

ROSSLAND CITY HALL NEWS

Issue 1 2011

February 2011

Greetings from your Mayor and Council

We hope you are enjoying this brisk winter weather. Here are some items coming across the council table.

News Update

Washington Street and Columbia Ave Project

In conjunction with the Ministry of Transportation's plans to repave Columbia Ave, the City of Rossland is looking to redo the aging water and sewer pipes beneath both Columbia and Washington.

Like the majority of Canadian cities, Rossland has not invested sufficiently in infrastructure renewal over the many decades. Other than small reserve funds, all tax revenues collected by the city go to paying for day to day operations, not into rebuilding aging infrastructure. Now there are many infrastructure projects that need repair and renewal.

Since only 19 citizens objected to the loan through the recent Alternative Approval Process, the City has the authority to borrow up to \$6M dollars for this project. It is anticipated that the actual amount borrowed will be less. The next step is for the City to award a contract for an engineering report that will provide more information on what is needed, the proposed design and what the actual costs will be.

The City will keep Rosslanders up to date on the project. In addition, Council will ensure that communication is open and that all views are heard. The goal is to complete the project with as little negative impact as possible.

TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ROSSLAND

- Leave your car at home – walk whenever possible.
- Save energy: Turn out lights and turn down the heat
- Save paper: Use double sided printing if you can

Financial Plan

City staff has prepared this year's edition of Rossland's Five Year Financial Plan. The long-awaited infrastructure plan will be completed soon, which means that realistic projections for infrastructure renewal will be in the plan. Meetings were held on Jan 31, and Feb 7th to discuss aspects of the plan. Future public meetings will be held on the budget. As always the public is encouraged to attend.

Arena Update

The Rossland Arena was built in 1953 and the Curling Rink added in 1958, much of the work done by volunteer labour and donated materials. The Arena has been home to a great many community events. With the recent updates the facility will continue to serve the community for years to come, and remain an edifice to Volunteerism in our Community.

The grant award by the Federal Government, along with the reserve fund transferred back to Rossland after the

dissolving the Regional recreation service, contributed \$770K to the project. Council also approved updates required to insure public safety as well as the heating system. The building is now up to code.

The roof structure was not designed to hold snow, in order to insure the snow would slide without damaging the new membrane, all pipes and vents protruding through the roof had to be relocated. A new boiler system was added, replacing the 3 inline and very inefficient, 987,000 MBTU units with 2, state of the art, 239 MBTU, direct vent, on demand units. This replaces the change room heating system and a new air exchange system was added.

In order for the new roof membrane to operate properly some structural upgrades were made to the curling rink. This allowed for replacing the curling rink ceiling with a permanent ceiling to aid with dehumidification of the building. The lighting system was upgraded to new high-efficiency fixtures.

The entire project came in at just over \$1M, of which \$250K will be financed over 5 years. This was a very successful project insuring our arena serves Rossland for years to come.

Neighborhoods of Learning

Council has endorsed the report submitted to the school board, developed by the Neighbourhoods of Learning (NoL) and Visions for Small Schools (VSS) group. The full report can be found here:

<http://vssrossland.wordpress.com/latest-news/>

The NoL is hosting an informative meeting for the community on Tuesday March 1st at 6:30pm in the RSS gym. This important meeting will explain the options presented to the school board in the report as well as feature special guest speakers from other K-12 schools. Come learn about the opportunities, challenges and benefits of existing K-12 schools. The evening will also address why the status quo is not an option for Rossland. Our community needs to look seriously at the proposal of moving K-12 into the RSS building. Don't miss this event.

The school board's Planning for the Future Focus Group Meeting for Rossland takes place the next night, Wednesday, March 2, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the RSS gym. SD20 trustees and staff want to hear our educational goals and ideas. Both of these meetings are critically important. Please try to attend.

Rossland Museum and LeRoi Mine

Are you one of the many who visited the museum during the Winter Carnival? Thanks to everyone who dropped in. We will be open February 19 & 20 from 1-5 p.m., and in March (date TBA). Groups of 5 or more can arrange a museum tour by contacting the museum. Our archivist is available for research on Mondays and Thursdays. Please phone for an appointment.

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The Museum appreciates all the community support during the Museum Select Committee process. It was great to gather lots of ideas on how to move forward. We are currently reviewing the Committee's recommendations and preparing lots of exciting and interesting programs and services. The Board of Directors encourages everyone to share their ideas and their energy. Volunteer opportunities include the Friends of the Museum, and joining a committee (Education, Displays, Promotion and Marketing, Membership, Finance and Maintenance). Contact us for details on how you can be part of our history's future! Watch for all the latest from the museum around town, in the newspapers, the City newsletter, Rossland Recreation, and, of course, the museum website. Contact us: 250-362-7722
museum@rossland.ca www.rosslandmuseum.ca

Recreation Update

Council has voted to once again set aside \$20k to help offset the increased costs for Rossland groups using the Trail recreation facilities. Non-profit societies serving children, disadvantaged people or seniors are all welcome to apply. While we recognize there are two sides to this issue, we must consider the wellbeing and tax dollars of the entire community. It does not make fiscal sense to both support our extensive recreation programs and facilities in Rossland **and** send our taxpayer's money down the hill to support Trail's facilities. Not including capital improvements or grants to other organizations originally funded by the RDKB (eg. the library). The City taxes roughly \$107 per average household on parks and recreation, the same amount per household on snow plowing and roughly \$45 for library services. These are large numbers for a community of our size. Please remember that 90% of our tax revenue comes from residential property owners.

Heritage Commission

Rossland's official Heritage Registry is now completed and available for viewing on the City website. Work on the Registry is ongoing with the addition of pictures, more statements of significance and related articles and information as staff time permits.

Signage for the Columbia Cemetery in Happy Valley will be erected this spring and work to enable people to more easily locate family members continues. Later this spring the Commission is looking forward to the official opening of the Louie Joe Trail in Lower Rossland - a tribute to the last Chinese vegetable peddler in town.

Sustainability Commission

The commission has a new manager, a new website, a new newsletter, and lots of action planned for 2011. See www.visionstoaction.ca for details.

Are you interested in energy, Rossland's watershed, local economic development or affordable housing? All

task forces are open to new members- contact Lea for details: leathout@visionstoaction.ca

Policies, Procedures, Bylaws and Resolutions: In an effort to modernize the corporation and bring the City's policies and procedures in to compliance with current legislation and best practices, and based on recommendations from city staff, council has been approving updated policies for city operations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Water Meters: All water users have until December 2011 to install water meters in their homes and/or businesses. Future water rates will benefit metered users. *Please note:* Water meters are available at no charge from the city. Residents are responsible for all installation costs. Call City Hall for a list of installers.

While not required, homeowners can also get a \$50 rebate for replacing one low-flush toilet purchased after April 2008. Bring receipts to City Hall. Toilet rebates are offered for residential single family dwellings only.

Gentle reminders: Please be a good neighbor and do not burn plastics, styrofoam, or construction debris inside your home. These products create toxic smoke which is a health hazard. Council has enacted an outdoor burning bylaw in order to protect air quality. Rossland also has a no idling bylaw. Please turn your engine off and preserve our air quality. Also, remember- dogs are not allowed downtown on Columbia. There have been some unfortunate incidents.

Curious about when to shovel your roof? Snow loads are lower than usual this year. Check out the city's website for updated information and advice about when to shovel.

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Council Meeting Dates:

7pm at City Hall

Feb 28- Regular council meeting

Mar 7 – COW Meeting – Tax and Utility rates

Mar 14- Regular council meeting

Mar 28 Regular council meeting

WEBSITE & PAPERLESS NEWS:

Sign up for email news from the City & save paper.

Contact traceybutler@rossland.ca