

## ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

July 2015

Issue #6

### Note from Mayor Kathy

Happy, beautiful Summer to all.

I considered not sending a newsletter this month but there are so many exciting “goings on”, I just couldn’t skip it! Read all about it in this issue: **Some exciting grant news, the Delegation Bylaw and more!**

I really learned a lot at a two-day **Mayor’s Conference** in Vancouver. There were about 40 mayors and regional district chairs from all over the Province. It was a good opportunity to learn from others and appreciate that we all share many of the same concerns and challenges. Lots of the conversation and sessions involved doing more with less money, meeting taxpayers’ high expectations with limited funds, how to solve the intractable problems of aging infrastructure, aging populations and escalating costs of running a local government. It was also a great excuse for me to take a little motorcycle tour.

The **Highway 3 Mayor’s Coalition** is a group that speaks in one voice to the Province. We met with Ministry of Transportation (MoT) staff. Successes to date include more passing lanes and highway improvements between the Kootenays and Hope as well as improvements towards the Alberta border too. The Mayors decided to increase electric charging station infrastructure. MoT can help with signage and coordination.

### Council News:

#### Rossland Gets a Significant Grant!

The really big news is that finally after years of having our infrastructure requests passed over, we got a \$2,180,700.00 grant for our Washington street upgrade. This is an essential project; one that has been needed for years, but without financial help, it was on hold. Now we can go forward in 2016. We will be replacing water and sewer pipes that date back to Olaus Jeldness days (No, just kidding!) Seriously, some of the underground utilities are over 100 years old. The project is estimated at \$5.8m. We will also be paving, installing sidewalks, bike lanes and landscaping as well as adding some innovative energy and water capture features to irrigate downtown if we can afford it. The grant is a partnership between the Federal, Provincial and our local government. A representative of the federal government came to Rossland and made the announcement at Harry LeFevre Square. Thanks for the great public turnout! We

are still are awaiting word on some other grant applications. We’ll keep you informed.

Break out the champagne or at least the chocolate! The new **Delegation Bylaw** has been adopted. This bylaw gives staff enough authority to run the day-to-day operations of the City, but the ultimate decision-making power and final accountability rest where it belongs: with Council. It’s been a long time coming.

More grant news! Rossland got support to create a **Community Energy Plan**. Something the Sustainability Commission has wanted to do for a long time.

**Dogs and bylaw enforcement** were discussed at the July 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Staff has been directed to report back on estimated costs to increase bylaw enforcement, hire a contractor like the Commissionaires or a sole contractor, as well as to investigate some innovation apps so everyone with a cell phone can help by uploading photos of a bylaw violations.

**Hold your horses!** The new policy to **reduce speed limits** is now in effect! Please pay attention and create a habit of mellow driving. Council had another good discussion on the need to slow traffic on our narrow streets. We will look at various forms of traffic calming and more ideas will be implemented as our budget allows. With the enthusiastic support of the RCMP & ICBC, our new policy reduces the speed limit from 40km to 30km on most of our city streets. Near schools, the limit will be 20km, and 15km at school drop off locations. Other narrow, streets will also be reduced to 20km. These include a section of McLeod, around Nickleplate Park and a short stretch of Thompson. The safety of our kids, pedestrians and pets is paramount. The difference between going 40km and 30km on the length of Thompson, for example, is 30 seconds. Think about it. Slow down, relax. The RCMP will help drivers focus on changing their behavior. ☺

**Reminder: Stage II Water Restrictions** are in effect. Even and odd numbered addresses are permitted to water on even or odd numbered days from 7am to 11 am and 5 pm to 9 pm. Please conserve!

**Speaking of water:** Council is very pleased to report that our **year-to-date discharge rates** are now at about 19% of the total that is treated at the sewage treatment plant at Trail. This is a significant drop (mostly due to the fact that the spring freshet is long past). We continue to deal with our leaky pipes and the inflow and infiltration issues that have a huge impact. The good news is that if this trend continues, we will be paying significantly less for sewage treatment operations when payment on flows comes into effect in 2016.

**Centennial Wetlands-** Council heard an excellent presentation about the importance of preserving the few remaining wetlands in our area. We supported a request to restore the wetland near Centennial ballpark and the Rossland Lions Community Campground. It has been identified as one of the few remaining wet meadowlands in the Kootenays. Significant damage has been done to this delicate ecosystem by motorized vehicles. Please do not ride quads or bikes through the area. There are many potentially rare plants and creatures that will thrive if the area is restored and preserved.

**Huck 'n Berry Jam-** Requests from the organizers were approved. It's sure to be another excellent event. Don't miss it: Aug 29 at the Centennial Bike Skills Park.

**Skate Park fundraiser-** Council approved a concert on Aug 29th at Nickleplate Park. Many thanks to Richie Samuelson for organizing it. More volunteerism at work!

**Other Council approvals:** New contract for our Youth Action Network coordinator, service agreement for Tourism Rossland and rezoning the old Jehovah's Witness site for commercial use. All projects to increase the vibrancy of our great town.

**Food for thought:** At future meetings Council will, or might, consider: changes to business licenses, updating Design Guidelines, reducing our lighting costs while increasing our enjoyment of the beautiful night sky, date of our next strategic planning session, review of our fees and charges for recreation, banning smoking in parks where children play, banning the cosmetic use of pesticides and herbicides, permanently closing Nickleplate Park to traffic and the design of Council's bobsled, among other fascinating topics.

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

**Kimberly Joines was selected to be honored on the Greater Trail Home of Champions monument** for her accomplishments in Paralympic ski racing. Kudos to an amazing athlete and a terrific person!

**Canada Day, at the Museum this year** was a huge success. Lots of participation in the grueling hike up Mt Roberts followed by food, terrific music, beer, and kids' activities at the museum. Many thanks to the museum staff, board members and volunteers for putting on such a super event. Three City employees happily shared our big trucks to fans, young and old. Congrats to the museum for hosting a **successful golf event** too! \$1k was raised for their renewal project.

**Breaking news: The museum and the Friends of the Rossland Range** are both recipients of a **Canada 150** grant for their renewal projects. **The details will be**

**announced July 30<sup>th</sup> at the museum.** Come on up to learn the exciting details (and the amount of the grants!)

Work on the beautiful, new, **106 room hotel up at Red Mtn** is underway! This is a big project for our town and it will mean local jobs too.

**Thinking of building?** The "Smaller, Greener House Design Workshop" Oct 9-12 is open for registration. This 4-day session will provide a strong start to house design. Five Kootenay professionals will guide participants through tons of information and choices that face owner-builders striving to reduce their environmental impact, utility bills, and live in a healthy house. Sponsored by the Sustainability Commission. [Monasheeinstitute.org](http://Monasheeinstitute.org)

**Gold Fever Follies** is on! Don't miss it. Shows run until Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mayors and council members from Trail, Rossland and Fruitvale got in the act at the Follies Gala.

**The Broken Goat trail run** was a huge success. 300 spots sold out and the runners enjoyed a 50km, 25km or 12km course on our scenic 7 Summits Trail and up Red Mtn. It was a well-organized event and perfect for our town. Hopefully the series will return for years to come.

**Rossland does not use or allow pesticides or herbicides on City lands.** We've had some complaints from residents. Please do not use the toxic stuff on the City boulevard in front of your property. Thank you!

## ***Be in touch!*** City Hall 362-7396

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## ***Community Q & A***

**Q: Are the new speed limits actually law?**

**A:** Yes! This means you could actually get a ticket.

**Q: Why were City workers working at night on Columbia- Isn't that expensive?**

**A:** They were Provincial contractors, prepping Columbia to refresh the paint on the crosswalks. No expense to us.

**Q: Why so much time to do planting downtown?**

**A:** City workers get called away to other jobs so they are not on one site all the time; thus the project looks slower.

**Newsletters** could be electronic! Please go to [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca). 'E-Mail Updates.' **Next Council meeting:** August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Come join us!