

VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## **1. 2015 Services and Operations Report**

Both the drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities and distribution systems operated within normal parameters in 2015 with nothing significant to report.

The contract to deliver administrative services to the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality was renewed for a four year period.

The Village partnered with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations on a pilot project intended to reinforce the natural migration pattern of bighorn sheep. An experienced border collie and handler were used in a test run to see how the sheep would respond to the dog. The objective of the trial was to encourage straggler sheep to leave the Village after most of the herd has departed for high alpine territory. The project was a success in that we were able to demonstrate that bighorn sheep react to a trained dog in a similar fashion to domestic sheep. However, trials were discontinued because of the challenge of moving the bighorn sheep safely across the highway.

The Village assumed ownership and responsibility for the new community garden funded and constructed by the Sunrise Rotary Club. The community garden features 40 raised garden beds and it was entirely a volunteer effort. Irrigation for the community garden is provided by the Springs Golf Course. This site is also a public park with boardwalks, gazebo, picnic table, and communal herb and berry patch as well as a rose garden and benches.

The Village continued interface wildfire mitigation with an operational fuel management project intended to safeguard our water treatment infrastructure. This 70.6 hectare project, valued at \$257,200, will finish in 2016.

## **2. 2015 Progress Report**

The following summarizes progress made achieving our objectives:

1. A strategic planning exercise was undertaken in October to identify priorities and projects for the remaining term of Council. The need for several bylaw and policy reviews was identified; including a staffing needs review for the municipality. Decisions need to be made regarding firefighting service levels, as required by the new Provincial “Playbook”. Priority capital projects included development of a Columbia River access site and initiation of planning for the community hall replacement.
2. Construction of a new public works storage and workshop facility has been tabled for future consideration, so as to allow a comprehensive evaluation of the department’s needs.
3. The planning process for construction of a new community hall was initiated with a staff and Council educational workshop related to wood construction and design

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team options. A “Wood First” bylaw and policy was subsequently adopted and it is hoped that the project will maximize the use of locally derived forest products.

4. We continued our partnership with the Greenways Trail Alliance with the goal of obtaining provincial sanctions for the multiuse recreation and nature interpretation trails located on lands adjacent to the Old Coach trail. A meeting was held with Minister Steve Thomson (Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations), and provincial staff, to discuss the approval process.

### **3. 2016 Objectives:**

1. Initiate the integrated design process for the new community hall.
2. Establish the Fire Department firefighting service levels and revise polices and bylaw accordingly.
3. Replace our 1996 class ‘A’ pumper fire truck and breathing apparatus air compressor.
4. Revise the Zoning, Subdivision Servicing and Business Licensing Bylaws.
5. Initiate negotiations to acquire lands for a Columbia River access point and the Sinclair Creek trail extension.
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.
7. Undertake an organizational structure and human resource capacity review of the municipality to assess appropriate staffing levels.

### **4. 2017 Objectives:**

1. Construct the new community hall.
2. Re-evaluate options for aggressive deer mitigation.
3. Construct the new water reservoir (pending grant approval).
4. Initiate the planning process for a comprehensive development plan for the main park.
5. Continue with the development of the Columbia River access site with the installation of infrastructure to include toilet facilities and bear proof garbage containment.

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## **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 2015, the Village provided an exemption for the lands owned by the Roman Catholic Church. This exemption was provided under Bylaw No. 407.

The additional amount of municipal taxes that would have been imposed in 2015 on these properties, if not for the exemption, would have been \$4,613.78.

For 2016, a similar exemption is being provided under Bylaw No. 415. The additional amount of municipal taxes that would be imposed on these properties in 2016, if not for the exemption, would be \$4,263.05.

## **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 2015 nor were any applications for disqualification made.

## **7. Small Community Grant Funding**

In 2015 the Village of Radium Hot Springs received \$279,800 in funding.

## **8. Development Cost Charges**

\$20,103 was received in water development cost charges in 2015 leaving a year-end balance of \$484,590 in the fund with no expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$457,304 with the fund earning \$7,183 in interest.

\$10,848 was received in sewer development cost charges in 2015 leaving a year-end balance of \$53,832 with expenditures, debt payments, waivers or reductions of \$168,171 made in the year. The beginning balance was \$207,271 with the fund earning \$1,884 in interest.