

ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

February 2016

Issue #11

Note from Mayor Kathy

Hard to believe that Rossland's Winter Carnival has come and gone already. What a fantastic event! It just gets better and better each year. Many thanks to the event organizers and all the tireless volunteers who helped make it such a stellar event. The public works crew did a fantastic job getting everything prepped. Sadly, Council's sled, the Pipe Dream turned into a burst pipe so we couldn't do a second run. But watch out: We will be back in 2017 with some super modifications!

I am pleased to say that we have received over 30 resumes for our Chief Administrator Officer/Corporate Officer position. The Chief Financial Officer position has also attracted many qualified applicants. Now that the job postings have closed, Council will be interviewing the shortlisted candidates. Our interim CAO/CO and CFO are both doing excellent work for the City of Rossland. Too bad they were just interested in temporary gigs!

We are pleased to welcome Alison Worsfold who will be covering the Executive Assistant maternity leave position for the next year. Alison brings excellent skills and local government experience as well as a big smile. Congratulations to Ryan Zanussi on his promotion to working foreman. This frees up our Manager of Operations, Darrin Albo, to spend more time on our numerous capital projects this year. Things are running smoothly at City Hall!

Council News:

Recreation: Council has set aside \$50k to help offset the additional costs for Rosslanders to use the Aquatic Centre in Trail. About \$9k has been allocated to the 2015 shortfall under our Recreation Subsidy policy that covers youth teams, seniors and people with disabilities. Of the remainder, about \$15k will be used to support these same categories in 2016 and the balance will be available for our residents to purchase a 10 visit punch pass at the Aquatic Centre (limit 2 passes per person). Individual day passes are ineligible because they will create an administrative nightmare for our small city hall staff.

While we understand that this policy will not cover every sport that is offered at all Trail's facilities, Council believes it is a good compromise and something we can afford. We just cannot afford to subsidize unlimited recreation in another municipality, especially when we offer so much support for recreation within our own town.

In addition, a number of the other programs offered are not charged as high a differential fee. To be eligible for reimbursement you must provide a receipt. Reimbursement will be provided as long as funds are available. Once the fund is depleted, the program will be finished until next year. 2016 will be a learning year.

Asset Management Grant news: Rossland has been awarded another very useful grant. In order to run our city efficiently and cost effectively, we need to know what we own, it's normal life expectancy and when it needs repair or replacement. This information is required for every pipe, road, building and piece of equipment. It's a daunting task for any municipality but this is the bare bones of asset management and is a basic foundation of good financial planning. The City recently received a grant for \$75k to help us update and refine the **Asset Management Plan** we started in 2013 but due to lack of funds, were unable to continue. This is a critically important element of our financial planning so expect to hear much more about it in the future.

Water and sewer rates: Council approved rate increases of 4.5% to both water and sewer rates as an interim measure. The rates for these essential utilities have not been increased for four years and yet our costs and capital needs continue to grow. By making gradual increases we intend to bring balance to the system. A new structure will be introduced later this year.

Community Support Grants: For those community groups who received support from the City last year, Council approved a motion that they can get up to 25% of their 2015 allocation in advance of this year's budget discussion. This is intended to help with cash flow. However, there is no guarantee that the money requested for 2016 will be granted. As always some tough decisions will have to be made given our limited resources. We request your understanding.

Miners' Hall Renovation: Council approved using \$100k from our land reserve fund to get us closer to funding the needed repairs to the roof and siding of the Miners' Hall. These exterior repairs are essential to maintain the integrity of our historic building.

Fire and Emergency Services Task Force: For many years Rossland councils have been concerned about the escalating cost of providing fire and emergency services to our community through the Regional District. A few years ago the Regional District commissioned a study but it did not present any concrete ideas for cost savings. Council has decided to convene a task force of local residents with relevant experience to bring a fresh perspective to the issue. Volunteers can fill out an application at City Hall.

Kootenay Car Share: The City will be signing up four employees to join the local car share. This will enable employees to use the car share vehicle to attend meetings and seminars instead of their own vehicles. If used enough, it will save the City money, and show leadership in our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

New Easy Peezy site: Council has approved the transformation of one City Hall restroom into a family friendly, Easy Peezy Station. This is a wonderful initiative lead by the Family Action Network (FAN) to make washrooms easily accessible for families with young children. A diaper changing station and step stool will be provided for the convenience of our youngest residents and visitors. It will be open to anyone during City Hall hours (9am-4pm M-F). Watch for the opening!

Washington Street update In preparation for the changes to the Washington Street corridor, the City has closed 4th, 6th and Turner where they intersect Washington Street until March 4th. We want to see how these potential closures will impact residents and traffic flow. As a part of the renovation plan these streets may be closed permanently but for now this is just a test. Let us know what you think by contacting City Hall.

Hospice Swimathon fundraiser: your Mayor and some members of Council will participate in the Swimathon fundraiser for the Greater Trail Hospice Society. Donations are appreciated and can be made at City Hall. Any donation over \$15 gets a tax receipt.

CBT Watersmart grant: We are applying for a grant so we can continue to upgrade some old water meters.

Food for thought: At future meetings Council will, or might consider: updating and simplifying our business license bylaw, changes to our Tax Exemption Revitalization bylaw, review of our fees and charges for recreation, comparing how other communities handle permissive tax exemptions and what types of organizations receive them, banning smoking in parks where children play. These are just a few of the interesting topics we might be discussing in the future. We'd love to have you join the conversation.

Did you know?

Miners' Hall Matching Fundraising Campaign!

Generous donors have offered to match community contributions to the Miners' Hall attic renovation dollar for dollar to a maximum of \$23,000. Every dollar you contribute will be instantly doubled! Help us double the amount of community space available in the Hall. The Reno will create a new 20' X 35' multipurpose room, a 20' X 15' meeting lounge, kitchenette, storage,

washrooms and a performers' green room in the undeveloped attic space on the fourth floor. Donate now to the Miners' Hall Fundraising account at NDCU or at City Hall. Or watch for our on-line campaign on the YODEL fundraising site <http://yodel.org>. Donations of \$25 or more qualify for a tax receipt. Interested in upping the ante and adding to the matching pot? Contact Renate 250-362-7217 or Ann 250-362-5617.

Skatepark news: There was an informative meeting held between members of Trail Council, Rosland Council and members of both the Rosland Skatepark Association and the Trail Skatepark group. Opportunities for collaboration were explored and all participants left with renewed appreciation for the hours of hard work and dedication that have gone into the proposals for both parks. Creating one park just won't serve either of our communities or our youth well but having two separate and different parks will really enhance our region and attract all wheeled enthusiasts. The Rosland group continues to fundraise and intends to break ground this spring. Both communities have been working on their projects for 20 years. It's time to see the dreams become a reality for our youth.

Museum & Discovery Centre Renewal update:

Fundraising continues for Phase 1: Thanks to all who came out for the Game Show; it raised \$1600. The Quilt Guild Raffle raised just over \$2000, bringing us to just \$800 short of the \$400,000 goal. Currently we are in the process of developing the construction documents. The project should be ready for tender soon.

Rosland Mountain Market needs board members & volunteers to help with the summer farmers' market. Interested? Contact Kathleen k6legs@yahoo.ca

Curious about the North Jubilee Park Wetland

project? Listen to the podcast interview with **Sustainability Action Hero** Rachael Roussin at <http://youcandothathere.libsyn.com/episode-1-how-anyone-can-help-clean-water-create-wildlife-habitat-and-save-your-community-money>

Be in touch! City Hall 362-7396

Reach Council through www.rossland.ca

Newsletters could be electronic but we need more people to sign up to receive them that way. Please go to www.rossland.ca. 'E-Mail Updates'

Next Council meeting: Monday February 22nd at 6pm. Come join us! You can come to the public input session at the start of our meetings and talk to us briefly or sign up to come as a delegation. All are welcome!