

**VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS**

**2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**1. 2014 Services and Operations Report**

Our drinking water treatment facility operated within normal parameters, with all water samples testing pure. One leak was repaired in our intake main as a result of the ongoing corrosion problem and, as a result, approximately 250 meters of intake main were replaced in the spring of 2015.

The wastewater treatment facility operated within normal parameters.

**2. 2014 Progress Report**

The following summarizes progress made achieving our objectives:

1. The district water metering project, the Madsen Road water booster station replacement and the Whiskey Jack sewage lift station replacement have been completed as of spring 2015. The combined value of these improvements is \$820,000.

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2. An ungulate safety policy was developed and council has started to discuss management options with respect to mule deer and bighorn sheep. A public education forum was held in the fall to improve public safety and knowledge, and we have been working with the Provincial government to improve the tools available to us to mitigate ungulate issues. Funding applications were submitted to initiate research trials so as to help maintain bighorn sheep migratory behavior.
3. An interim signage policy was adopted which allowed sandwich board signage and which clarified the process for seeking approval of prohibited signage. Five development permits for signage were issued in 2014 which included approvals for back lit signage.
4. A preliminary decision has been made to construct a new multi-use 'community hall' facility. A financial and implementation plan will be formulated in 2015.
5. The agreement for administration of the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality was renewed for a four year term beginning in February 2015.
6. The Village continues to partner with CanFor on the Community Advisory Committee to seek and implement actions that mitigate issues arising from CanFor operations.
7. Future implementation of the recommendations coming out of the drinking water and waste water sustainability plan will largely depend on financial capacity. For example, the options to establish an additional backup drinking water supply start at \$1.8M, which is currently beyond our financial capacity to consider. The recommendation for the application of wastewater biosolids over municipal lands, however, is very cost effective and will be implemented.
8. 2014 saw the introduction of two new shoulder season events: the "Golden Larch Artists Retreat" and "Bighorn Sheep Festival". These events will continue in 2015.
9. The evaluation of existing road conditions resulted in a six year plan for upgrades and repairs estimated at over \$700,000.
10. The sidewalk and pedestrian transportation plan to prioritize future pathway development has yet to be completed. Planning for an extension of the Sinclair Creek trail network will begin in 2015.
11. Discussions with Parks Canada to improve pedestrian connectivity (sidewalks and street lighting) between the Village and the hot springs are ongoing.
12. A citizen advisory group was established to review Council remuneration. The committee's recommendations were implemented effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
13. An interface wildfire mitigation project, focused on protecting our water treatment plant infrastructure, is proceeding in 2015. The value of these works is \$260,000.

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## **3. 2015 Objectives:**

1. Undertake a strategic planning exercise to identify priorities and projects for the term of Council.
2. Construct a new public works storage and workshop facility. The estimated expenditure is \$350,000.
3. Initiate the planning process for construction of a multi-use 'community hall' facility.
4. Continue our partnership with the Trails Alliance to sanction multiuse recreation and nature interpretation trails over the lands adjacent to the Old Coach trail.

## **4. 2016 Objectives:**

1. 2016 priorities and projects will be identified during the 2015 strategic planning process.
2. Replace our 1996 class 'A' pumper fire truck and breathing apparatus air compressor. The estimated cost of these acquisitions is \$500,000.

## **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 2014, the Village provided an exemption for the lands owned by the Roman Catholic Church. This exemption was provided under Bylaw No. 398, 2013.

The additional amount of municipal taxes that would have been imposed in 2014 on these properties, if not for the exemption, would have been \$4597.96.

For 2015, a similar exemption is being provided under Bylaw No. 407, 2014. The additional amount of municipal taxes that would be imposed on these properties in 2015, if not for the exemption, would be \$4613.78.

## **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 2014 nor were any applications for disqualification made.

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## **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 2014 funds were partially used for operational expenses to maintain the same level of services as in prior years.

In 2014 the Village of Radium Hot Springs received \$181,621 in funding.

## **8. Development Cost Charges**

\$20,103 was received in water development cost charges in 2014 leaving a year-end balance of \$457,304 with no expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$429,359 with the fund earning \$7,842 in interest.

\$10,849 was received in sewer development cost charges in 2014 leaving a year-end balance of \$209,271 with expenditures, debt payments, waivers or reductions of \$168,171 made in the year. The beginning balance was \$361,599 with the fund earning \$4,994 in interest.