
ROSSLAND CITY HALL NEWS

Issue 3

May 2009

Greetings from your Mayor and Council

These few rainy weeks haven't stopped City Hall:

RECENT ACTIONS & LOOKING AHEAD

Development Cost Charges (DCCs): You are invited to a public consultation on the proposed changes to our DCC bylaw. DCCs affect the charges levied on developers to cover the added costs of new infrastructure, services and amenities. The report on this bylaw is available on the city website. Council will consider citizen's input and move the bylaw forward on **May 26, at 7pm, in the Miners' Hall.**

2009 Budget and 5 Year Financial Plan:

The 2009 budget focuses on sustainability, water conservation and infrastructure funding. This is the first budget since the dissolution of the regional recreation service. Therefore, residents will notice a shifting in taxation from the Regional District to the Municipality for the provision of a local recreation service. Council also approved a minimal increase in the "combined" municipal tax rates (property taxes, parcel taxes, and utility rates) for the average home. So, even though there were increases in the utility and parcel tax rates, these have been offset by a slight decrease in the property value tax rate.

Active Transportation Plan: Stewart Spooner developed an Active Transportation Plan, designed to make Rossland more walkable and reduce our dependence on cars for local errands. His informative and very thorough presentation to Council on May 11th will be considered for adoption at the May 25th regular meeting. This plan, which was funded 100% by a grant from the Built Environment Active Transportation fund, represents a long term commitment to developing urban routes and pathways to create a more sustainable community.

Zoning bylaw- Our current zoning bylaw is being updated to align with our OCP and the Strategic Sustainability Plan. Meeting dates TBA.

Recycling News: The pilot program for some local businesses will begin in two weeks, expanding to others as the logistical challenges are worked out.

Recreation facilities in Trail: Due to the dissolution of the regional recreation agreement, Trail is considering increasing user fees for all non-residents. Rossland will continue to negotiate with the City of Trail in order to reach an equitable solution that meets the needs of Rossland residents.

Excuse our dust: The front office of City Hall is being remodeled to accommodate our recreation department and better serve our citizens. Many thanks are due to staff for their input into the design.

Spring Clean-Up was a big success. Approximately 40% of Rossland households took part. Thanks to all who participated – putting yard waste out for pick-up reduces the need for burning.

Rebates related to water conservation: At the **May 25 Council meeting**, Council will consider a draft policy regarding rebates on residential water meters and low-flush toilets. The goal of this policy is to use funding from the Operating Budget and the Community Works Fund - Gas Tax Grant to assist single family residences and strata units to install water meters by December 31, 2011 and to have older homes in Rossland convert to low flush toilets. This will allow residents to pay only for the water they use; promoting water conservation and better tracking and measuring of water usage across the City. An information flyer will be sent to all post boxes once the policy is adopted.

TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ROSSLAND

1. Avoid single use cups; Take a reusable "go cup" to your favorite coffee shop.
2. Use drip irrigation instead of over head spray.
3. Compost at home.
4. Grow enough veggies to preserve for winter.
5. Walk and bike more to do your errands!

Sustainability Commission: The Sustainability Commission and Task Forces are developing their communications plan, guiding principles, protocols and a strategic plan. Funding applications are being prepared for research projects relating to water and housing needs. Research is underway regarding the economic contributions of mobile entrepreneurs. The Sustainability Commission has also received funding to undertake a pilot project to develop a suite of sustainable indicators to integrate into the city's Strategic Sustainability Plan. Public events relating to this project will be scheduled soon.

Adapting to Climate Change: Rossland has been asked to consider participating in an innovative CBT program for adapting to climate change. Discussions are beginning amongst staff, Council, and the Sustainability Commission. Watch for more news over the summer.

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Conferences: Councillor Smith reported on the Building Sustainable Communities conference, stressing the need for communities to adapt to our changing world and offering specific and innovative ideas. Councillors will be attending the Carbon Neutral Climate Change 101 and a meeting of the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC).

Procedures, Bylaws and Resolutions:

- ❖ Council has passed bylaws for the 2009 utility rates, water and sewer parcel taxes, Red Mountain Specified Area taxes and the municipal tax rates.
- ❖ Council is updating the bylaw that governs our meetings. One of the proposed changes involves instituting a public input session at regular Council meetings.
- ❖ Council sent a letter to the RDKB expressing support for a community composting facility. A regional facility would help reduce waste in the landfill. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to learn about home composting. Check out waste reduction at www.rdkb.com
- ❖ To support food security, Council passed a resolution prohibiting genetically modified plants and trees within our city boundaries.
- ❖ Regarding Independent Power Projects, Council passed a resolution requesting proper environmental assessment, monitoring and enforcement processes for all IPPs; an equal voice for local governments in the decision making process, and maintenance of BC's surface water as a public resource. This resolution and the food security resolution will be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities for consideration at the upcoming UBCM convention in September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New officer: We are pleased to announce that our Manager of Finance, Deb Timm has accepted the position of Interim CAO. Congratulations Deb!

The search is on: Grant Smith of Waterhouse Executive Search has been retained to find a new CAO for Rossland. Waterhouse is an experienced firm and we look forward to interviewing a number of qualified candidates soon.

Pitch-In Canada: Many thanks to all who took part. Over 260 students, including the Sparks, helped to clean up. Over 25 bags of garbage and 10 bags of recyclables were collected. 28 volunteer hours were

spent picking up dog-poo on the trails. About 25 people came out to see the movie "Be the Change."

Doggie Don't: Please be a responsible pet owner; pick up after your pooch. A new doggie bag dispenser and secure trashcan will be installed at the Rail Grade trailhead. Please use it and keep our trails pleasant for all.

Gentle reminders: In our efforts to be carbon neutral and maintain our clean air, Council enacted a burning bylaw and an anti-idling bylaw. Please comply with the regulations. See website for details.

You are invited! Council wants to hear from community groups- just an update on what you're doing even if you don't have a compliment, issue or complaint for the city. Please check in with Tracey Butler to get on the City's contact list, and/or to set a date for informing Council about your activities.

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COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

7pm at City Hall (unless otherwise noted)

May 25- Regular Council meeting

May 26 – Public consultation for DCC bylaw at the Miners' Hall

June 1 & 2 - Committee of the Whole: Review of Recreation strategy

June 8 - Regular Council meeting

June 22 - Regular Council meeting

WEBSITE & PAPERLESS NEWS:

Tired of junk mail?? Sign up for email news from the City & ask Canada Post to hold your junk mail.

Contact Traceybutler@rossland.ca

Please check our website for an up-to-date calendar, meeting minutes, Rossland Recreation programming and much more. www.rossland.ca

We encourage your feedback- contact us.