

## ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

August 2016

Issue #17

### Message from Mayor Kathy

At first with the rainy weather it seemed like it would never come but now summer is flying by! It's been fairly quiet for Council but we will start gearing up again for the fall. It's our intention to get a lot of the work on the financial plan done early this year. In September three of us will attend the Union of BC Municipalities annual convention in Victoria. I hope everyone has had at least a few weeks of rest and relaxation and is now ready to see the kids off to school and get back into all of our regular routines.

### Council News:

In an ongoing effort to make our community and our facilities sustainable into the future, Council gave 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading to a bylaw that will **increase the fees and charges at the arena** for the upcoming season. Our rates have not been adjusted since 2010 but of course the costs continue to rise. To help ensure the arena's viability for future generations our fees, which are significantly below what other arenas in the area charge, will increase to reflect local pricing and feedback from a sampling of users who have indicated they would be willing to pay more. Our cost recovery on the arena is very low. To further improve the financial performance of the arena, the ice season will be shortened this year as well, eliminating some under-utilized ice time expense to the City. The new rates will go into effect in January 2017. To read the staff report, go to pages 25 & 51 of the Aug 15<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda: <http://goo.gl/XoNWM8>

Our work on the **business plan report** for the arena continues and more users will be contacted to provide input on usage and ideas to make the facility more viable in the future. The City will be diligently tracking information on usage so we can operate as efficiently as possible in the future.

Council approved a rezoning and Official Community Plan amendment to allow the old **Rotary Health building** to take on a new life as a coffee roasting and tasting business. We are happy to welcome this thriving business to town. Several residents came to Council to ask about potential odor and parking concerns with the increased usage of the site. City staff and the new owner of the building were on hand to answer questions and alleviate concerns. Council discussed the possibility of amending the Good Neighbor Bylaw to prohibit bad odors. With the technology being deployed we hope this

will not be an issue but its good to have safeguards in place just in case.

**AMENDED Wildlife Attractant Bylaw.** In an effort to reduce bear fatalities (9 shot in Rossland in 2015) Council adopted an amended bylaw that requires residents to put trash in enclosed containers (a tight lid will do) on pick-up day, requires wildlife proof containers for longer term storage, and increases fines for violations. Minimum fine: \$100. Did you know that fruit fallen from your trees is required to be picked up within 3 days? Bears are again visiting town, please help make 2016 a year without a single bear fatality.

Council is determined to get our **5-year financial plan** work started earlier this year. Now, that we are fully staffed with a strong financial and administrative team, the planning has begun. Council directed staff to limit any required tax increase to no more than 5%. We had an earlier motion to seek cost reductions of \$250k in the 2017 budget. Even though we got significant grant money for the Washington St project, combining it and our share of the regional sewer pipe bridge would necessitate a 10% increase if we did not take a serious look at our expenditures and make some reductions.

Watch for more info on the upcoming online **Thoughtexchange** process to give us your ideas and feedback on what you value and how much you are willing to pay for it. This will be instrumental in our financial planning. We are looking forward to the results of this process that will gather feedback from a large, diverse group of stakeholders. Everyone is encouraged to participate. The process should be getting underway in early September once people return from holidays.

Council has created a **new task force** to address unlicensed short-term rentals. Thanks to all those who volunteered: Councillor Zwicker, Deanne Steven, Anthony Bell, Aerin Guy, Kimberley Pegg, Louis McBride, Jane Patterson and a yet to be named representative from Tourism Rossland's board of directors from will be participating.

**Washington Street update:** The project is moving along. It's back on schedule and on budget. The intent is to have the first layer of pavement up to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue laid down this week. Check our website for regular updates and traffic conditions. Traffic has been much more orderly but please continue to respect your neighbors by driving slowly and obeying all signage. Don't forget to support our local businesses on Washington Street: Idgies, the Shovel and Salon Kula are all eagerly waiting to serve you.

## Did you know?

**The Ministry of Transportation is rebuilding the retaining wall on Columbia Ave.** It's a project that has been on their "to do" list for a while. Construction is now underway and the expected completion date is mid October. There will only be one lane open for traffic so please drive with care.

Don't miss it! If you haven't seen the show "Love and Business," the last chance to enjoy the **Gold Fever Follies** is Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>. Show times are 3pm and 7:30pm at the old Bank of Montreal.

Many thanks to Roots Carpentry for the beautiful bridge that has been built at the **Jubilee Park Wetland**. The plants are thriving and wildlife has returned to the area. It will be a wonderful learning space for students once school is back in session.

**The Kootenay Gateway** has opened in downtown Rossland, (2118 Columbia) now information about local attractions and events is available downtown. The main info centre is located at the Museum as usual.

**Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming up in 2017.** All community groups interested in planning celebrations please contact [mayor@rossland.ca](mailto:mayor@rossland.ca). Let's do something fun to celebrate! Check out <https://150alliance.ca/home>

**Here is a message from the Rossland Mountain Market:** We would like to give a shout out and say THANKS to all those in the community who have become new Members of the Market! We are still accepting new members for 2016/2017 and we welcome you all to visit the Market booth on Thursdays to find out more information on how to support our awesome farmers' market. Also, we are excited to share that we are hosting a special Saturday Edition Farmers' Market outside of the arena during the Fall Fair! Come visit from 11:00 - 5:00 Saturday September 10th to stock up on farm fresh produce and local goods. September 12 - 18 is BC Farmers' Appreciation week, so be sure to visit the Market on Thursday, September 15th and share your appreciation with your favourite farmer!

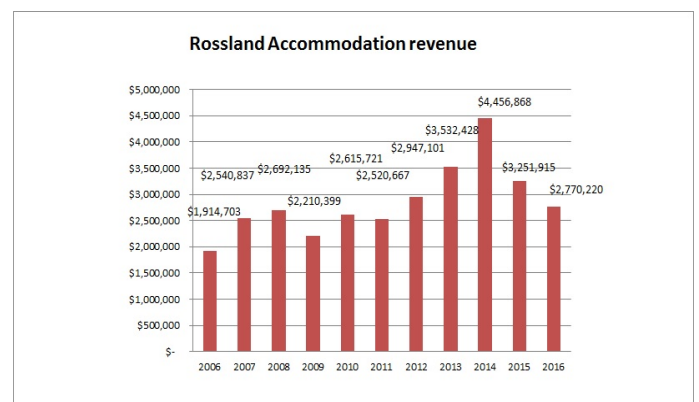
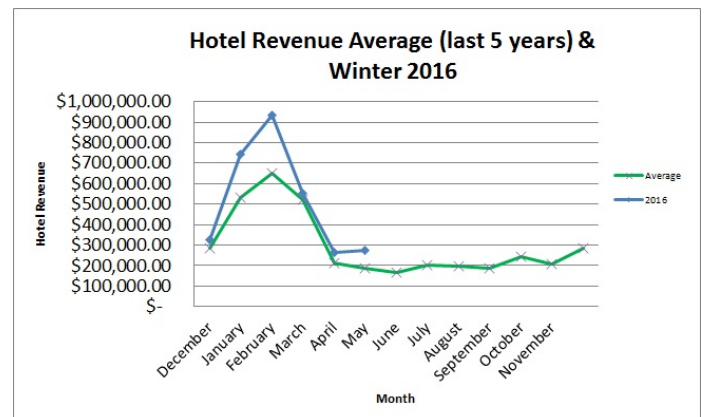
### Rossland Museum and Discovery Centre news:

Funding for Phase 1 of the Renewal is almost there! The plan: Go to tender in October and construction in February. The golf tournament fundraiser was a great success; thanks to all players and sponsors. Only two more weeks of summer camps remain and then it's back to school for all our student employees. The Museum will be open year round. Check the web site for Fall and Winter hours. <http://www.rosslandmuseum.ca>

### Here is an update from the Sustainability Commission and the Ecosociety:

Roughly 30 people from newborns to retirees came to view 12 Short Films on Sustainable Food and Farming. It was wonderful to see that caring about local food security in Rossland spans so many generations. Following the films, there was a lively discussion. We began to establish a sustainable food vision for Rossland in which everyone is growing food of some sort, and people of all ages are actively involved in local agriculture. The goal of this event was to spark conversation about local food security in Rossland and the West Kootenays. The sponsors were thrilled with the outcome.

**News from Tourism Rossland:** Rossland is experiencing our best year for Tourism (YTD- January to end of May) based on the Hotel Tax. The Tourism Rossland AGM is September Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at Redstone. All are welcome (Sorry the charts are small, if you view this newsletter on line you can magnify).



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

Contact Council through [www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca)

**Next Council meeting:** After the Labour Day holiday: **Tuesday September 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.

