

## ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

### June 2018

Issue #37

#### Message from Mayor Kathy:

Summer is well upon us! The beautiful warm weather is wonderful but the melting of the heavy snowpack resulted in so many disastrous consequences for many of our neighbors. Our sympathies are with the folks in Grand Forks, Salmo and other seriously impacted communities as they rebuild and renew their communities.

Protecting and insuring the safety of people, pets, wildlife and property is a priority. I met the creator of a **wonderful wildlife proofing system called "the Jolt"**. It's a simple concept but works really well. It's a self-contained cage-like unit that fits over a large garbage can, compost cans, bee hives, digesters, small trees or can be modified to protect birdfeeders! If an animal tries to interfere with whatever is being protected it gets a shock strong enough to deter it. The current is intermittent and is safe for kids- they'll get a shock and learn to stay away but they won't be injured. **Let's have a year with NO bear kills.** Contact me for more info. [mayor@rossland.ca](mailto:mayor@rossland.ca)

**Remember: City Hall is now located at 2196 LeRoi Ave** (across the highway from Mook Thai). Please call 362-7396 and follow the menu prompts to make an appointment. We apologize for the inconvenience. **Council meetings will continue to be held in the Miners' Hall.**

**Fire season is now upon us** and it's worth another reminder that that we should take emergency precautions and be prepared in our own homes. That is the key to both surviving a catastrophe and protecting your property- whether it means participating in a Firesmart neighbourhood program or making sure you have supplies on hand in case of an emergency evacuation, it pays to be ready for disaster. There are informative brochures at City Hall or on the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary's (RDKB) website. Please check them out. <https://rdkb.com/Services/RDKBProtectiveServices/Preparedness.aspx>

Our **Spring Clean-up** was well subscribed. The City picked up about 30% more material than normal this year. Yards are looking great! Many thanks to Moon Gravity Farms for taking the branches and sticks to create a hügelkultur pile. After dirt is added to cover the pile, in time it will decompose into rich soil. The added benefit is that we did not have to expend GHG to drive our trucks to the landfill in Trail. 182 tandem truckloads of material were collected.

Don't forget, our **municipal election is coming up in October**. Consider running: It's your chance to contribute to your community, have some fun and now the pay is better too! Councillors stipend will be \$8k per year and the mayor will make \$17k. Not bad for a part-time gig! A healthy democracy needs good people to take the time to serve. It's important to have candidates that represent varying points of view and who can work together respectfully and constructively. Please contact me, or any council member, to learn about the job. If you have never come to a council meeting, now would be a great opportunity to check it out.

**Council News:** Council heard presentations from local representatives of Currie Rose Resources about **potential gold mining operations** in our area. With new, more advanced and sophisticated mining techniques, it is possible that more gold can be extracted from the surrounding hills. Council also heard from a newly formed non-profit society about creating a **Rossland Art Centre**. Envisioned as a place to display art, hold art classes and provide studio space for local artists, it's an exciting concept that could infuse new life into the old Drill Hall, currently owned by SD20.

Council approved a Development permit for a **10 unit condo project on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave between Queen and St Paul**. This infill development will provide much needed additional housing, conveniently located in town. Several conditions were attached such as replacing significant trees, planting screening landscaping and snow removal responsibilities.

Council awarded the contract to **MODUS**, a consultant, to work with our community on analyzing and balancing our **recreational needs and desires** with what we can afford. Stay tuned for details about this very inclusive public engagement.

Council has directed staff to finalize the Smoke and Vape Free Outdoor Places Bylaw, **as well as update our zoning and business licence bylaws in preparation for the legalization of Cannabis** by the Federal government. Some people were under the mistaken impression that local government was overstepping our mandate by creating these bylaws. In fact, the Federal and Provincial governments have left it up to the municipal governments to set many rules for their own communities. Council's direction was to limit the distance from schools to 150m, to allow market conditions to determine the number of outlets in town, and to limit the location of the outlets to our downtown core. Smoking or vaping of any substance is not allowed in any public park, or within 6m of a doorway of publicly owned buildings. In the interest of public health, we are banning smoking or vaping of any substance in the downtown core on Columbia Ave and Washington Street.

Council approved a request from RSS grade 2-3 teacher Ms. Laura Jackman to create a **native plant garden** on City lands adjacent to the school as a learning opportunity for all students. Like the outdoor classroom and the wetlands, this will be created by dedicated volunteers. It's another opportunity to improve our community and help our young people learn more about the environment. We also heard from Ms. Jess Foster's grade 6 class on the **importance of reducing plastic waste and joining the Blue Dot movement** to promote the right to a healthy environment for every Canadian. Check out: <http://bluedot.ca> BTW- This year's **BioBlitz** was a huge success! Thanks to all volunteers and organizers!

**Council reviewed, amended and re-confirmed several plans, policies and bylaws.** We amended the **Street Light Policy** to provide lights on dead-end streets longer than a normal City block (100m) or if it serves as a trail head. In 2016, Council approved a pilot project to change all of the street lights in the Pinewood Area to LED lights. With the success of this project and through grants provided by FortisBC, Council has approved changing all of our **streetlights to LED lights**.

The new lights will be either LED54 watt (equivalent to 100 watt) or LED72 watt (equivalent to 150 watt) with a 3000 K rating. Once completed, there will be a \$32,000 in energy savings and reduced maintenance due to the longer life of the LED lights. This policy also reduces light pollution and increases the appreciation for our beautiful night sky.

Much of the community has been switched over to LED lights. Pinewood Area was done in 2016, Redstone and Lower Rossland were completed in 2017. **Phase #4 – Upper Rossland (north of Columbia Ave) and Phase #5 – Red Mountain and Caldera, are currently underway.**

As per the Street Light Policy, the City is planning “to remove excess lighting on low pedestrian roadways, dead-end streets (shorter than 100m), alleys and rural roads”. To ensure the removal of the lights will not pose any safety issues, the City will cover the ones to be removed for a minimum of four weeks prior to complete removal. Please look around your neighborhood. The full policy can be viewed at <http://www.rossland.ca/street-light-upgrades-phase-4> Check out the map of the lights too. If you have any questions or concerns, please [email](mailto:darrin.albo@rossland.ca) Darrin Albo, Manager of Operations. To request an exception to this policy, contact City Hall at (250) 362-7396 for the procedure. Council will review written requests at a future meeting.

We re-confirmed the **Donations for Trails and Parks Policy** that enables people to make a gift in recognition of a loved one and receive a tax deduction, provided it is not a corporate or business donation.

We reviewed and made amendments to our **Permissive and Revitalization Tax Exemption bylaws**. Rossland’s **Permissive Tax Exemption policy** applies to the municipal portion of taxes that have been waived for several non-profit groups that provide a benefit to the community. Those enjoying exemptions on their downtown properties include the Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop, the downstairs portion of the Legion, (not the bar which generates income from liquor sales) and the affordable housing society, Golden City Manor, as well as three units of affordable housing owned by the Lower Columbia Affordable Housing Society and the Rossland Light Opera. In appreciation for the good work done by these groups, Council decided to maintain the existing rules for these exemptions. The tax revenue foregone from these exemptions totals around \$24k per year but the value to the community is far higher.

The **Revitalization Tax Exemption**, established in 2010, was also reviewed and amended. This policy has been an effective economic development tool that has helped many of our commercial business owners improve the look of their downtown buildings or enabled new construction. These exemptions apply to the municipal portion of taxes only on the increased assessment. All the other taxes; for the regional district, hospital and school taxes are still collected. The intent of our policy is to encourage commercial redevelopment, new development and to incent commercial projects to meet certain energy and environmental standards. The revised policy allows for a 100% deduction in the first year, increasing by 20% per year until the full tax amount is paid in the 6<sup>th</sup> year. This is substantially more restrictive than the previous policy which

could cover up to 10 years with Council’s approval. This exemption gives business owners an opportunity to get a new business up and running profitably. The policy has worked very well with a number of new and redeveloped properties. New construction of the hotel at the hill, light industrial structures on Cascade and renovations to a number of downtown businesses have all helped our community thrive. It’s a good program and we are pleased to continue with it.

Many thanks to staff for preparing our **2017 Climate Action Revenue Incentive** report. Check it out to see all the good things your city does to help mitigate or adapt to climate change: page 134 of the June 12<sup>th</sup> agenda package.

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

The Rossland Museum is hosting **Rossland’s Canada Day Celebration**: This event will take place on the museum grounds on Sunday, July 1 beginning at 8am with the annual Mt. Roberts hike and ending in the evening with a live band and fireworks!

The afternoon kicks off at 12 noon and runs until 3pm. The Kids Pavilion Tent supported by Columbia Basin Trust will feature free arts and crafts like Columbia River Rock Painting (cabine & Wild by Nature), recycled t-shirt bags (Bombshack), and Face Painting (RMDC). Activities include Gold Panning w/ Dan Werhle, a Nature Playscape (One Tree Adventures), Duck Pond and photo booth, and Touch-a-Truck (City of Rossland). Afternoon family-friendly entertainment will feature the Golden City Fiddlers, The Nadi Tree Yoga for Kids, DJ Jazzy Jo, and the Gold Fever Follies. Food trucks for the afternoon include Cahoots Kitchen, Low Key Catering, Cahoots BBQ Wagon, and Happy Ice Pops, among others. The Canada Day cake by Sweet Dreams Cakery will be cut and served by our Mayor Kathy Moore around 2:30pm.

The evening will kick off at 6pm with local singer Kiana Tingley, followed by our showcase courtesy of The Flying Steamshovel with live band “Petunia & The Vipers” with sound and additional music by Headphone Entertainment. The Rossland Beer Company will be running the licensed area with food available from the Cahoots Kitchen. The night will culminate with a fireworks display – weather dependent. Kootenay Gateway Mountain Shuttle will run a complimentary shuttle from the brewery to the museum and back throughout the evening.

**Rossland Recreation is going green!** The 2018 Spring/Summer Recreation Guide can now be found online: [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca). If you still would like a paper copy, you can pick one up at City Hall during business hours. Thanks to staff for a new cost savings for all event organizers and instructors- there will now be an easy portal to use to get less expensive insurance when using City facilities.

**Be in touch!** City Hall 362-7396. Contact Council through [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca) Next Council meeting: Monday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm **at Miner’s Hall** Come join us- all are welcome! Public input starts at 6pm where you can briefly share your thoughts, concerns & ideas. For longer topics, get on the agenda as a delegation. Contact City Hall to learn how.