

VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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<http://www.radiumhotsprings.ca/content/documents>

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1. 2018 Services and Operations Report

Our drinking water and waste water treatment and distribution systems operated within normal parameters throughout the year. However, a small number of water and sewer main repairs were required, primarily in areas that have ageing infrastructure.

Councillor Ron Verboom retired, thereby opening a seat on Council for newcomer Dale Shudra. Ron served as a Council member for 25 of the 28 years since we incorporated as a Village.

The Village developed policies and procedures for applicants wishing to open a recreational cannabis retail store.

Rick Fowler was hired as our FireSmart Assessor. Rick was available to undertake FireSmart assessments of private property, and to advise owners of the steps they can take to make their properties safer from the threat of interface wildfire.

The Village continued our animal safety program in partnership with WildSafe BC and the Regional District of East Kootenay. Our coordinator, Thea Rodgers, monitored issues involving animal attractants, aggressive animals, and provided public education. 2018 was a good year for bear related issues with no bears relocated or culled. Our urban turkey population expanded and caused nuisance issues in the areas they were frequenting. We have formed an advisory committee to investigate and recommend to Council how these issues might be mitigated.

Administrative work for the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality was minimal during the year pending resolution of the latest legal process. In August, the Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled that the Minister of the Environment's decision, regarding the project's Environmental Assessment Certificate, should be reviewed. The Province has appealed this decision.

2. 2018 Progress Report

The following summarizes progress made achieving our objectives:

1. A Park Master Plan has been developed which contemplates additional park features to include communal meeting areas, fire pits, and playground features. The reconstruction of a new ice rink and washrooms is going forward in 2019. Urban Arts and Hapa Collaborative are returning as architects for this next phase. The Village has also applied to the "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program" for funding in hopes that the next phase of the Park Master Plan can be tackled.
2. The Ministry of Transportation will be undertaking an engineering assessment to determine the feasibility of constructing an improved sidewalk connector from the Village to the Hot Springs. Once the feasibility and costs of construction are determined, the Village and Ministry will evaluate how this project might move forward.

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3. Replacement of the corroded sections of our intake water main continues annually with \$400K in repairs budgeted over the next four years. Two leaks occurred in the water main in 2018 and those sections of water main were replaced.
4. The Radium Hot Springs Centre and Public Library were commissioned in July with the official opening held August 25th. The building earned the “Community Recognition Award” from the Canadian Wood Council for our extensive use of wood products, innovative design and striking architecture. The building has been well received and already has many bookings for 2020 and beyond.
5. The 2018 general municipal election process was undertaken, resulting in one new Councillor, Dale Shudra, who was acclaimed.
6. Our policy of partnering 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, did not result in new trail development in 2018. We expect to continue discussions with Recreation Sites and Trails BC regarding the potential to sanction new trails in the Old Coach Trail area.

3. 2019 Objectives:

1. Construct the new ice rink and confirm future park development and phasing as part of the five year financial plan.
2. Undertake a strategic planning process, so as to determine the objectives and priorities for the incoming Council and staff. Note: strategic planning was undertaken in 2018 with objectives incorporated into the five year financial plan.
3. Construct a public works garage for the housing and storage of vehicles and equipment.
4. Complete construction of the Columbia River watercraft ‘put in and take out’ facility. This project will provide safer vehicle egress onto Horsethief Creek Forest Service Road, an enlarged parking area, a washroom, bear proof garbage containment, interpretive and regulatory signage, and a fortified foreshore that will minimize erosion.
5. Review the Fire Department remuneration structure, so as to determine options that will provide training incentives and foster member retention.
6. Evaluate the short term rental and accommodation industry, and consider regulations and zoning changes, so as to mitigate problems that are identified.
7. Review wildlife policies and management practices, especially with respect to the increasing turkey population.

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4. 2020 Objectives:

1. Continue a phased approach to the implementation of Master Park Plan components, should the municipality have the financial capacity to do so.
2. Initiate a phased approach to the implementation of the Comprehensive Signage Strategy.
3. Upgrade the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (SCADA) used to monitor and operate our drinking water and wastewater treatment and distribution systems.

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 2018, the Village provided an exemption for the lands owned by the Roman Catholic Church. This exemption was provided under Bylaw No. 438, 2017.

The additional amount of municipal taxes that would have been imposed in 2018 on these properties, if not for the exemption, would have been \$ 4,970.

For 2019, a similar exemption is being provided under Bylaw No. 448, 2018. The additional amount of municipal taxes that would be imposed on these properties in 2019, if not for the exemption, would be \$ 6,040.

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 2018 nor were any applications for disqualification made.

7. Small Community Grant Funding

In 2018 the Village of Radium Hot Springs received \$269,389 in funding.

8. Development Cost Charges

\$ 70,516 was received in water development cost charges in 2018 leaving a year-end balance of \$ 540,199 in the fund with \$ 25,284 expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$ 484,315 with the fund earning \$ 10,652 in interest.

\$ 38,056 was received in sewer development cost charges in 2018 leaving a year-end balance of \$ 0 with \$ 59,172 expenditures, debt payments, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$ 20,992 with the fund earning \$ 124 in interest.