

VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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1. 2016 Services and Operations Report

Our wastewater treatment facilities operated with no significant issues and with the majority of effluent testing meeting all required parameters. We have a resident community of duckweed living in our settlement pond but it does not seem to have a negative effect on operations. Each spring, a minor algae bloom occurs that we control with ultrasonics.

Similarly, our drinking water treatment facility and distribution system operated without issue. Our water intake supply line experienced one corrosion related leak, which was repaired. Our plan is to continue replacing sections of this intake line so as to avoid problems in the future.

Administrative activity on the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality front was quiet during the year as development activity has largely ceased pending the Supreme Court of Canada decision (Ktunaxa Nation Council and Kathryn Teneese, on their own behalf and on behalf of all citizens of the Ktunaxa Nation versus the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.)

The Village continued their animal safety program by hiring a coordinator in partnership with WildSafe BC. The coordinator primarily monitors issues involving animal attractants, aggressive animals, and provides public education.

From a regulatory standpoint, the most important bylaws passed during the year were the “Traffic and Parking Regulation” and the “Wood First” bylaws. The “Wood First” bylaw expresses our commitment to supporting the local forestry industry by prioritizing wood as our first choice for construction projects.

The Village continued interface wildfire mitigation with two operational fuel management projects. The first project, started in 2015, is intended to safeguard our water treatment plant infrastructure. This 70.6 hectare project, valued at \$257,200, finished in 2016. The second project is located on the crownlands immediately south of the Village boundary. This project is intended to provide a fire guard buffer zone against wildfires originating from south of the municipality. The total area is 74.3 hectares and the project cost is \$200,000. 28.6 hectares were treated in 2016 and the project shall be completed in 2017. Both projects received funding through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.

2. 2016 Progress Report

The following summarizes progress made achieving our objectives:

1. The architectural firm “Urban Arts” was contracted to undertake the integrated design process for the new community hall. Visioning workshops, design charrettes and public open houses were held in September, November and December. At year’s end we had achieved approximately 50% of the building design, engineering, and landscape plans.

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2. It was determined that the Fire Department will train to full firefighting service levels, which will include both exterior and interior operations. Training to attain this capacity will be phased over time with exterior operational capability as the first priority.
3. A new “Spartan Metro Star-X” class ‘A’ pumper fire truck was ordered with delivery expected in 2017. The breathing apparatus air compressor was replaced with a new unit.
4. The revision of the Zoning, Subdivision Servicing, and Business Licensing Bylaws did not occur in 2016, largely due to staff capacity and other constraints.

The last update to the Zoning Bylaw occurred in 2007. Since that date, staff members have been compiling minor issues with the intent of undertaking another revision. Up to this point, a revision has been considered to be a relatively low priority, as the current bylaw has been serving our needs well. However, with the growth in the short term rental economy, it is realized that amendments need to occur to address this issue. Many municipalities are wrestling with the short term rental economy. Requests have been made to the Provincial government to solve some of the problems, like taxation, that are clearly within their jurisdiction. There has been a wide spectrum of approaches taken by other municipalities and it is realized that local solutions will be unique for each community. As the list of options and best practices grows, we will be in a better position to address the short term rental economy, from both a regulatory and zoning perspective.

The Subdivision Servicing Bylaw addresses the requirements that new developers have to follow in their design and construction, like road standards, street-lighting and sidewalk requirements, drainage, and water and sewer infrastructure. These are very technical issues and we have realized that it is beyond the scope of staff to undertake. As such, we will be engaging a consultant to assist us in formulating a new bylaw, hopefully in 2017.

The Business Licensing Bylaw provides regulation of the commercial sector. The current bylaw has been effective, in this regard, but it is becoming outdated. The regulation of businesses involves complex matters and this will be a large undertaking that will involve considerable consultation, discussion, and analysis. A revision will remain on our agenda but is outside of the two year period addressed by this plan.

5. Land for a Columbia River access point was generously donated to the Village by Schickedanz West. Development of the property, including improved egress, parking, toilet, and garbage facilities is planned for 2017. The initial plan for the Sinclair Creek trail extension has been curtailed due to the extent of the Black Cottonwood tree hazards and the extent of tree removal that would have to occur to allow that route. The Village will seek options for an alternate trail route to connect the Elk Park area to our existing trail network.
6. The Village continued in its attempts to develop recreational trails located near, or linking with, the Village of Radium Hot Springs, primarily in partnership with the Columbia Valley Greenways Trails Alliance. Trail development in our area is discussed and

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proposed in their document entitled “Trails Vision 2017”. The Village and the Alliance have sought direction from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations regarding the sanctioning of existing trails located adjacent to the Old Coach Trail.

7. An organizational structure and human resource capacity review of the municipality, so as to assess appropriate staffing levels, was undertaken by the CAO and discussed with Council. It was determined that efficiencies gained from the implementation of our new financial software has eased pressures on that department. The pending retirement of the Public Works Superintendent is also seen as a potential opportunity for a redistribution of responsibilities. It was recognized that a further expansion of staffing levels is constrained by our financial limits. As such, we will continue to prioritize and undertake new services and projects within our current staffing capacity.

3. 2017 Objectives:

1. Construct the new community hall.
2. Construct the new water reservoir.
3. Purchase a new street sweeper.
4. Initiate the planning process for a comprehensive development plan for the main park.
5. Continue with development of the Columbia River access site with the installation of infrastructure that will include safer egress, parking, interpretive signage, toilet facilities, and bear proof garbage containment.
6. Engage a consultant to facilitate stakeholder sessions and develop a comprehensive information and tourism signage plan for the Village.

4. 2018 Objectives:

1. Develop a funding and implementation plan for the comprehensive development of the main park (landscaping, facilities, and features). Move forward with construction, if possible.
2. Undertake preliminary engineering, design and cost estimating for a sidewalk connector to the Hot Springs, so as to inform the future capital plan.
3. Continue with phased repairs of the corroded drinking water system intake water main.
4. Commission the new community hall and develop a marketing plan to promote its use.
5. Administrate the 2018 general municipal election.

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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.

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 2016, the Village provided an exemption for the lands owned by the Roman Catholic Church. This exemption was provided under Bylaw No. 415.

The additional amount of municipal taxes that would have been imposed in 2016 on these properties, if not for the exemption, would have been \$4,263.05.

For 2017, a similar exemption is being provided under Bylaw No. 424. The additional amount of municipal taxes that would be imposed on these properties in 2017, if not for the exemption, would be \$4,443.95.

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 2016 nor were any applications for disqualification made.

7. Small Community Grant Funding

In 2016 the Village of Radium Hot Springs received \$261,466 in funding.

8. Development Cost Charges

\$ 27,139 was received in water development cost charges in 2016 leaving a year-end balance of \$ 519,656 in the fund with no expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$484,590 with the fund earning \$7,927 in interest.

\$14,647 was received in sewer development cost charges in 2016 leaving a year-end balance of \$0 with expenditures, debt payments, waivers or reductions of \$68,696 made in the year. The beginning balance was \$53,832 with the fund earning \$217 in interest.