

ROSSLAND COUNCIL CONNECTS

May 2015

Issue #4

Note from Mayor Kathy

Hello Rosslanders,
Earlier this month, I went to Victoria to meet with Minister Coralee Oakes to discuss Rossland's infrastructure needs. It was a good meeting with the Minister, her Deputy and Assistant Ministers and her Legislative Aid. Katrine Conroy, our MLA accompanied me; Many thanks to Katrine and her staff for setting up the meeting. In the past, despite meeting the grant criteria, Rossland has been unsuccessful in getting infrastructure grants. We were told there were just too many other qualified applications. Council decided to try a new tactic by sending me to Victoria. Now we must wait and see.

On May 12th, Rossland was pleased to host a visit from the Lieutenant Governor for British Columbia, Her Honour Ms. Judith Guichon. We started our busy morning with a delicious breakfast at the Garage with Council and local tech entrepreneurs. Each had the opportunity to briefly explain what their companies do. She was very impressed and surprised by our local talent: Qfin, Thoughtexchange, Rack Force, Propel Bioenergy and KAST all represent a sophisticated technology sector that is unexpected in such a small town. Just another reason to get broadband here!

Next we paid a visit to all three of our unique schools. The first stop was the L'École des Sept-Sommets. Hosted by Principal Marie-Josée Beaulieu. The 47 students were very attentive while Her Honour spoke of her role as the 29th Lieutenant Governor. There was a lively exchange of questions, followed by songs.

Our visit to Seven Summits was very informative. After the Lieutenant Governor spoke and questions were asked and answered, several students shared the highlights of their recent camping trip and summarized their learning about ecology, biology and astronomy.

Council took Her Honour for a quick tour of our magnificent courthouse before finishing up at Rossland Summit School. The entire student body was assembled in the gym while the Lieutenant Governor, our school trustee Gord Smith, the Vice Principal Bud Gregory, myself and members of Council, were piped in by Her Honour's own bagpiper. Once again the Lieutenant Governor spoke and answered some excellent questions from the students. As a special treat, the entire assembly enjoyed a wonderful performance by students.

It was a real pleasure to meet the Lieutenant Governor. She is a lovely, down-to-earth person with strong ties to the interior. Her family has ranched in the Nicola Valley since 1878. She has made significant contributions to our province in her previous work on environmental, health and agricultural issues. During her five-year term as Lieutenant Governor she is focusing on literacy, music, the arts, leadership, and her *Stewards of the Future* program which promotes a holistic connection to the land. Learn more at <http://www.ltgov.bc.ca>

Did you know?

- **Conserve water! Sewage treatment is expensive!** Every drop of water into the sanitary sewer line gets treated at the facility we share with Trail and Warfield. Under the new agreement, each community pays for the actual percentage that they contribute. Currently Rossland's share is 29%. This is significantly higher than anticipated. This percentage will apply not only to operations but also to our contribution to the required upgrades to the plant which could cost more than \$50 million dollars. Do your best to conserve water so the amount we put into the system is reduced. Our new Interim Chief Administrative Officer Mike Mauro is working with Public Works to formulate a plan to address inflow and infiltration. "I&I" = storm and groundwater leaking into our system through cracks in our pipes, or being intentionally diverted there.
- **Nice weather means windows are open and sound travels.** Please be considerate of your neighbours and make sure your dog is not barking. We've been getting a lot of complaints lately. Fines are possible for negligent owners.
- **Parking downtown:** Since our revitalization project, parking has increased from 139 spots to 145 by improvements to areas behind the shops. Store owners and employees, please make room for shoppers; park in the spaces behind the shops, *not* on Washington and Columbia.
- **Stingrays Swim Club** is a great way for kids to have fun and stay fit. The club now has more local training opportunities at the Rossland and Warfield pools. Call Sean at 250-231-2685.
- **Its fawning season-** Please be sure to leash your dogs so they don't interfere with wildlife. The golf course area is particularly sensitive.
- **Youth Action Network (YAN) Youth Week 2015 was a success!** Red Talks was impressive with both youth and adult speakers. The winners of the Art Show were: Logan Nesbit (Gr 6-8) and Ali Ferguson (Gr 9-12). For the U-19 Film Fest: Caelum Scott and Aiden Smith

won 3 categories, as did James Klemmenson. Liam Barnes won Best Sports category.

- **Kudos to National Fiction Award winner:** Gr 5 student Maya Maturo for her story "Survivor's Hope". What a fantastic honor!
- **Spring Clean up was a success!** About 40% of properties participated. 85 truck loads of yard waste were removed. Do you have any feedback for us? We want to improve our service.

Be in touch! City Hall 362-7396

mayor@rossland.ca 362-3319, cell 521-1500
CouncillorCosbey@rossland.ca 362-2275, 521-3059
CouncillorKruysse@rossland.ca 362-9078
CouncillorZwicker@rossland.ca 231-9878
CouncillorMorel@rossland.ca 362-5042, 231-7168
CouncillorMcLellan@rossland.ca 362-5557, 364-8918
CouncillorGreene@rossland.ca 362-5696, 368-7114

Council News:

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 the same cell system we used on Columbia to capture and reuse storm water for irrigation. This cell system keeps the tree roots from buckling the sidewalks too. We also applied for a grant to help us continue our asset management project so as to properly track the lifecycle of everything the City owns from equipment to facilities to pipes and roads. It's a huge undertaking but a necessity not only to properly manage our assets but to properly allocate our tax dollars to projects in a timely manner. We also applied for a grant to help us with some additional replacement work in the Spokane Street area. If we are successful, 2016 will be a busy year.
- The "Canada 150" grant is intended to support projects for Canada's sesquicentennial. Council must determine which of a number of very worthy projects best meet the criteria.

Pinewood to be completed in 2015. Water pipes were replaced in 2014. Completion of the sewer lines and repaving will be done this summer.

Delegation Bylaw. Council is (finally) replacing the previous bylaw that ceded too much authority to the

Chief Administrative Officer. All the important decisions will once again be firmly in the hands of Council.

The 2015-2019 financial plan has been adopted!! (Whew!) Council and staff spent many, many hours working on the 2015 budget and the five-year financial plan. We provided property tax exemptions for non-profits and churches. \$292k was allocated for community groups. To see the total plan, go to Rossland.ca. In consideration of increased water and sewer fees coming up, and because we wanted to find internal efficiencies first, Council decided to keep the tax increase to a modest 2%. The plan was submitted to the Province by May 15th. In some past years, we missed the deadline. Big thanks to staff for getting it done on time in 2015.

Water and Sewer Rate Presentation The rates will be higher to ensure our water and sewer utilities are self-financing and sustainable. There will be another public meeting once we get the revised consultants' report with its recommendations for the new rates.

Community Q & A

Q: *Can I dump yard waste on city property?*

A: No, please don't. Remember there is no dumping around town. Best way to get rid of yard waste is to compost it on your own property, take it to the landfill or follow our burning bylaw. Contact City Hall for details.

Q: *Why aren't the public restrooms open at the parks?*

A: Vandalism has been a concern, but the restrooms are now open for summer.

Q: *Why was the gate under Columbia Ave locked?*

A: It's always locked for the winter but this year there was a big wash out which made it unsafe. It's fixed now.

What's up in the neighbourhood?

Council participated in the Silver City Parade on May 9th in Trail. There was a great turn out of both entries and spectators. We proudly carried our city banner.



The Lower Columbia Initiatives Corp, our local economic development group, has won a marketing award. Congrats!

Newsletters: Newsletters could be electronic! Go to www.rossland.ca.. 'E-

Mail Updates' on the bottom right to sign up. Printed copies will still be available and distributed around town

Council meetings: Are held at 6pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month; July and August there will only be one meeting per month. Come join us!

