

COUNCIL UPDATES



City forges on despite RDCK set back

The City of Nelson says it will continue to look for innovative and cost-effective ways to provide improved services to local residents, despite the Regional District of Central Kootenay's recent rejection of a City proposal that Mayor John Dooley and Council felt was an incredible opportunity for the RDCK and the public. The City had offered the Regional District a chance to move to 310 Ward Street, and to be a part of the very successful co-location model the City shares with the Province of BC.

CITY OF NELSON "There is a lot of cross-over between the three levels of government," says Mayor Dooley, "so why not make it easier for the public, and all reside in the same building?"

Council believed that the plan would have saved taxpayers in both the City of Nelson and the region money, and provided the public with a convenient one-stop centre for all their local government related services. The City's proposal to the Regional District is posted at www.nelson.ca.

Giving Culture And Heritage A Hand Up

The City and its Cultural Development Commission will be devoting up to 35 per cent of the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiative funding to local arts, culture and heritage projects. The deadline for submitting your group's project proposal applications is March 3. Applicants will be invited to make their presentation to Council at the April 14, Committee of the Whole meeting. More info? Contact the Regional District, 250-352-6665, or e-mail jmadelung@rdck.bc.ca. Applications can be downloaded from the RDCK website at www.rdck.bc.ca

Hey Heritage Lovers: Walk This Way

With BC Heritage Week just around the corner, Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History is excited to announce the creation of a new downtown Heritage Walking Tour. The brochure was created by Robert Inwood, Brenton Raby, Patricia Rogers and Margaret Stacey with printing by Hall's Printing and funding from the BC Heritage Legacy Fund and the City of Nelson. The brochure encompasses the majority of the downtown core including additional historical information to create more interest in the City as a whole. Heritage Week runs Feb. 17-23. For more info or to inquire about distribution, click on www.touchstonesnelson.ca

FINANCE

Budget 2014 – You Need To Get Involved!

It's that time of year for Nelson residents and the fine folks in the City's Finance Department... In what you could describe as a fiscal juggling act of both dollars and sense, City Council is asking the public to share its thoughts on the 2014 City of Nelson budget. Have you got any thoughts on where to spend what? Share them! There'll be preliminary budget meetings Tuesday, Feb. 4 and Tuesday Feb. 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Council Chambers, at City Hall. There'll also be a budget open house at the Nelson Library, Thursday Feb. 27, with two sessions planned from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., then again from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. City CFO Colin McClure will provide a concise overview of the budget starting at 7 p.m.

NELSON HYDRO NEWS

Power Outage! Do You Know What To Do?

Safe to say, most Canadians rely on electrical power. Fallen trees, high winds, freezing rain, snow storms and even automobile crashes can damage power lines and cause power outages that may last anywhere from several hours to a few days. An extended loss of power during the winter months can result in cold, damp homes and challenging living conditions.

Homeowners can protect their homes against frost damage by installing standby heating systems that permit continued occupancy throughout a winter storm emergency. The consequences of power loss can be minimized by taking the following necessary precautions:

- Determine whether the power outage is affecting only your home or whether it includes your neighbors. If your neighbor still has power, check your circuit breaker panel or fuse box.
- If your circuit breaker panel or fuse box has not tripped off, call the Nelson Hydro Outage Phone Line at 1-877-324-9376 to report the outage.
- If you see a downed power line, please call immediately with the exact location. Keep back a minimum of 10 metres (33 feet) from the wires or anything in contact with the wires, and warn others of the danger. Always assume lines are energized.

Over the Christmas holidays, Eastern Canada experienced prolonged hydro outages, with some customers being without power for up to eight days. Here in the West Kootenay, we're exposed to wind storms, snow storms and forest fires that could result in a significant outage. Nelson Hydro strives to minimize the outage time that customers experience, however, we also encourage our customers to be prepared for emergencies. For more info on emergency preparedness, click on www.nelson.ca, embc.gov.bc.ca/em or getprepared.gc.ca.



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Snow Plow Know How

While it's been a lean winter for snow thus far, you should make sure to remember the City's snowplow protocol. From Nov. 1 to April 30 each year, vehicles must be parked on the odd-numbered side of the street on odd-numbered dates; and be parked on the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered dates, within residential zones, to allow the City's snow clearing operations to plow close to the curbs and maintain maximum street width. Unattached trailers and unlicensed vehicles are not allowed to be parked on city streets at any time of year.

Also!... Due to recently revised transit routes, some of the streets that were plowed first in previous winters, won't be plowed first this winter. Check the city's website, at nelson.ca, under the "Residents" tab, and click on "Transit" for details on the new routes.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

The City's sidewalk snow plowing program states that only designated, high traffic sidewalks will be plowed of snow by the Operations Department. Of the streets in the program, only one side the sidewalk will be cleared of snow. A sidewalk snow plow map is available on the City of Nelson's web page. Every business owner or resident shall remove accumulation of snow or ice upon sidewalks not later than 11:00 am, daily (except Sundays for businesses).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR THAT WAS 2013...

We Asked City of Nelson Department Heads: What were your top accomplishments over the last 12 months?

NELSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

"For sure our **100 anniversary celebrations**, as well as the **BC Fire Chief meeting**, celebrating the province's inaugural meeting, in 1907, right here in Nelson. Our **Wildfire Public education and prevention** efforts in some of the interface areas around town this year too." *Simon Grypma, Fire Chief*

NELSON HYDRO

"The **Rosemont Substation construction project**. The old station of 50+ years was demolished and a new station built on the same site. Our **EcoSave Program** was a highlight too. Over 400 homeowners have signed up." *Alex Love, Nelson Hydro General Manager*

LIBRARY

"Use of **eBooks** is up 150% this year! We're even **more people-friendly** as well, with more places to sit quietly or with others. We're also reaching out with **more local partnerships**. Our Community Reference Desk brings Nelson's hardworking groups to you... 76% of Nelson residents are library cardholders." *June Stockdale, Chief Librarian*

NELSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

"One of the highlights of 2013 was the Risk Management Seminar we held with the RCMP legal advisor for NPD staff and volunteers and our many community partners. The first-ever Nelson Police Board Citizen Recognition and Award Night was a great success, as was our school lockdown training, which was part of the School District's Critical Incident Response program."

Paul Burkart, Deputy Chief Constable, Nelson Police Department

NELSON YOUTH CENTRE

"NDYC has focused on **attracting new user groups** and diversifying services. There are more youth aged 11-to-14 here, and new programs like Rosemont Skate Club, Magic the Gathering, SPARK! and MAXTivity. The **Nelson City Campground**, NDYC's own social enterprise, helped **over 100 youth secure employment** this year." *Christine Schmidt, Nelson and District Youth Centre Manager*

OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

(Public Works, Water/Sewer, Parks, Transit, vehicle fleet maintenance)

"The incredible **Rosemont skatepark**, **Davies Street playground and washroom** and **Seventh Street Park**. Plus, we made great strides in **upgrading the City's water and sewer system**. We re-lined over six kilometres of sewer pipe and two kilometres of leaky old water line."

Jim Dinwoodie, Manager of Operations

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY

"It was a busy year for us: **steady numbers of building permits** and development permits, policy work, and participation in the **Hall Street Corridor** project. Our major accomplishments? Adoption of a new **Official Community Plan**, and excellent progress on the creation of a new Zoning Bylaw, to be finished by early 2014."

Dave Wahn, Manager, Development Services



Celebrating our Past.
Building our Future.

Happy Holiday!

Family Day is Monday, Feb. 10. That means there'll be office closures at the following locations:

City Hall, Nelson Hydro, the Operations Department and the Nelson Public Library

As for Nelson Transit Service...Nelson Transit busses will not be running on Family Day. If you have any questions, please call (250) 352-8228 or 1-855-993-3100