

## ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS February 2017

Issue #22

### Message from Mayor Kathy

This year's Winter Carnival was incredibly successful. I don't think we've ever had so many visitors! Many thanks to the organizers and all the volunteers who put in countless hours to make this event the best winter carnival ever. What a fine tradition for our town!

It's been fabulous to see all the new snow and the skiers that have come to town. Lots of people were here for the Under 16 races at Red Mountain early in the month, as the event filled town up with competitors, coaches and family and friends. Red Mountain continues to be an economic generator for our entire region.

I had a thoroughly enjoyable meeting with the CEO and President of the Columbia Basin Trust, Johnny Strilaeff. The Trust is very interested in learning more about each of the communities in the basin and the 13 focus areas they have identified through public consultation will serve our community well.

I recently went to Vancouver to meet with Minister Peter Fassbender to provide an update on Rossland and to talk about our need for grant support. We have applied for two large projects in 2017 that are "shovel ready". The underground infrastructure on Spokane continues to break; both the water and sewer lines are decrepit and have failed multiple times. Without grant support this project will have to be phased over several years which is neither cost effective nor efficient. The other project is a strategy to deal with inflow and infiltration into our sewer system. This is very important because with our partners, Trail and Warfield, we pay for wastewater treatment based on the flow contributed into the system by each partner. Right now, many of our old pipes allow massive seepage into the sanitary sewer. We don't want to pay to have ground water and storm water treated!

### Council News:

Council reviewed two papers compiled on the **Museum and Discovery Centre and the Arena**. Both papers highlighted the need for careful management of these facilities because while they are both important to the community, they both represent a large commitment of taxpayer money. The arena report in particular emphasized the need for more detailed and accurate information about users. This is information that we are now collecting in more detail and it will help inform future decisions. .

Council is moving forward with an **Arena Task Force** that will examine how we can make the facility more

sustainable in the long term. An ad announcing the formation of the group has been running in the local press. Please indicate your interest to City Hall if you would like to be a part of this exciting project. .

Council reviewed the excellent work done by the **Unlicensed Short Term Rental Task Force**. The recommendations intend to bring some certainty to how the City manages short term rentals such as AirBnB and others. The intent is to set up rules that are fair, provides choice for visitors, and maintains a level playing field for all types of accommodators. The recommendations will be circulated to other tourist accommodation providers for their comments. Many thanks to the Task Force members, who were representative of many segments of this industry for their diligent work researching what is happening in other jurisdictions and crafting some workable rules for Rossland. This is a challenge for many towns and hopefully our rules will provide helpful guidance for others.

Council approved a request from the **Rossland Mountain Bike Association** to groom a number of our urban trails for winter use. The group has purchased a hand driven machine for this purpose. Be sure to look for the volunteers on the trail and thank them for their efforts. This will make the trails more accessible for bikers, hikers, winter runners, snowshoers and skiers.

Council directed staff to express interest to **Columbia Basin Trust to host a Climate Action Community meeting**. Stay tuned for details. Everyone will be invited.

### Council heard a presentation by Ms. Audry Durham from the Trail and District Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber is organizing a Kootenay Healthy Lifestyles Expo May 6<sup>th</sup>. Featuring Mark Cullen as a keynote speaker, the event will be a trade show style, interactive event where people can get informed about healthy living. For more information see [www.kootenayhealthylifestylesexpo.com](http://www.kootenayhealthylifestylesexpo.com), or phone the Chamber at 250-368-3144.

**Emcon lot reboot!** Using a Provincial grant, Council has selected CTQ consultants out of Kelowna to help us attract investors to the mid-town transition area. Council's vision for the Emcon lot involves mixed public space and institutional space, and several groups have told Council they'd be interested in leasing office space there. We are also interested in developing the south side of Third Avenue facing the Emcon lot. CTQ will help cost out the type of development that fits the bill, and estimate what the City might be able to ask for the land. This will be the basis for a request for proposals to develop the site and lands around it. Watch this space!

### **Did you know?**

The Rossland Arena closes Sunday March 5! If you're interested in renting ice before then, log onto the City's website at [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca). Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Recreation Home" Then click on the big blue button that will take you to *Online Registration and Facility Scheduling* options. You can see what's available in the Arena if you look at the Schedule information and if any of those available times interest you, you can Create an Account and request ice through the Facility Reservation tab. Call the REC Dept. at 362 2327 if you're having any difficulty with your request.

The City of Rossland and our Heritage Commission are thrilled that the **Columbia Basin Trust has created a new Heritage Sector** which offers funding and support for the conservation of heritage places in the communities within the Columbia Basin. Rossland has long valued its authentic and *in situ* heritage as a visible connection to our colourful history. Our heritage plays an important part in defining our built environment. Our early boomtown construction days are a testament to entrepreneurship. The continuous occupancy of our heritage buildings speaks to the community's sustainability. By adhering to our Design Guidelines and encouraging the restoration of heritage buildings, Rossland has maintained its unique and charming personality. We're delighted that CBT recognizes the value of heritage in the basin, and we look forward to partnering with them.

**UPDATE: The Josie Hotel**, opening Winter 2017/18, will be Rossland's first regional boutique ski-in/ski-out hotel, welcoming guests year-round. Hotel amenities to include: ski concierge, spa, restaurant and bar as well as complete meeting, event and conference facilities. For more information or to enquire about careers go to: [www.thejosie.com](http://www.thejosie.com)

**The City of Rossland will be 120 years old this year!** Happy Birthday to us! Council is thinking about how to celebrate. Please send us your ideas!

### **The Library has new expanded hours!**

Tues-Thurs: 10am - 8pm and Fri-Sat: 10am - 5pm

### **Attention Rossland and Area Seniors**

A successful and well-attended meeting was held on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss seniors' needs in our community. The Age Friendly Lower Columbia (AFLC) is a project of our seven local governments and CBT. The goal is to work with seniors (55 years and over) to create communities where all seniors have access to desired activities and supports. By collecting information from local seniors we hope to create programs "for seniors, with seniors". For

more information contact Sandi McCreight, Coordinator: 250.365.7678; [agefriendlylowercolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:agefriendlylowercolumbia@gmail.com)

**Semaine de la Francophonie-** The BC francophonie flag will fly at City hall March 6-10 to recognize the diversity of our great country. Semaine de la Francophonie is an annual two week celebration across Canada showcasing francophone culture. Across the country, over 2500 activities are organized to celebrate the French language and culture. Locally some activities will be organized between the two robust Francophone programs in our schools and possibly something in participating restaurants for anyone interested in French-Canadian culture. Watch for details in the press.

**Residential home builders** are invited to an *EnergyStar for New Homes* workshop on Wed March 8 at the Prestige organized by the Sustainability Commission and the Community Energy Association. Learn about EnergyStar rating for new homes and BC's Energy Step Code. Earn CPD credits. Want more info? <http://communityenergy.bc.ca/energy-star-for-new-homes-builder-workshop/>

### **Tourism Rossland has a new Executive Director**

Many thanks to Deanne Steven for her decade of service in the role. Deanne was instrumental in launching Tourism Rossland and building it into the successful entity it is today. The new Executive Director will be Andras Lukacs. He comes to us from the Government of the Northwest Territories, where he worked as the Manager of Research and Planning for the Tourism and Parks division within the department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Andras holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago, where he studied leisure networks in digital media spaces.

The **Rossland Youth Service Group** is a group of amazing socially conscious young people who want to make a difference in the world. On Feb 24, they will be winter camping in Harry LeFevere Square to raise awareness about homelessness issues in our area and to raise funds for the Getting to Home Project. Based in Trail, the Getting to Home Project helps people who are homeless or at a high risk of being homeless to find housing and other services. Check out <http://rosslandyouthservice.yodel.org> to support this excellent project.

**Be in touch! City Hall** 362-7396. Contact Council through [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca)

### **Next Council meeting: Monday March 6th at 6pm.**

Come join us! All are welcome! Public input starts at 6pm- Briefly share your thoughts and concerns. For longer topics, get on the agenda as a delegation. Contact City Hall to learn how.