

ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

MAY 2016

Issue #14

Note from Mayor Kathy

Council had lots of meetings this month: With the hard work of our Interim Manager of Finance, Steve Ash, and the diligence of the finance department staff, we got our five-year financial plan and our 2015 year-end reports completed and filed on time with the Province. This has not always happened in the past; many thanks are due.

I had the great pleasure of attending a book reading at the Rossland library by retired Nelson Councillor Donna Macdonald. Her new book, "Surviving City Hall," gives a true representation of what it's like to take on the role of elected public servant. I highly recommend it for anyone even remotely contemplating serving on council; or even just to become informed about how local government works. It's an informative and entertaining read.

Along with the mayors of Trail and Nelson, I enjoyed good dialogue and a tasty lunch hosted by Columbia Basin Trust. Funding for the very popular Community Initiatives Grants was discussed. CBT had recently reviewed the program and increased it by 15%. Our request for more funds will be deferred until the current program term expires. Rossland was allocated \$51k to distribute on requests of over \$125k. Hard choices had to be made.

Trail put on an outstanding Silver City Days celebration. I attended the induction of nine new honorees to the Home of Champions Monument including Kimberly Joines (Paralympic skiing) and Joe Zanussi (Hockey). The new coloured lights on the Trail bridge performed as advertised and the whole event was ably hosted by Rosslanders, Nadine Tremblay and Rupert Keillor. Councillors Greene, McLellan and I participated in the parade; many thanks to Colin Rintoul for the loan of his fancy sports car. Councillor Cosbey and I did our best in the Grape Stomp but we were soundly beaten by just about everyone. The events were well attended by the public and elected folks from all of our communities.

Council News:

Council had a lively discussion about **the regional liquid waste management planning process**. With the Federal government announcing large infrastructure grants for up to 50% of project costs, it makes sense that we move forward expeditiously with our plans. These are multi-year projects. There has always been an interest in having control of our own wastewater facility but in the end, we are going to push for more innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions at the regional

plant. The expense and hurdles of a standalone facility are just too great to tackle as a small city.

Council signed a cost sharing agreement with Ministry of Transportation for up to \$160k. This will cover needed infrastructure work next to the wall on Columbia- just down the road from the Miners Hall. The wall will be replaced by MoT this summer. One controlled lane for traffic will keep cars (and trucks) moving. This agreement is a good deal for Rossland because MoT will be picking up some of the costs of the City's underground services that need replacement.

Council approved an additional \$38k in reserves for the exterior renovation of **the Miners Hall project**. RCAC has received approval from their funders to move forward with tendering the 4th Floor/Interior work. With the building closed for the exterior renovation and the scaffolding in place, there is a lot of synergy and cost savings by doing both the exterior and 4th Floor/Interior renovation at the same time. The City and the Arts Council will continue to raise funds for the final segment of the project.

We approved a request from the **Rural Development Institute** to participate in a key initiative. The purpose of the RDI project is to pilot, evaluate, refine, and support uptake of the *State of Climate Adaptation and Resilience in the Basin* indicator suite. These indicators were developed in 2014 as a result of a research partnership between Columbia Basin Trust's Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative and the RDI. It is a "made in the Basin-Boundary" approach to measuring progress in adapting to climate change. Rossland has been a participant in all prior phases of the work. <http://www.cbrdi.ca/news/projects-2016-17/>

In another very exciting initiative, Rossland is participating in the local start-up, **Climate Change Disruptors'** data gathering project. By harnessing technology and big data collection techniques, CCD will provide factual based information to help governments worldwide reduce emissions and work to solve the intractable problems created by a changing climate. This initial stage will involve measuring the emissions of the City's fleet of vehicles.

The **Rossland Streamkeepers** requested a letter of support so they can pursue a grant to purchase monitoring equipment to measure flow and temperature on the creeks that supply our water. Many thanks to this industrious and dedicated volunteer group.

The Rossland News has started a "Volunteer of the Month" feature. Council applauds the effort and have committed to honoring all the monthly winners at an annual celebration. Be sure to submit your nominations.

Council endorsed a request that the Provincial Government of BC draft a **Poverty Reduction Strategy**. BC is one of the only provinces not to have created such a policy and unfortunately we have one of the highest rates of child poverty in all of Canada.

Council made some modifications to the **Rossland Mountain Market Society's** contract- giving them an extension to 2 years to provide some stability for the group as well as allowing them the use of Queen St. for some additional market days. Please shop local.

The organizers of the **Kootenay Carol's Children's Festival** got Council thinking about how we spend taxpayers' money. We supported this fundraiser in its inaugural year but we do not have a policy about waiving rental or facility fees for good causes or charities. For some of our facilities we have a non-profit rate but no waiver policy. We consistently waive fees for events that we deem to benefit the entire community such as Winter Carnival and Golden City Days. Events that benefit individuals or specific charities pose a unique challenge. Canadians are very generous and step up to donate to many causes that they view as important. Council should rightly hesitate making those decisions with taxpayers' money. As a result of this discussion, Council has decided this year to waive the rental fees but not the staff time required for the event and we have directed staff to draft a policy that we can follow in the future.

Washington Street update: The project is progressing on schedule and on budget. As expected we have found a number of leaks and broken pipes deep underground. Fixing these issues with new pipes and connections will help us reduce our water loss. Check our website or get on our email list for regular updates.

Did you know?

Fortis is offering the **Energy Conservation Assistance Program**. If you are eligible, you could get a free kit and up to \$8k worth of energy retrofits. This will reduce your household energy costs significantly. Check it out: <https://www.fortisbc.com/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/2015/Pages/FortisBC-expands-energy-conservation-assistance-program-for-electricity-customers.aspx>

"Downtown Rossland 1895-1900" Presented by Jackie Drysdale and the Heritage Commission. June 9th, 7pm at the Legion. Hear fabulous stories and information about our downtown in the boomtown era of gold mining; buildings, businesses and infrastructure! Don't miss it.

Rossland Carshare now has two vehicles: an automatic Ford Ranger 4x4 truck and a manual Toyota Matrix hatchback. New business or individual members welcome! More info? www.carsharecoop.ca

The Arts Council, with some help from city staff, has installed the latest sculpture on lease from the Castlegar Sculpture Walk. Be sure to check it out. "V-Formation" is located on the lot next to Mountain Nugget Chocolates.

The Rossland Public Library invites kids to join the fun and games at the 2016 BC Summer Reading Club. This year's theme is *Book a Trip!* Registration is free and starts at the library on June 1st. For more information: 250-362-7611 or info@rossland.bclibrary.ca.

Congratulations to the **Rossland Mountain Market and the Golden City Lions Club** both groups recently received their official non-profit society status. This will help their eligibility for grants.

The **Rossland Mountain Market** will start on Thursday June 2nd at its regular location on Queen Street beside the credit union, every Thursday from 3pm to 6pm. Join us for local fresh produce, value added foods, treats, music, all kinds of wonderful local creations and fun!

École des Sept-sommets will be one of four schools in BC to pilot a Junior Kindergarten class next year as part of a project developed by School District 93. The school will be accepting four year olds under the same criteria applied to its other students. The class will be play and nature based. Registration is open now.

Centennial Wetland update: The City of Rossland gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the **Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program** and the **Columbia Basin Trust** for their contributions to the Centennial Wetland Restoration Project. Thanks to Eva Cameron for her ongoing dedication, Stew Spooner for assessing the planned new trail route, Rory Belter and Andrew Bennett for collaborating to construct erosion control and sediment barriers at the bottom of the Advanced Bike Skills Park. Wetland restoration specialists, Thomas Biebighauser and Robin Annschild, are currently doing the final planning for the August restoration. Please respect the wetland.

Miners Hall, Museum and Library Fundraising Campaigns are still underway. Help support the facilities and projects you love by making a donation.

Check out the **fantastic fundraising video for the Miners Hall** done by assorted community members, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0ZxZxm7Hil&feature=youtu.be>

Be in touch! City Hall 362-7396
Reach Council through www.rossland.ca

Next Council meeting: Monday June 13th at 6pm.
Come join us! All are welcome!