

**VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS**

**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**1. 2012 Services and Operations Report**

The Village completed a \$1.5M upgrade to our wastewater (sewage) treatment facility. This work included the implementation of a modern ‘moving bed biofilm reactor’ technology along with high efficiency air blowers. The project has more than doubled our treatment capacity and will service potential growth for many years to come while improving our effluent quality and reducing operational costs.

Our drinking water treatment and irrigation system operated smoothly throughout the year with all tests meeting the highest standard. We completed a \$684K water main improvement project which improved capacity and fire flows to our commercial core. We did not have any leaks in our water intake main from the corrosion problem that we are monitoring. We have replaced sections of this main to mitigate the problem in prior years and we are prepared to replace additional sections as problems arise.

We undertook a major pedestrian lighting and crosswalk project to improve pedestrian safety along the Highway corridor, over Sinclair Creek and connecting to North Radium. This project

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cost approximately \$300K and was supported with additional funding from the Ministry of Transportation in the amount of \$40K.

We initiated a study to investigate the costs and benefits of implementing either universal water metering, or district metering, for water management purposes. This evaluation was supported with CBT funding under their WaterSmart initiative in the amount of \$10K. The report will come before Council for further discussion in 2013.

The Village continued their partnership with the BC Conservation Foundation to share a 'Bear Aware' coordinator with the District of Invermere. The focus of this program is public education and the assessment and reduction of bear attractants within the municipality to reduce the incidence of bear human conflict and reduce the possibility that bears will become habituated. We feel that Crystal Leonard did a wonderful job and although a few bears did visit none became a problem. We completed installation of bear safe garbage containers, a \$55K project.

A decision was made to expand our public safety services to include a 'First Responder' medical team that would complement and assist the BC Ambulance service. This function will roll out in 2013 as members begin their training. The Fire Department added a new vehicle to the fleet, this being an 'Emergency Transport Vehicle' that is doubling as an equipment vehicle. The Fire department responded to a total of 32 calls for service ranging from motor vehicle accidents, one in which members had to utilize their new rope skills, to a call to rescue two people trapped in an elevator.

Phase one of the Radium 'Pump 'n' Jump' biking track was built in partnership with the Sunrise Rotary Club and Columbia valley Cycling Society.

### **2. 2012 Progress Report**

The following summarizes progress made achieving our objectives:

1. Taxation levels were increased by 5% to build financial resources for construction of a multi-use community facility. The third of four phased increases in the waste water parcel tax was implemented to improve sustainable funding levels for that service.
2. Review of the new Official Community Plan has been completed. Agency consultation will occur early in 2013, to be followed by the bylaw and public hearing process.
3. Our economic development visioning and branding strategy was completed. Tourism Radium will be taking the lead in marketing for tourism while the municipality will be focusing on the economic development component.
4. The municipal office renovation was completed in the spring. Additions include a meeting room, Council Chambers, Mayor's and spare office, as well as space for the 'Distance learning Centre'.

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5. The wastewater (sewage) treatment system upgrades were completed and the new system brought on line.
6. Engineering layout and design for curb, gutter and drainage improvements for Columbia Ave was completed with construction scheduled for 2013.
7. The design and evaluation of replacement playground equipment was undertaken with installation to occur in the spring of 2013.
8. The pedestrian crosswalk and pathway lighting and safety improvement projects were completed.
9. A study to evaluate the costs and benefits of implementing a universal water metering or district metering system for the municipality was commissioned. This project will be reviewed in 2013.

### **3. 2013 Objectives:**

1. Begin design of a new public works workshop and storage facility with construction slated for 2014.
2. Undertake a strategic planning session for staff and council to identify priorities for the next five year period.
3. Begin evaluation of a revised Zoning Bylaw that will incorporate elements identified in the new Official Community Plan.
4. Continue implementation of the tactical marketing plan for economic development and tourism purposes.
5. Develop an implementation plan for the water and wastewater servicing sustainability strategies.
6. Enter into an agreement with the newly formed Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality for the provision of administrative services.
7. Become 'carbon neutral' with the purchase of carbon credits from the Nature Conservancy of Canada 'Darkwoods' project.
8. Decide on a universal or district drinking water metering program.
9. Develop a community energy plan and undertake an energy assessment and potential upgrade to the Community Hall.
10. Continue monitoring flows in the Forster Creek drinking water watershed to build a baseline of seasonal and yearly flow data.

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11. Replace the Fire Departments inventory of noncompliant and aging SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) with modern units.
12. Explore the potential, through training and funding partnerships, to construct a roof over the outdoor rink.
13. Relocate the 'Mountains Shall Bring Peace to the People' sign and construct a new structure in keeping with our entry signage theme.
14. Install modern 'welcome' signage that includes moveable copy to advertise events and festivals.
15. Construct phase two of the Radium 'Pump 'n' Jump' biking facility.
16. Evaluate and plan for future community hall / multi-use facility requirements.
17. Implement the new 'contaminated sites' financial requirements.

### **4. 2014 Objectives:**

1. Construct a new public works workshop and storage facility.
2. Administer the election of a new term of Council members.
3. Complete and implement a revised Zoning Bylaw that is in compliance with the new Official Community Plan.
4. Evaluate the relationship with the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality and decide how to proceed.
5. Continue implementation of projects identified as priorities in the water and wastewater sustainability plan.
6. Develop an energy based purchasing policy.

### **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 2012, the Village provided an exemption for the lands owned by the Roman Catholic Church. This exemption was provided under Bylaw No. 384, 2011.

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The additional amount of municipal taxes that would have been imposed in 2012 on these properties, if not for the exemption, would have been \$4,481.59.

For 2013, a similar exemption is being provided under Bylaw No. 390, 2012. The additional amount of municipal taxes that would be imposed on these properties in 2013, if not for the exemption, would be \$4,350.70.

## **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 2012 nor were any applications for disqualification made.

## **7. Strategic Community Investment Funding**

In 2009, the Province introduced substitute funding for the unconditional 'Small Community Grant' program. These are entitled 'Strategic Community Investment Funds' and they constitute advances in funding. Rather than face future revenue shortfalls, the municipality has decided to place the advanced portion of funding into reserves and bring those monies into revenue in the year that they would normally have been received.

The 2012 funds were partially used for operational expenses to maintain the same level of services as in prior years. A portion of the funds were placed into a reserve so that 2013 and 2014 revenues will remain stable and the same level of services can be maintained.

In 2012 the Village of Radium Hot Springs received the following amounts:

SC Grants:	March 2012	\$156,204
	June 2012	<u>\$234,826</u>
		\$391,030

The Village of Radium Hot Springs used 72% of the total received in 2012 to maintain the level of service to the community and to keep the tax increase as low as possible (5% increase to fund the Recreation Reserve). The remaining 28% was reserved to use over the next two years as future provincial funding levels are yet to be determined.

## **8. Development Cost Charges**

\$20,103 was received in water development cost charges in 2012 leaving a year-end balance of \$383,774 with no expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$359,846 with the fund earning \$3,825 in interest.

\$10,849 was received in sewer development cost charges in 2012 leaving a year-end balance of \$501,595 with no expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$483,564 with the fund earning \$7,182 in interest.