

VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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1. 2017 Services and Operations Report

A major event occurred during August that impacted our drinking water quality. A hanging glacier, located on Mount Sally Serena, collapsed into the upper Irish Lake. The ensuing wall of water and ice swept down Irish Creek, uprooting trees and picking up more sediment and rock. This debris torrent flowed into Forster's Creek, creating a high sediment event that lasted ten days. Our Public Works crew laboured around the clock to keep the water treatment plant operational despite the amount of sediment. This sediment created turbidity levels in our water distribution system that exceeded allowable guidelines and high turbidity warnings were posted. We were able to keep the water potable with disinfection during the event so that no 'boil water' order needed to be imposed. We have experienced mud slide events like this before, and they will likely occur again. As such, we are working to develop systems that will mitigate similar future events.

2017 was a busy year for staff turnovers. Ken McDonnell, our Public Works Superintendent for 27 years, retired, as did Donna Verboom, our Administrative Assistant. Bruce Zwiers moved into the Superintendent's role and we welcomed Emily Mitchell and Stuart Taylor to positions with the municipality.

At the Council level, Karen Larsen retired for a family relocation, leading to an election for her replacement. Mike Gray was the successful candidate in the by-election.

Concurrent with the by-election, a positive vote was held to obtain permission from the electorate to borrow money for the construction of the new community hall. Construction has proceeded according to plan and within budget. The new 'Radium Hot Springs Centre' is slated for opening by mid-July 2018.

The Village continued their animal safety program by hiring a coordinator in partnership with WildSafe BC and the Regional District of East Kootenay. The coordinator primarily monitors issues involving animal attractants, aggressive animals, and provides public education. A number of black bears frequented the Village in the fall, largely enticed by fruit and garbage. One bear was put down and one was relocated up the Horsethief Creek drainage. The relocated bear has returned and is currently residing in the Olive Lake area. Within our resident mule deer population, a number of individuals have demonstrated aggressive behavior, usually during the fawning season and often in circumstances involving small dogs. Our most notorious female was put down by Conservation Officers in the fall after she trampled a small dog to death in his own back yard. A new wildlife development has been the expansion of our turkey population and their movement into new areas of the Village. This problem was exasperated by individuals who were feeding both deer and turkey and who did not seem to realize that habituated animals always become problem animals. Hopefully, we were able to curtail this misinformed behavior and the feeding of wildlife will stop.

From a regulatory standpoint, the most important bylaws passed during the year were the "Fire Services", "Open Burning" and "Noise Control" bylaws.

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Administrative activity on the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality front was quiet during the year as development activity had largely ceased pending the Supreme Court of Canada decision (Ktunaxa Nation Council and Kathryn Teneese, on their own behalf and on behalf of all citizens of the Ktunaxa Nation versus the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.) The Supreme Court released their decision in November, dismissing the challenge.

2. 2017 Progress Report

The following summarizes progress made achieving our objectives:

1. The construction of the new Radium Hot Springs Centre has proceeded according to schedule and within budget. The Centre is slated to be fully functional by the middle of July 2018.
2. Construction of the new water reservoir was completed within budget. This addition provides the Village with the sufficient water capacity to fully meet the amount of water storage recommended for firefighting purposes.
3. We purchased a new “Little Badger” street sweeper. This unit replaces an aging sweeper that was becoming a challenge to maintain and operate, from both a financial and replacement parts perspective.
4. The park master plan process was initiated with the HAPA Collaborative landscape architecture and urban design firm. This is the same group that designed the landscaping surrounding the new Radium Hot Spring Centre. A stakeholder workshop was held in the fall and the final plan will be revealed at the Centre grand opening.
5. The design and approval process for the Columbia River access site continued, including survey work and archeological assessments. The consultation process with First Nations has continued into 2018 and construction is now scheduled to occur following the spring and summer work limitations imposed by the bird nesting and fish spawning periods. This project will include installation of infrastructure that will include safer egress for vehicles, improved parking, river bank reinforcement to prevent erosion, interpretive signage, toilet facilities, and bear proof garbage containment.
6. A comprehensive signage strategy is under development by R.F. Binnie and Associates Ltd. The project is intended to provide guidelines for the form, design, recurring theme, as well as appropriate locations for and types of signage needed within the Village. The final strategy will be reviewed by Council in 2018.

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3. 2018 Objectives:

1. Develop a funding and implementation plan for the comprehensive development of the main park (landscaping, facilities, and features). With the Park Master Plan nearing completion, we have decided to proceed with construction of a new ice rink in 2019. The remaining elements of the Park Master Plan will be phased over subsequent years.
2. The preliminary engineering for an improved sidewalk connector to the Hot Springs has been postponed for consideration in a future budget.
3. Continue with phased repairs of the corroded drinking water system intake water main.
4. Commission the new community hall and develop a marketing plan to promote its use.
5. Administrate the 2018 general municipal election.
6. Continue to partner with stakeholders, like Parks Canada, the government of BC, and the Greenway Trails Alliance, to develop recreational trails located near, or linking with, the Village of Radium Hot Springs.

4. 2019 Objectives:

1. Construct the new ice rink and confirm future park development and phasing as part of the five year financial plan. Investigate potential fund raising opportunities for park phasing and Radium Hot Springs Centre enhancements.
2. Undertake a strategic planning process, so as to determine the objectives and priorities for the incoming Council and staff.

5. Tax Exemptions

The Community Charter allows Council to exempt certain classes of property from municipal taxation. Examples include lands held by charitable, philanthropic and not for profit corporations.

For taxes imposed in 2017, the Village provided an exemption for the lands owned by the Roman Catholic Church. This exemption was provided under Bylaw No. 424.

The additional amount of municipal taxes that would have been imposed in 2017 on these properties, if not for the exemption, would have been \$ 4,640.

For 2018, a similar exemption is being provided under Bylaw No. 438. The additional amount of municipal taxes that would be imposed on these properties in 2018, if not for the exemption, would be \$4,140.

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6. Declarations of Disqualification

The Community Charter details conditions under which a municipal Councillor may be disqualified from holding office. No Councillor was disqualified in 2017 nor were any applications for disqualification made.

7. Small Community Grant Funding

In 2017 the Village of Radium Hot Springs received \$265,266 in funding.

8. Development Cost Charges

\$ 38,852 was received in water development cost charges in 2017 leaving a year-end balance of \$484,315 in the fund with \$82,500 in expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$519,656 with the fund earning \$8,307 in interest.

\$20,969 was received in sewer development cost charges in 2017 leaving a year-end balance of \$20,992 with no expenditures, debt payments, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$0 with the fund earning \$23 in interest.