

ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

September 2017

Issue #29

Mayor Kathy Moore was on a well-deserved break for part of this month (but is now back, and attending UBCM). Her Mayor's Message will return as of our next newsletter.

Council News:

The Spokane Street infrastructure improvement project is well advanced. All utilities and paving is done south of Columbia, and sidewalks will go in this week; lower Rossland residents can't wait! North of Columbia all water service is in and sewer and storm sewer will soon be completed and tested, with curbing slated for early October and paving October 10th. The project is on time and on budget!

Streetlight Improvement project. We are phasing in LED lights, and removing redundant or unnecessary lighting around town. This is happening in phases, with all of lower Rossland completed and upper Rossland slated for next year. In lower Rossland, look carefully at the lights around you. If you see bagged lights, those are slated for removal. If you are looking to have a light changed, retained or removed, contact us using the form at <http://www.rossland.ca/streetlight-improvement-project>. Council will meet in Committee of the Whole on October 10th to review the requests we've received (other than routine requests for changes that Public Works can handle), so please be sure to have us your input by then.

In other streetlight news, Council approved a staff recommendation to accelerate the LED transition of lights at Red Mountain (phase 5) this fall. While this was originally scheduled for 2018, we have the time and budget to do it now, and moving it ahead means we can start counting the cost savings this winter instead of waiting.

Recreation: Council has approved hiring a new Manager of Recreation and Events, as well as a part-time recreation coordinator. We lost our two long-serving part-time programmers this fall, and are hoping for patience with our interim arrangements as we make the transition. The new Manager will have a new stronger mandate to move the department forward, to make the most of our rich array of facilities: the arena (including the curling rink), the pool, Miner's Hall, parks and trails, as well as recreation programming. The deadline for

application is October 6th, and the job posting can be found on our website: www.rossland.ca. We intend to have the new Director in place by year's end.

The cost of **business licences** is coming down. The staff review of this policy turned up a host of recommendations to fine tune it. Among other things it found that Rossland licences were costlier than an inter-municipal licence that would also allow businesses to operate in Rossland (!) We lowered the cost for most businesses from \$200 to \$125, and cleaned the policy up more generally, for example specifying when invoices are payable, what the penalties are, and adding business categories to align with our new approach to short-term rental properties.

Mayor Moore, Councillor McLellan and our Chief Administrative Officer, Bryan Teasdale are in Vancouver this week for the **Union of British Columbia Municipalities' annual meeting**. This is a great opportunity for municipal leaders to meet, network, learn from our peers and express our priorities to the Provincial government. Topics to be promoted from our region include continued support from the Ministry of Transportation for the Highway 3 Mayors and Chairs Coalition road improvements. Also we will be meeting with the Ministry responsible for tourism to promote our destination development strategy that has been in the works for the past year. In addition we will be advocating for the continuation of the Resort Municipality Initiative that provides 14 BC resort communities some extra revenue to enhance our visitors' experiences. Another hot topic will concern the roll out of the legalization process for cannabis and the importance for local government to have some revenue sharing to cover increased costs in our community. With over 150 resolutions to consider, it will be a busy week.

Council has a little over a year left in its four-year mandate; time flies when you're having fun! This fall we will run through a scaled down **strategic planning exercise** that prioritizes what we still want to do in our last 12 months in office. If you want to give us your input, you can find the current 2016-2018 strategic plan at http://www.rossland.ca/document_archives?desc=strategic&category=All.

On that subject, it's not too early to think about **running for Council or Mayor!** Elections next year will be on October 20th. Talk to anyone on the existing Council to get an idea of the responsibility (and rewards) involved. Rossland has so many dedicated and talented people, and we only need seven of them to help guide the ship of state for the next term!

Did you know?

The friendly face of the City is changing! **Laurie Karn**, who many of you will know as the front line at City Hall, retired this month after more than nine years on the job. Anyone who has dealt with Laurie knows that her replacements have big boots to fill – she was an ever-friendly, calm and efficient presence behind the counter at City Hall. Please join us in thanking her for her many years of dedicated service, and in wishing her well in the next chapters of her life, now that she has even *more* time to devote to community volunteer efforts (all Rossland community organizations take note!). And welcome **Kathleen Dedamus**, who will be taking over many of Laurie's duties as the *new* friendly face of the City!

Construction of the **Rossland Skatepark**, located on the corner of 3rd and Washington, is well underway. The flat areas have been formed for some time, and the team is now working on shaping of the curves and sides – a process that should be complete within the next week. The design has been extensively reworked for the Rossland Skatepark Association by Andy Dobson of Folk Skateboards, who you'll see on site working the concrete, to make it more accessible to all levels of skaters and other wheeled enthusiasts. After more than 25 years of work to get a skatepark in Rossland, it's nice to see it coming together. But users will have to wait a little longer still to try it out – the concrete will need several weeks to cure properly. In the meantime, the crews will start working on landscaping.

Right next door, the **Youth Action Network (YAN) space** is also coming along. The building has been completely gutted and renovated inside, and now features a new roof. A huge amount of support has come from community volunteers on this project – a testimony to how important this organization is to the youth (and their families) of Rossland. But the YAN needs help on the final push! They are urgently looking for volunteers and donations. To donate, go to <http://yanreno.yodel.org/>. To volunteer, or to get more details on the project, check out the "New YAN Space Reno Project" link at www.rosslandyan.ca.

Registration closes October 28th for **Red Mountain's Hallocross** event – a Hallowe'en fun bike event that tests skill, endurance and costume excellence for all age groups and levels. See pictures from last year's event at <http://www.redresort.com/news/trick-treated-hallocrossed/>.

Rossland Public Library will celebrate its 78th birthday on Wednesday October 4th. Drop in any time from 4 – 7PM for cake and refreshments, and to learn more about the library's exciting ongoing plans to revitalize the space.

Rossland Council for Arts and Culture (RCAC) is planning a weekend of fun October 13-15th to open the newly-renovated **Miner's Hall!** Friday is an opening wine and cheese to thank all the sponsors. Later that night *The Canada Show* – a hilarious 60-minute history of Canada – will take the stage. Saturday night *The Devils You Don't* – a Nelson-based band "specializing" in Swing, Bluegrass, Old Country, Rock, Pop, and Disco will play (with opening act the wildly popular locals, *Sexton Blake*). On Sunday morning bring the kids to *The Purple Pirates* show. And Sunday night features a special Joe Hill Coffee House highlighting the winners of their singer-songwriter contest. Come check out the new decked-out Hall! For details check the RCAC website at <http://rosslandartscouncil.com/>.

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped pull off another great **Golden City Days and Fall Fair!** These events are the product of months of work and organizing, and this year was up to its usual standard of excellence and fun. Normally we wouldn't define a rainy day as great weather, but given the August drought this year, it was all good.

The **Rossland Museum and Discovery Centre** is getting a much-needed roof replacement. The work is now underway, and should be completed in two weeks. The job includes installing added insulation, which will cut down on our energy bills and our climate impact – a nice win-win.

If you have read all the way to this point, you deserve a good citizenship medal! It's interested people like you that make Rossland such a great place. Our apologies for this filler – when Kathy Moore comes back the newsletter will once again be overflowing with interesting news. Until then, enjoy a little white space!

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

Next Regular Council meeting: October 10, at 6pm
A committee of the whole meeting will be held at 4pm to review street light requests. 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.