

ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

April 2015

Note from Mayor Kathy

Hello Rosslanders- There is a lot of exciting news this month. I am thrilled that CBT and the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC) have agreed to use Rossland as a test case for a different approach to supplying broadband to small communities in the basin. Super fast internet is becoming a necessity in our connected society, much the way water, sewer and electricity were at the turn of the 19th century. The challenge is that while we recognize the importance of the service to help grow our economy, little cities like Rossland just can't afford the initial investment. The CBT, ever sensitive to improving the lives of basin residents, decided to pick up the installation costs. Instead of the municipality owning and running the network, CBBC will own and operate it and leave the city to attend to its traditional core services. This is fabulous news. Stay tuned for the next developments.

Council is thrilled to announce that we have found the perfect candidate to fill the Interim Chief Administrative Officer position. After reviewing dozens of resumes and interviewing five finalists, City Council selected local resident, Mr. Mike Maturo, to fill this critical position while the current Chief Administrative/Chief Financial Officer is on extended leave.

With his extensive municipal experience and understanding of the City, Mr. Maturo is able to immediately step into the CAO role and have a positive impact that will help move the city forward.

From 2007 to 2013, Mr. Maturo was the Senior Planner for us. During that time he made significant contributions to the community, including facilitating the adoption of the Strategic Sustainability Plan, re-writing the Official Community Plan, drafting the Tax Revitalization Bylaw, and modernizing the Zoning Bylaw. Mr. Maturo also led the initiative to establish the City's Active Transportation Plan and successfully obtained a number of grants.

Mr. Maturo's previous experience includes working for the *United States Agency for International Development* (USAID) in Kosovo, where he was the Municipal Infrastructure Program Manager for four years and responsible for five international development programs. Prior to Kosovo, Mr. Maturo was as a field officer with USAID in Bosnia where he worked on reconstruction projects with 15 municipalities and coordinated early

recovery efforts with both international and local stakeholders.

Mr. Maturo holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. He has managed both office staff and contractors, and has over 17 years of experience working in small to medium sized municipalities.

Mr. Maturo brings a wealth of practical, organizational and managerial knowledge to the position. Rossland has major infrastructure challenges ahead and Mr. Maturo's previous experience, knowledge of our community, our infrastructure situation and the issues raised by the Auditor General for Local Government make him an excellent choice for Interim CAO. City Council is delighted to welcome him into this new role.

Did you know?

- Come hear about the **financial plan for 2015-2019** at the public input session at 6pm on Monday, April 27th in council chambers. Bring your questions.
- **Spring clean up** is coming up! South of Columbia on May 4-8 and north of Columbia May 11-15. Check the city website for details. Remember: there will be no fall clean up.
- **New art display** in Council chambers: Artists Tim Peacock and Amy Exner have generously lent some of their work to brighten our walls. Many thanks to Andy Holmes, Claude Stormes and Richard Soltice for being our first participants. Many people commented on the warm and welcoming feeling they get coming to council these days. Art, like attitude, can be subtle, but powerful.
- Two council meetings have opened with a **poetry reading** from Almeda Glenn Miller; one requested a resolution to the recreation issue with Trail. No news on that situation yet. Trail is negotiating with the other communities first.
- Board members from **Rossland's Mountain Market Society** are doing a www.yodel.org fundraising campaign in April. Check it out.
- Congratulations to the **Rossland Arts Council**. Rusty, the fanciful horse has a forever home in Rossland! Thanks to all who contributed. More thanks are due the Arts Council for bringing in the fabulous "Sphere of Influence" by Slocan artist Carl Schlichting. It's on lease for a year but it sure fits our town.
- The **Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre** had a fantastic turn out for their Easter egg hunt and festivities. Great job by the volunteers, the

board and Joelle, our very talented museum manager. Watch for more upcoming activities.

- **Earth Day** in Harry Lefevre park was a big success. Many thanks to all volunteers.
- Remember: You can pay your **utility bills on line!** Contact City Hall to find out how. 362-7396
- Don't forget: **Regional District tipping fees** are increasing by \$15 per tonne due to new Provincial regulations concerning landfill liability.
- Watch for your **Council in the Silver City Parade** on May 9th in Trail. We'll be on bikes.

Be in touch!- City Hall 362-7396

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Council News:

The 2015-2019 financial plan is almost complete! (Whew!) Council and staff spent many, many hours working on the budget for this year and the five-year financial plan. In consideration of increased water and sewer fees coming up, Council decided to keep the tax increase to a modest 2%. We are planning on big capital projects for next year- and modest projects for this year. The plan must be approved by May 15th.

Water and Sewer Rate Presentation, March 26th was well attended. Rosslanders listened to the presentation and asked excellent questions. The consultants took those thoughts, as well as Council's input and will create some additional options for Council's consideration. The new rates will be higher to ensure our water and sewer utilities are self-sustaining.

Grants applied for, fingers are crossed:

City staff and ISL Engineering did an excellent job putting together what Council hopes will be successful grant applications. We applied for a full rehabilitation of Washington Street as our number one priority. The application included the basic necessities of sewer, water, sidewalks and paving but also some innovative ideas like mini-power generators inside the pipes and a cistern to capture and reuse storm water for downtown irrigation. We also applied for grants to help us continue our asset management project as well as some additional replacement work in the Spokane Street area. If we are successful, 2016 will be a busy year.

Pinewood to be completed in 2015. The water pipes were replaced in 2014, the rest of the project, sewer lines and repaving will be done this year.

Community Initiative Grants from CBT

It was an inspirational evening hearing about the fantastic projects in our community. The hard part was only having \$45k to allocate when 41 groups were asking for more than \$117k. The full list of grants is available at RDKB.com. Many thanks go to CBT for continuing to provide this funding for our communities.

Committee News

Local Advisory Committee members found!

Volunteers to advise the Steering Committee on the development of a new sewage treatment plant for our area have been selected. Thanks to Elise Pare, Trevor Greene and Alastair Champion for stepping up as Rossland's representatives. An introductory meeting will be held in May to get the committee up to speed on the project. Many thanks to others who put their names forward and to past Rossland committee members, Ken Holmes, Al Fisher and Bill Profili.

Community Q & A

Q: What happened at the public budget and Thoughtexchange meeting on April 12th?

A: Lots of fun! Over 60 people came out to learn how the online Thoughtexchange process impacted the financial plan. The public got an overview of the budget and a look at some of the challenges ahead in this interactive session. All of council attended and had a terrific opportunity to hear more feedback in a fun and informal way. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Big thanks to the crew at Thoughtexchange for donating their time and expertise to provide this wonderful community service.

What's up in the neighbourhood?



Next Newsletter: In an effort to save paper, we strive for newsletters to be electronic. Please go to www.rossland.ca to sign up. **'E-Mail Updates'** on the bottom right of our main page. But don't worry, some copies will always be available in printed form and distributed around town.

Council meetings: Usually at 6pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Come join us!

