

City of Nelson News

June 26, 2015 Edition



COUNCIL UPDATES



CITY OF NELSON



Mayor Kozak and Council mark their first six months!

Hello everyone and happy summer!

Nelson's new Mayor and City Council now have the first six months of their terms under their belts. Mayor Deb Kozak says it's been an incredibly productive time, with a steep learning curve too. One of Council's first acts was to repeal the

unpopular downtown dog bylaw.

Council has also attended training sessions on governance, completed a bylaw priority setting session and conducted a rigorous budget review. Mayor Kozak and her team have had thoughtful discussions over proposed major increases in recreation and protective services budgets, plus there were some tough decisions made on community initiative grants.

There've been some big issues on council's agendas, including important public hearings on the Ancron Medical Clinic and the new developments at Nelson Landing and Nelson Commons. The Stores to Shores Downtown Revitalization has added excitement, activity and a bit of complexity for businesses in the downtown area.

"The new council is strong, committed and has diverse strengths," says Mayor Kozak. "Each councillor made personal commitments at the beginning of the term and this has resulted in respect around the table for different views, and better decisions. I made a commitment to chair meetings strongly and fairly and to encourage vigorous and thoughtful debate. We do not always agree, which is good. Each person is treated with respect and is heard."

Here's what the rest of council has had to say about it's first six months in action:



Councillor Val Warmington

It would be an understatement to say that I've been busy or learned a lot since joining Council. Early on it seemed impossible to keep up with the breadth of issues and continually-growing pile of reading. I've now learned to focus my energy strategically and that there is a rhythm to Council work that I can sync with — working long and hard when necessary but recognizing and enjoying the down time when it comes. Being a Councillor for the City of Nelson is as challenging and rewarding as I'd hoped and I am thoroughly engaged and enjoying it.



Councillor Robin Cherbo

The first six months on City Council has been going very well. Going from orientation for all of council to diving into the budget process for 2015, has kept all of us on the go. To say the least it has been a whirlwind of projects and issues that should continue to keep us busy until the end of the year and beyond.



Councillor Janice Morrison

Six months already, how time flies when you are a "new" councillor again. Previous council experience has allowed my learning curve to be less of a hill to climb. Pulpit Rock versus new councillor's Mount Everest. Council portfolios are something new. 2015 budget planning, utility rate adjustments, development approvals and "letting the dog's out" are just a few examples of decisions already made by this council. It's fun working with councillor's who are as diverse as the citizens we represent. It will be full speed ahead with only 3.5 years left to get all the work done!



Councillor Michael Dailly

Being a new councillor means every day is a school day. Whether I'm walking on Baker, at the grocery store or the market, people want to talk about what's happening in Nelson. Having these discussions and finding the answers to your questions is a learning process for everyone, and a big part of a Councillor's job. I'm grateful for all the support I've received from City staff and fellow Councillors past and present. Keep asking questions and offering your input!



Councillor Anna Purcell

The first six months on council have been amazing — more learning and growing than I had even anticipated, and while that learning curve has sometimes felt more like a learning cliff, and my rock-climbing skills rusty, the views at the top are spectacular and absolutely worth it. Nelson is chock-full of bright, hard-working, well intentioned individuals making it a better city for all of us and it's a privilege to learn from them and help where I can.



Councillor Bob Adams

Even though this is my tenth year on council, there've been some big changes, especially with four new council members. But those changes have all been good. There's been a lot of cooperation, everybody speaks their piece and everybody listens. I think we're all doing very, very well.

Stores To Shores: Progress, and patience

After two months of work, the Stores To Shores downtown revitalization development is on time and on budget. IODE Park, the new Social Steps and the 400 and 500 blocks are beginning to transform into the safer, beautified thoroughfare envisioned by the Sustainable Downtown Waterfront Master Plan. Work on the 300 block, from the corner of Hall and Vernon to the corner of Hall and Front will be getting underway shortly. The first of a number of improved traffic routes is in place with Cedar Street having been converted into a one-way headed north to Edgewood Avenue. New turning bays will soon be laid out on Front Street at Cedar. The upcoming phase will include a number of motorist and pedestrian detours around the Nelson and District Community Complex, the Chamber of Commerce and Lake Street. Please be patient, pay careful attention to w and above all — support those businesses along the construction route!

NELSON HYDRO NEWS

Your hydro meter: Be safe, not sorry

Nelson Hydro is reminding its customers that tampering with your hydro meter is extremely dangerous and a safety risk too. It's also contrary to City of Nelson Bylaws, and is illegal. Power meters have live electrical connections behind the meter device which can easily cause fires, injuries or death. If Nelson Hydro feels that a person has tampered with a power meter, the City can take legal actions or disconnect your power. The safety of our customers and Nelson's electrical system is Nelson's top priority.

Has your meter been tampered with? Call 250-352-8240.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

It's gonna be a hot one. Watch your water use!

Did you know that lawns require only three centimetres of water per week? That's equal to just an hour of sprinkling. With a dry, hot summer in the forecast, the City of Nelson would like to remind residents to restrict their watering use, as follows:

- Water every other day only. Premises with "even" numbered addresses may sprinkle on "even" days (2nd, 4th, 6th etc) and premises with "odd" numbered addresses may sprinkle on "odd" days (1st, 3rd, 5th etc).
- Water in the early morning, before 10:00 am, or early evening, after 6:00 pm.
- Premises with underground sprinklers should have the system checked for leaks and the timer set to only give the lawn about one hour worth of water each week.
- Ensure that water does not over-spray onto sidewalks, driveways or roads.

Due to the rapidly melting snow pack and the low volume of rain to date, the City may implement more conservation measures if the current warm weather continue, so please, do your best to go easy on watering, and keep an eye open for likely restrictions.

Also...A Water Smart Ambassador will be walking Nelson's neighbourhoods speaking to residents about their outside water use and placing a lawn flag on properties where the watering restrictions aren't being followed. Residents can contact the Ambassador for a free sprinkling assessment and receive a free hose timer or rain gauge.

More info? Contact the Water Smart Ambassador at 250-352-8102 or watersmart@nelson.ca, Public Works and Water Utility at 250-352-8238, publicworks@nelson.ca or click on www.cbt.org/watersmart/nelson

Here's how to stay cool kids (and parents too)

The Lions Park Spray Park will be open seven days a week until Wednesday, Sept. 30, from noon to 7:00 pm. Gyro Park Pool will be open seven days a week from Thursday, July 2 'til Saturday, August 29, (except Monday, August 3) from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

CITY BULLETIN BOARD

The Library is cool!

The Nelson Public Library is where cool people hang out in a warm and friendly atmosphere. This summer: **Summer Reading Club for kids:** Build cool things, friendships, and fun with this year's "Build It!" theme! The Purple Pirate needs help to build his pirate ship on Wednesday, July 8 at 1 pm. Free!...**Cool stuff for teens** at extra special Wild and Wacky Wednesdays through the summer...Two new quiet rooms in the adult nonfiction section for quiet study and tutoring, plus **great reading for all ages:** books, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs to check out, eBooks and eAudiobooks, databases and more...*Program registration, details, downloads and more at www.nelsonlibrary.carom Thursday, July 2 'til Saturday, August 29, (except Monday, August 3) from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.*

NELSON FIRE AND RESCUE

The time is now: Protect your home from forest fire

It's going to be a hot summer — and that means your home and business need to be secure from the very real threat of **wildland urban interface fires** — forest fires that can engulf city structures and neighbourhoods.

The City of Nelson has worked hard to meet the fuel mitigation and Fire Smart recommendations contained in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. But these efforts are intended to reduce the likelihood and potential impacts of a wildfire spreading into our community — not offer a guarantee they won't occur. Residents need to **clean up dry grasses and plant material** including woody debris, all of which is fuel for fires to spread. Remember, a wildland fire can impact our city via the perimeter, start from within our boundaries or occur due to hot embers dropping throughout our area from a fire further away. *More info on how you can better protect your home and property? Call Nelson Fire Rescue Service 250-352-3103 or click on Firesmartcanada.ca*

NELSON AND DISTRICT YOUTH CENTRE

Grand Re-Opening next week!

With over 8,000 visits expected this year, there are some **big, bold changes** afoot at the Nelson and District Youth Centre. **Nelson's foremost venue for youth and young adult services** is in the midst of a wide array of improvements to spaces and programs, most recently in the skatepark area. The NDYC is very excited to welcome everyone to its **Grand Re-Opening Saturday, July 4, from 1:00 to 4:00**, when they'll be giving the public a sneak preview of all the amazing changes they have made to the building.

Office Closures & After Hours Emergency Service

City Hall, Nelson Hydro, the Operations Department and the Nelson Public Library will all be closed for Canada Day, Wednesday, July 1 and British Columbia Day, Monday, August 3.

For Operations emergency service, call 250-352-3103. Power outage? Electrical hazard? Damage to Nelson Hydro equipment? Outage updates? Call 1-877-32HYDRO (1-877-324-9376). Nelson Transit busses do not run on Statutory Holidays.