

ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

November 2017

Issue #31

Message from Mayor Kathy:

Many thanks to the Legion for hosting our annual Remembrance Day celebration. It was a moving event with an excellent turnout at the cenotaph. I was also invited to attend the veterans' dinner and enjoyed the delicious cooking of the Legion Auxiliary. It was an honor to share a meal with our local veterans and sobering to see how small the group has become over the years.

Our Chief Administrative Officer, Bryan Teasdale and I were invited to speak at the BC Asset Management conference in Vancouver. It was a very interesting conference. Our presentation focused on how a small town like Rossland has been able to take steps to manage our city assets in a planned and fiscally prudent manner. Asset management is a journey, not a destination and we are working towards establishing our policies, creating our inventory, calculating lifecycle costs and linking it all to our financial planning process. It's not a short-term project but it will provide long-term benefits.

I was invited to participate in a panel discussion about women in power at the Women in Business luncheon in Trail. What a dynamic group! I am happy to say that Rossland is well represented by a group of very talented and energetic women entrepreneurs in the Lower Columbia area. Ladies, you rock!

I am happy to announce that **Kim Deane** has been selected to receive the coveted **Senate of Canada 150 Medal**. On behalf of Senator Nancy Greene Raines, the medal will be presented at our December 14th council meeting at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Kim is being honoured for his years of dedication to the development of outdoor recreation, on projects such as his work to establish the Rossland Recreation Area, the Friends of the Rossland Range and the Seven Summits Trail. Of course, Kim modestly views this as an award to the whole community and he is correct; countless volunteers have been involved over the years.

Council News:

Council heard from a number of informative delegations this month: A library board member detailed the wonderful activities during 2017 at the library. The seniors group is requesting more recreational opportunities. The Heritage Commission requested, and received, support to pursue a grant opportunity to create a Heritage Management Plan.

Representatives from the **Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation (LCIC)** presented their impressive 3rd Quarter report. LCIC is the economic development office that works on behalf of the communities of Rossland, Warfield, Fruitvale, Montrose, Trail, Area A and Area B. Their goal is to raise awareness of our region to attract, retain and expand businesses. They were instrumental in several big projects recently such as **metaltechalley**, a branding project that is garnering a lot of interest in the metallurgical sector. They have also been reaching out to contacts and fielding a lot of calls from serious investors who are becoming aware of the benefits

of doing business in our region. This is a real regional success story. All of the local governments contribute modest funds for core funding for the office and this funding is heavily leveraged.

Council also received a presentation from Urban Systems, our consultant on **the asset management project** we have undertaken. The presentation was a very informative update on the steps that have been taken to date. First, it's important to start with an assessment of the information that we already have- there is no sense in reinventing the wheel! Next, we needed to adopt some sensible policies and develop a capital prioritization framework and data capturing procedures that will help guide the City into the future. The cycle continues with the development of an asset management plan that is tied to our ability to pay for the investment required. To do that we need to consider the expected lifecycle of all our assets. We need to think about both the risk and consequence of failing infrastructure. The level of service that is both a combination of what we want and what we can afford must be considered too. There are many other factors that figure into this complex masterplan.

It is important to this Council that the Asset Management Plan be one that can last for years and will provide a solid basis for sensible decision-making for decades to come. Much of the infrastructure throughout Canada is at, or near, the end of its useful life and critical investment has been woefully neglected. By establishing good asset management policies and practices we hope to insure the longevity of our infrastructure and create a long-term plan for the benefit of our community.

Our building inspector's report indicated that we have 31 new homes or multiple family dwellings under construction in Rossland this year. That is a substantial amount of residential development since we usually only see about eight to 10 new homes a year. Next year is already looking to be busy! We're growing!

Council recently adopted a **new policy regarding short-term rentals** (stays of less than 30 days). The policy complements the changes we recently adopted to our business license bylaw as well as our zoning bylaw and our Official Community Plan. The policy also lays out some details that everyone interested in offering short term rental accommodations should become familiar with.

Please contact City Hall to review the full document but here are a few highlights: Only one short-term rental will be allowed per block in the old Rossland settlement area and throughout most of Redstone. The rules are different for the Red Mountain area and around the clubhouse at Redstone. The total number of short-term rentals allowed will be limited to 5% of our total housing stock. Applications will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis. Other factors to be considered are density in the applicant's neighborhood, parking considerations, proximity to commercial areas and public transportation corridors, as well as potential impacts on affordable housing in the community. Owners must also post contact and business license information on all online booking platforms as well as be compliant with all bylaws, including paying the relevant municipal charges.

Recreation: The City is pleased to announce that we have hired Kristi Calder as our Manager of Recreation and Events. A Recreation Coordinator will also be hired shortly. Our new manager has a strong mandate to move the department forward for creative recreation and event programming, as well as facility management.

Did you know?

Please remember to get your vehicle off the street so the snow plows can make the roads safe and clear for everyone. Cars are meant to be parked off the street on your own property. If that just isn't possible remember your vehicle must be moved every 24 hours and can be ticketed.

Water meter reading snafu: The last few months have been based on consumption history estimates because we have been experiencing radio frequency interference from an external source that is disrupting the signal. After a lot of troubleshooting, it was discovered that this was the root of the problem. Now that we know what the issue is, we are exploring options to correct it, but it will still be necessary to continue to do estimates in the meantime. Thank you for your patience.

Get ready to **Rekindle the Spirit of Christmas** in downtown Rossland on Saturday Dec 2nd from 10 am – 5 pm. Boutique shopping, Reindeer Prance, tree lighting, carolers, artisans, food vendors, and the gift basket draw! Fun for the whole family so don't miss it.

The Library will be holding a baking and book sale - Books & Sweets. Stories & Treats - on the lawn, December 2nd, 11:30 - 3:30. Library holiday hours: Closed December 24 - 26 & 31 and January 1st. Open 27 -30 December noon - 5pm. Speaking of the library, did you know that participation levels at the library have tripled over the last few years? The children's programs are fun and very successful. The public computers get a real work out with more than 1,100 people using them so far this year. Congrats to a well-run, well-used facility!

Looking for a Christmas gift idea? Consider one of the three Heritage Commission's publications about Rossland's history and heritage for a friend or family. Ross Thompson's history just published! All available at City Hall, the Museum and Library.

Come visit the **Rossland Museum and Discovery Centre**. Winter hours are Wednesday-Saturday 12-5pm. AGM – November 30th @ the museum @ 6:30. Here is some exciting news: The museum is hosting a travelling exhibition in the newly renovated space from the Juno Beach Centre called "From Vimy to Juno" covering the Canadian experience during and between WWI & WWII. Arriving mid-December until mid-February. The museum is looking for local content contributions – stories, photographs, and objects. Contact Museumdirector@rosslandmuseum.com if you have some items to contribute on loan. If you haven't been up to the museum since the renovations, check out the photo record of the new spaces: www.RosslandMuseum.ca/renewal-project/phaseone-photos

Youth Action Network all ages fundraiser presented by Powderhound Sports. Screening of the freeski film THIS IS HOME and hilarious competitions for fabulous FACTION swag with host Phillus Dillus. Friday Dec 1st at 6:30 pm - Miners Hall. Tickets \$5 for U16 youth and \$10 adults at Powderhound.

Rossland Council for Arts and Culture is on a Roll! After several very popular and successful music, art and comedy shows this fall, the RCAC is looking forward to bringing an exciting winter program to Rosslanders and visitors alike. Their new website is ready! Please check out <http://rosslandartscouncil.com/> for upcoming events and note the brand-new membership support and sign up page. You'll be hearing more very soon about the New Membership Drive, valid for all of 2018. All existing and new members will be entered in the draw for many cool prizes in Rossland!

Remember- this might impact you: The new business license bylaw has now been adopted. A big change is that fees have been reduced (most down from \$200 to \$125) and new rules have been put in place for operators of short-term rentals. Please check with City Hall so you know what is expected if you want to operate a short-term rental. It is in your best interest to follow the new rules as non-compliance will result in some hefty fines.

Congrats to Seven Summits Learning center- They recently received a grant of \$5,000 from Telus to establish a robotics program. This school is doing great things! In addition, they celebrated the grand opening of their new, bigger school at the United Church. What an innovative way to share space in the community!

More congratulations are in order: **KAST (The Kootenay Association for Science and Technology)** has been awarded a BC Rural Dividend grant in the amount of \$100k to support their technology talent attraction project in four communities, including Rossland. Join the Rossland Tech & Knowledge Workers Facebook group here: www.facebook.com/groups/1649467268401356/ Congratulations - yet another credit to our booming Kootenay tech sector!

Unfortunately, this info is arriving a bit too late due to our beautiful early snowfall, but just in case you can still get into your garden, here are some tips from CKISS: **Garden Cleanup: What should you do with those invasive plants?** It's that time of year that we start to get our lawns and gardens ready for winter. One way you can help prevent the spread of invasive species is by properly disposing of garden waste. Dead-head and properly dispose of invasive plant seeds, seed heads or fruit prior to flowering and seed maturity.

All landfills within the RDCK and RDKB accept invasive plant species for free. Ensure your material is bagged in clear plastic bags and notify the attendant that you have invasive plant species. Plants must be identifiable through the bag. Do not dump garden waste in public parks, natural areas, or roadsides. It is ILLEGAL to do so and is associated with hefty fines. Avoid putting invasive plants in your compost, as they can contaminate it. IMPORTANT: Knotweed cannot be controlled by digging, cutting, or burning. These methods have been proven to be ineffective and may actually contribute to its spread. Mechanical control of Knotweed is not recommended. Knotweed can only be effectively eradicated with chemical control – for more information please [visit this link](https://ckiss.ca/action/in-the-garden/). (<https://ckiss.ca/action/in-the-garden/>)

Remember: It's not too early to **think about running for mayor or council!** Next election will be Oct 20, 2018. Contact any existing council member to learn about the responsibilities and rewards. Rossland has so many dedicated and talented people. It only takes 7 to help guide this ship of state. Be a part of the continued success of the community you love!

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

Next Council meetings: THURSDAY December 14th, at 4pm. COW - We will be discussing our strategic plan and 2018 grant in aid requests. **6pm REGULAR** – We will be holding a public hearing on our financial plan amendment bylaw, and then be reviewing some capital elements of the new financial plan. Come join us! All are welcome.