ROSSLAND CITY HALL NEWS

July 2011

Greetings from your Mayor and Council

New Zoning Bylaw: City staff have drafted a new zoning bylaw which facilitates development consistent with Rossland's Official Community Plan. In order to gain input, staff have conducted four public information meetings and met twice with Council to field questions about significant changes. For example, the draft zoning bylaw proposes an infill zone allowing the following: smaller minimum lot size for subdivision; a standardized 10-metre height limit; two-family detached dwellings on lots 550 sq. m (6000 sf) or larger; an increased height limit from 4.5 m (15 ft) to 6 m (20 ft) for detached secondary suites above a garage; and 3-unit house conversions; all to promote housing diversity and higher density on serviced lands around the downtown. Check out the details on the city's website and see how this new bylaw may affect your property.

Washington Street and Columbia Avenue

Infrastructure Project- update: ISL Engineering & Land Services Ltd., the engineering firm selected to provide the preliminary estimates and design for Columbia Avenue and Washington Street upgrades, presented the Phase 1 – Conceptual Plan and related information to City Council. Council has agreed to proceed to Phase 2 - Preliminary Design and Cost Estimate. This phase will provide a Class B estimate for the project and options of how the City could stage/eliminate works to meet the goals and financial objectives of the City. The engineering reports confirmed what city staff had reported: the underground infrastructure is beyond it's useful life and needs to be replaced.

The estimate for the water, sewer and road work came in as expected around \$6 million which includes some innovative ideas and suggestions for efficiencies and environmental benefits. The Downtown Revitalization Concept offered amenity options that are intended to add vibrancy to the downtown core and help boost our local economy. The streetscape component of Columbia & Washington Corridors add approximately \$1.9 million to the project.

The City has applied for several grants for this project. Until the results of those applications are known, the scope and staging of this project cannot be confirmed. It is possible that the project will be staged over several years so that the City can complete various components as the funds become available.

The City and the engineers are very cognizant of the impact such a large construction project will have on our downtown businesses and efforts will be made to minimize the disruption as much as possible. To see the details and learn more, view the full presentation on the city's website.

Bear Aware

A reminder that the bears are back in town. Garbage Kills Bears! – Bylaw 2505 passed in April 2011 and outlines the do's and don'ts of managing wildlife attractants so please keep attractants like garbage, pet food, bird seed etc inaccessible to avoid a fine and to keep the bears wild. If you see a garbage hazard, call City Hall or contact Sharon

@ 231-2751 or rosslandbearaware@live.com. Please call 1-877-952-7277 to report sightings.

Thanks to all who generously sponsored the sidewalk bins on Columbia Ave. There are three bins for returnable cans & bottles and three solar powered trash compacting bins. The archival photos were donated by the Rossland Historical Museum. Please use them and let us know what you think!

Water Meter update:

The deadline for installation and inspection of water meters is December 31, 2011. Customers will receive a portion of their flat rate credited to their account when they install a meter.

The City has 1681 water connections and 752 are now metered. 929 households remain unmetered. Water meters are free at City Hall and residents are responsible for all installation costs. Please call City Hall for a list of installers.

Rationale: With all households on water meters, the City can manage and reduce the need for new infrastructure, maintain healthy streams by leaving more water in our creeks, qualify for grants, and identify the quantity and location of water leaks.

CBT Watersmart Program: Last fall, Rossland signed the CBT Watersmart Charter, committing us to reduce our water consumption 20% by 2015. Twenty two Columbia Basin communities and several Regional Districts are working together to address local water issues. One of the benefits to being part of this program is the CBT Watersmart Ambassador program.

Lauren Richardson has been hired as the Rossland Water-Smart Ambassador. CBT has trained local ambassadors to help basin communities address water education. Lauren will conduct free landscape and outdoor irrigation system audits to help you improve watering practices and reduce water use. Contact Lauren at 250-521-0222 to schedule your free appointment and you will receive a free Orbit mechanical hose faucet timer (while supplies last).

City Hall: 250-362-7396

Mayor Granstrom 250-231-6525 mayor@rossland.ca

Councillors:

Laurie Charlton, 250-362-9461 laurie_charlton@telus.net Kathy Moore, 250-362-3319 kathymoore27@gmail.com Hanne Smith, 250-362-7767 smithhanne@gmail.com Jill Spearn, 250-362-5367 jspearn@telus.net Andy Stradling, 250-362-9626 andy.stradling@gmail.com Kathy Wallace, 250-362-7362 kwallace307@gmail.com kwallace307@gmail.com kwallace307@gmail.com kwallace307@gmail.com kwallace307@gmail.com kwallace307@gmail.com

Council Meeting Dates: 7:00 PM @ City Hall July 25 Regular Council Meeting August 15 Regular Council Meeting

WEBSITE & PAPERLESS NEWS:

Sign up for email news from the City & save paper.
Visit the web site www.rossland.ca or contact
traceybutler@rossland.ca to sign up.

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Rossland Museum News:

- The Rossland Museum applied to the Fortis BC energy reduction program and received an energy audit and new, energy efficient light bulbs.
- At a very well attended event, Jamie Forbes and Sarah Benson from the Trail Historical Society gave an informative talk on the history of Fort Shepherd and the Waneta area.
- The Museum has received three grants from CKCA and CBT: Funds will be used for a heritage garden display for 2012, a major exhibition for 2012 and a strategic planning workshop for the fall of this year.
- The Museum is open for the season (9am -5pm daily) with guided site tours (9:30am - 3:30pm hourly).
- The Visitor Centre has travel information for the province, regions and local area. Stop in and pick up your free BC Parks Passport to celebrate the 100th anniversary of BC's spectacular park system.
- July 27th BBQ starting at 5:30pm and concert with Heavy Shtetl at 6:30pm on the museum grounds at the gazebo.
- City staff continues to negotiate with Teck for the reopening of the Black Bear Adit Tour as well as planning for upgrades to the adit and upgrading the operational safety manual for the Mine Tour Operation.

2011 Election:

It's election year again! The 2011 Municipal Election will take place on Saturday, November 19, with two advance opportunities to vote on Wednesday, November 9 & 16.

The City is accepting applications from those individuals interested in working the election. Applications can be picked up at City Hall.

Nomination packages will be available on August 26 at City Hall for candidates who wish to run for election as Mayor, Councillor or School Trustee. The nomination period runs from 9:00am, Tuesday, October 4 to 4:00 pm, Friday, October 14.

Information for candidates & voters can be obtained by contacting the Chief Election Officer, Tracey Butler at City Hall or by phoning 250-362-2321.

Managing Invasive Plants:

Ms. Jenn Vogel, Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, presented to Council regarding the potential impact and devastation that invasive plants like Knotweeds, Policeman's Helmet and Scotch Broom can cause to infrastructure and natural habitat. Information regarding this topic is available via a link on the City website and brochures are available at City Hall to help you identify these plants.

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee can be reached at www.kootenayweeds.com or by calling 250-352-1160.

2011 Capital Projects: Major projects are upgrades to the View St sewer line, replacement of the water, sewer, and drainage on Nevada St, Watershed Mgmt Plan, Water Use Assessment Report, rebuilding of intake at Topping Creek, partial upgrade of water line from Murphy Creek, water treatment plant software upgrade, and continuing upgrades in the Arena.

News Briefs:

- Rossland Interact Club, the youth branch of our local Rotary Club, elected to donate the proceeds of their annual fundraising efforts and many hours of volunteer labor, to help build two new trails in the Active Transportation Plan. Many thanks to an exceptional group of Rossland Youth!!
- Rossland Skatepark Association concluded their public input sessions and submitted the findings to Council. At the July 11, Council Meeting, a resolution was passed allowing the RSA to begin planning and fundraising for a future park in the south east corner of the Emcon Site.
- Wildfire Interface Program work is complete in the Deer Park Mountain Area and Star Gulch Reservoir. Applications are being made to the 2011 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative program for additional funding to complete the High-Hazard Wildfire Zones as identified in the CWPP.
- Low flush toilet rebate continues until December 31, 2011. Bring in your receipt for purchasing a new low or duel flush toilet and receive \$50.
- Tourism Rossland is conducting a visitor/economic impact study on trail use. Students have been hired to collect information from trail users. Please take the time to answer their short questionnaire if you come across them in the woods.
- Golden Ticket Tourism Rossland has launched the "Golden Ticket" as part of a cooperative marketing effort with the Rossland Museum, Gold Fever Follies and the Flying Steamshovel- tickets are \$30 and include entry to the Museum and the Gold Fever Follies plus a meal at the Steamshovel! Gold Fever Follies run Tues-Sat. 3 & 7:30, July – August.
- TECK Lands above the museum Teck continues to monitor unstable areas from historical mining. Recent evidence of hidden stopes opening at the surface proves that dangers are real in this area. To protect the public, Teck plans to fence the area this fall. Council requests the public to respect Tech's property and to realize the significance of the danger. TECK will endeavor to reopen the Museum trail if possible.
- Garden Tours Saturday, July 23, 9:30 am 2:00 pm, \$6 Proceeds to the Rossland Museum start at the Town Square on Columbia Ave. pick up a map of 10 gardens to visit. Refreshments are part of the tour.