

VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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1. 2013 Services and Operations Report

Our drinking water treatment facility operated within normal parameters, with all water samples testing pure. No additional leaks were identified in our intake main as a result of the corrosion issue that started in 2010. Interior Health assessed our operations advising us that we meet or exceed all expectations.

This was the first full year of operations with our new sewage treatment ‘moving bed biofilm reactor’ technology. The system is operating so well that we were able to discontinue use of one of our aeration ponds. There is an issue with the anaerobic decomposition of sludge in one mixing tank that has led to an occasional odour problem. We plan to make additional adjustments in 2014 to eliminate this problem and to further improve treatment efficiency.

Notable capital projects undertaken include the drainage upgrades to Columbia Avenue and the replacement of playground equipment in both parks.

Our agreement to provide fire protection services in Kootenay National Park was renewed for a ten year period and a new two year agreement to provide administration services was signed with

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the nascent Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality. The Village agreed to provide administrative services for the Community Hall and staff is working towards implementing this with the Senior's Association. The Glacier Peaks Gymnastics Club returned as an anchor tenant to the school gymnasium.

Our 'First Responder' medical team became fully operational in 2013 with 22 responses solely for medical purposes and an additional 16 responses involving a medical component.

Our new Official Community Plan was approved.

2. 2013 Progress Report

The following summarizes progress made achieving our objectives:

1. Design of a new public works shop and storage facility is being postponed to 2014 with construction planned for 2015.
2. A strategic planning session was undertaken which identified priorities for 2013. These priorities were largely accomplished during the year, with the development of a recreation facility plan as an ongoing objective.
3. Work on a revised Zoning Bylaw that will conform to the new Official Community Plan was started and is continuing in 2014.
4. A new tactical marketing plan for economic development purposes was developed, in conjunction with Twist Marketing, to be implemented in 2014. The Village decided to oversee event coordination for tourism purposes, and a new event coordinator was hired in January 2014.
5. The water and wastewater sustainability study was finalized in October of 2013. Some operational aspects will be implemented, as per the recommendations, while others will be considered pending future financial capacity.
6. The Village entered into a two year agreement, effective February 19th, 2013, with the newly formed Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality for the provision of administrative services.
7. The Village cancelled its purchase of carbon credits from the Nature Conservancy of Canada 'Darkwoods' project in light of the Auditor General of BC's assessment that these carbon offsets were not 'credible'. The Village will seek to invest these funds in a local project, at some point in the future.
8. The Village decided to implement a district drinking water metering program, with construction slated for 2014. Four meters will be installed to monitor flows in four areas of the Village. This data will help us manage the water distribution system and assist in leak detection.

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9. A draft community energy plan was developed and an energy assessment undertaken of the Community Hall. Implementation of the recommendations for the Community Hall will become part of the discussion regarding our future needs for recreation facilities.
10. The Village continued its monitoring program in Forster Creek to build a baseline of seasonal and yearly flow data.
11. Replacement of the Fire Departments inventory of noncompliant and aging SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) was postponed to 2014.
12. Cost estimates and funding partnerships, to construct a roof over the outdoor rink, were explored. Council has placed this project on hold pending development of a broader plan for recreation facilities, which will include the Community Hall.
13. The relocation of the 'Mountains Shall Bring Peace to the People' sign and construction of a new support structure will occur in the spring of 2014.
14. The installation of modern 'welcome' signage will occur in the spring of 2014.
15. Phase two of the Radium 'Pump 'n' Jump' biking facility was completed.
16. Evaluation and planning for future community hall / multi-use facility requirements is continuing in 2014.
17. Identification and inventory of potentially 'contaminated sites' was completed as part of the new financial audit requirements.

3. 2014 Objectives:

1. Undertake three major drinking water and waste water capital projects to include district water metering, the Madsen Road booster station replacement and the Whiskey Jack sewage lift station replacement.
2. Develop an ungulate safety policy and begin discussing future management options with respect to Mule Deer and Bighorn Sheep. Hold a fall public education forum, in conjunction with the Wildsafe Coordinator, to improve public safety and knowledge.
3. Review recommendations from the Chamber of Commerce signage review committee and consider changes to the bylaw.
4. Continue evaluating the recreation facility needs of the municipality and develop a financial and implementation plan to achieve implementation.

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5. Evaluate the administration of Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality and discuss the future relationship of the two municipalities.
6. Partner with CanFor on the Community Advisory Committee to seek and implement actions that will mitigate issues arising from CanFor operations.
7. Continue review of the recommendations coming out of the drinking water and waste water sustainability plan.
8. Develop new fall events to improve tourist visitation and undertake planning for new spring events. Support and grow existing events and festivals.
9. Evaluate existing road conditions to prioritize future upgrades and repairs.
10. Develop a sidewalk and pedestrian transportation plan to prioritize future pathway development. Begin development of phase two of the Sinclair Creek trail network.
11. Approach Parks Canada to discuss improving pedestrian connectivity (sidewalks and street lighting) with the Village and the hot springs.
12. Establish a citizen advisory group to review Council remuneration.
13. Proceed with additional interface wildfire mitigation for perimeter areas of the Village including protection for water treatment plant infrastructure. This project will be conditional upon receipt of funding.

4. 2015 Objectives:

1. Orient and engage in strategic planning with the new four year term Council.
2. Construct a new public works storage and workshop facility.
3. Decide whether to renew, curtail or amend the administration agreement with Jumbo Glacier Resort Municipality.
4. Construct the Village portion of the sidewalks and street lighting between the Village and the hot springs.

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 2013, the Village provided an exemption for the lands owned by the Roman Catholic Church. This exemption was provided under Bylaw No. 390, 2012.

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The additional amount of municipal taxes that would have been imposed in 2013 on these properties, if not for the exemption, would have been \$2853.14.

For 2014, a similar exemption is being provided under Bylaw No. 398, 2013. The additional amount of municipal taxes that would be imposed on these properties in 2014, if not for the exemption, would be \$2910.07.

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 2013 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 2013 funds were partially used for operational expenses to maintain the same level of services as in prior years.

In 2013 the Village of Radium Hot Springs received the following amounts:

SC Grants:	March 2013	\$ 52,068
	June 2013	<u>\$130,691</u>
		\$182,759

8. Development Cost Charges

\$39,201 was received in water development cost charges in 2013 leaving a year-end balance of \$429,359 with no expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$383,774 with the fund earning \$6,384 in interest.

\$21,156 was received in sewer development cost charges in 2013 leaving a year-end balance of \$361,599 with expenditures, debt payments, waivers or reductions of \$168,172 made in the year. The beginning balance was \$501,595 with the fund earning \$7,020 in interest.