** The City is pleased to announce that Melissa Gresley-Jones, has been hired as our new recreation programmer. Melissa brings a wealth of recreation experience to the job.

### **Did you know?**

Rossland's favourite **Winter Carnival** weekend is back January 25-28! Thursday starts with fun for the whole family at the Winter Carnival Variety Show. Friday enjoy free hot spiced apple juice downtown, take in the parade, and watch the fire show by Pyro4ya. Saturday the fun continues, starting early at the Firefighters Pancake Breakfast, from there head over to catch the action at the Sonny Samuelson Bobsled Race. Spend some time downtown watching the Rail Jam or cheering on your favourite team at the Powder Pounder Snow Volleyball. Stop by one of our many food and drink vendors downtown and fuel up for Saturday night- whether you are at RED Mountain Resort Family Fun Night, dancing the night away at Olaus' Ice Palace, or enjoying one of the great Blizzard Music Festival bands it's guaranteed to be a great time. Round off the weekend with some healthy competition by entering the John Heintz Relay or the Olaus Invitational BC Cup Luge Race.

**Important Note:** Bobsled registration and inspection, and the Bobsled Calcutta Auction will be held one week early, **Thursday Jan. 18**, 7:00pm at the Legion. Open to the public to come for a drink, bid on your favourite sled, and enjoy a performance by the Boomtown Garter Girls. For a full weekend schedule, or to volunteer at one of our many great events, visit [rosslandwintercarnival.com](http://rosslandwintercarnival.com)

Come visit the **Rossland Museum and Discovery Centre**. Winter hours are Wednesday-Saturday 12-5pm, Here is some exciting news: The museum is hosting a travelling exhibition in the newly renovated space from the Juno Beach Centre called "From Vimy to Juno" covering the Canadian experience during and between WWI & WWII. The display, which includes local content, will be here until mid-February. If you haven't been up to the museum since the renovations, check out the photo record of the new spaces: [RosslandMuseum.ca/renewal-project/phaseone-photos](http://RosslandMuseum.ca/renewal-project/phaseone-photos)

Don't miss the **Speaker Series** event at the museum on Thursday, January 18th 7pm by Dave Smith and Ron Robinson: "Ski Explorations in the Selkirks & Purcells: The Early Years 1973-76" where they will bring some old gear and even a sample of some of the food used back then!

As you have probably heard by now, the **Rossland Ladies Hockey Team from 1900-1918** has been inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Sport in the Pioneer Category. The Museum has some excellent photos and historical detail about this team of women who beat all the competition on a regular basis.

Please **remember to get your vehicle off the street** so the snow plows can make the roads safe and clear for everyone. Cars are meant to be parked off the street on your own property. If that just isn't possible remember your vehicle must be moved every 24 hours and can be ticketed.

**Congrats to the Library!!** They have received a much deserved and long-awaited Gaming grant for over \$80k for their renewal project. This project will improve the entire interior of the facility. The children's section will be expanded to meet the needs of our growing population of little readers. In addition, the administrative space will become more compact and efficient.

**Rossland Council for Arts and Culture:** the RCAC is excited to bring a terrific winter program to Rosslanders and visitors alike. Their new website is ready! Please check out <http://rosslandartscouncil.com/> for upcoming events and especially note the new membership support and sign up page. Buying your membership for 2018 will automatically enter you into a draw for great prizes donated by local businesses. Draw will be held on January 25th. THANK YOU to our amazing local business owners for their generous contributions and for supporting the arts in our community! The prizes are: Two half-day Fat Bike rentals from Tyler and Caro at Revolution Cycles. Two tickets for the next RCAC performance. Two tickets for the next Trail Arts Council performance. A pair of silver snowflake earrings from Revival Boutique. A gift package from Powderhound with Buff Head Cap and collapsible water bottle and finally a 3-pack of Smartwool socks from Out of the Cellar.

**Be in touch!** City Hall 362-7396. Contact Council through [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca) **Next Council meeting: Monday January 22nd, at 6pm**. Come join us! All are welcome! Public input starts at 6pm where you can briefly share your thoughts, concerns and ideas. For longer topics, get on the agenda as a delegation contact City Hall to learn how.