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# ROSSLAND CITY HALL NEWS

Issue 2

April 2009

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## **Greetings from your Mayor and Council!**

Spring is in the air, and there is much to do! Here are some things that we've been working on:

## ***RECENT ACTIONS***

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**City Budget:** The 2009 budget has been approved. Council and staff worked hard to meet the needs of the community while keeping costs down. Details can be obtained from City Hall, but highlights include: Holding the budget as close as possible to last year's figures despite rising costs; \$10k for a study to ensure the future of our schools; \$71k to fund sustainability efforts; \$41k for water flow measurements on our creeks to facilitate the creation of a water management plan; \$20k for the Kootenay Columbia Trails Society; \$30k to Tourism Rossland and last, but most importantly, nearly \$870k for infrastructure projects, some left over from previous years. Our water, sewer and roads all need attention, and the city has been building reserves and actively pursuing grants for these projects. More details in our May newsletter.

**Grants:** Rossland has recently received the following grants: \$400,000 to rebuild the water intake at Topping Creek and \$20,000 to build a connector trail from Centennial to Columbia Avenue (part of our Active Transportation Plan). Other grants are in the works, including one associated with the planned Columbia Avenue infrastructure upgrades in 2010.

**Inter-municipal agreement:** Rossland has entered into a fee-for-service agreement with the Village of Warfield to assist with the operations and maintenance of Warfield's water treatment plant and training of their staff.

**RDKB Update:** Councillor Wallace is Rossland's representative on the RDKB Board of Directors. The intermunicipal sewer system, shared by Trail, Warfield and Rossland is currently under review regarding the state of the system, cost sharing and future improvements. Rossland's Emergency Preparedness Plan, which includes a Community Wildfire Plan, is being refined. Jason Ward is the designated staff person. Does your family have its own Emergency Plan? Much info is available on the Provincial Emergency Program website: [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca). Contact Councillor Wallace with your questions concerning the Regional District.

**Recycling News:** At council's urging the RDKB is working with the Rossland Chamber of Commerce to establish a pilot recycling program for our business community. Watch for details.

**Fire department:** Councillors Wallace, Smith and Moore attended an information session with the Rossland fire dept that resulted in several recommendations to city staff. Our Fire department does a terrific job and is always looking for new members. Contact Chief Woodhouse 362-5412.

**Retaining Walls:** Council amended bylaw #2440, to manage the height, placement and materials used for retaining walls in order to maintain the look and character of town. This bylaw will reduce excessive cut and fill construction as well as high retaining walls that interfere with viewscapes. A variance application can be used for special circumstances.

**Recreation Dept recommendations:** Council has received the task force report on the best uses for the Miners Hall and a report recommending improved efficiencies and fees for the City's recreational facilities. Final recommendations, budget considerations and a new bylaw will be presented by staff. Meeting dates TBA.

**Heritage Commission:** This new group has been established to enhance and preserve our historic sites. Volunteers Jackie Drysdale, Larry Doell, Vince Profili, Chick Gresley-Jones and Robert Kerby will lead the way, with Councillor Smith as liaison.

**Design Review Panel:** The city is pleased to announce that three citizens have been appointed to the panel: Arnel Wiebe, Ken Turner and John Howes.

### **TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ROSSLAND**

1. Install a water meter; use less and pay less too.
2. Install low-flush toilets to conserve more water
3. Get a water barrel & use rain water for your garden
4. Stop idling (please!)
5. Use a reusable bag to reduce plastic waste.

**Sustainability Commission:** Council and the Sustainability Commission are pleased to announce the hiring of Jennifer Ellis. As the SC's part-time manager, Jennifer will assist Task Force and Commission members in their efforts to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Sustainability Plan. Other good news, the city received a \$5000 grant for the Sustainability Commission's Affordable Housing Strategy project. Watch for the SC's newsletter and see our website for more information.

**Partners for Climate Protection Program:** The City has joined this federal program for municipalities working to reduce their carbon footprint and green house gas emissions. Councillor Moore is liaison.

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## **LOOKING FORWARD**

**Development Cost Charges (DCCs):** Council is reviewing our DCC bylaw, which affects the charges levied on developers to cover the added costs of new infrastructure, services and amenities in the future. The report on this bylaw is available on our website. Our first public consultation is tentatively scheduled for late May. Watch for meeting details.

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

**Active Transportation Plan:** Using grant money, Stewart Spooner has developed an Active Transportation Plan, designed to make Rossland more walk-able and reduce our dependence on cars for local errands. Presentation to council: May 11

**Council's requests to City staff:** Council has asked city staff to address a variety of subjects including: options for a 30m setback in riparian areas; a full summary of the costs for the Ophir reservoir project; rewrite the procedure bylaw (to include public input and other improvements); a report on the costs & benefits of establishing our independent emergency service and much more.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CAO Ron Campbell** has decided to leave his employment with the City of Rossland. Mr. Campbell leaves us with a strong management team, and Council thanks him for his many accomplishments. The search for a new CAO will begin immediately.

**2009 Utility Invoices:** Annual invoices for Water, Sewer & Garbage services were mailed; deadline for payment was April 20th. Residents who do not yet have a water meter will be charged a flat rate. Residents who have meters and conserve their water use can expect to pay less than non-metered users.

**CBT Community Initiatives Program Funds:** The CBT allocated \$44,700 to Rossland for distribution to community groups. 33 grant requests were submitted, totaling \$137,000. At a special meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> Council had the challenging task of allocating the funds to best serve our community. Check our website for the awards.

**Spring Clean-Up** is coming! Watch for notices in your mail box.

**House Numbers:** Make sure your house numbers are visible from the street- this is an important safety tip from our emergency responders that could help save lives –maybe yours!

**Parcel Tax Review:** The Parcel Tax Roll is available for review in City Hall. Deadline: April 23 at noon to lodge a complaint. Drop in to check it out.

**Snow plowing expense:** Rossland is proud to announce that in a recent comparison, our public works department is one of the most cost effective when it comes to snow removal!

**Pitch-In Canada** will be celebrated in Rossland *April 20- May 3<sup>rd</sup>*. including : the "**20 Minute Make Over**", Maclean students clean-up day, "**Be the Change**" film, and the "**Doggie DooWaa**". Look for posters and check the bhubble site for details.

**Regional municipal conference:** BC municipalities meet regionally to discuss issues affecting their areas and vote on resolutions which will be sent onward to the UBCM and possibly to the provincial government. Rossland is sending several councillors to the April meeting, where Rossland's reusable bag campaign will be featured as a case study for successful local activism.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**City Hall:** 250-362-7396

#### **Mayor:**

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#### **Councillors:**

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### **COUNCIL MEETING DATES:**

**APRIL 27:** Monday – 7pm Regular Council meeting

**MAY 4:** Monday – 7 pm - Committee of the Whole

**MAY 5:** Tuesday -7 pm –Committee of the whole

**MAY 11:** Monday - 7 pm – Regular Council meeting

**MAY 25:** Monday - 7 pm – Regular Council meeting

### **WEBSITE & PAPERLESS NEWS:.**

[www.rossland.ca](http://www.rossland.ca)

### **YOUR FEEDBACK IS ENCOURAGED**

Go paperless! Get on our email list and receive updates electronically. Contact

[Traceybutler@rossland.ca](mailto:Traceybutler@rossland.ca)