

NEWS April 26, 2013

City of
NELSON
BRITISH COLUMBIA

COUNCIL UPDATES



Hello Nelson Star readers, and welcome to your City of Nelson April newsletter. We hope everyone took note of last month's City Budget 2013 page, a departure from our usual newsletter format...and we trust you found it informative and worth the read.

With winter having moved on, there are a heap of City happenings to tell you about. Here goes...

Big Plans: Your Downtown and Waterfront are changing. For the better.

Thirty years ago our downtown went through a substantial heritage revitalization plan that beautifully transformed the city. Well, now, Council and the community have decided it's time to reinvest in our downtown and the waterfront once again. The Sustainable Waterfront and Downtown Master Plan (SWDMP) spells out a 30-year vision for the downtown and waterfront, starting in the heart of our community. This spring and summer, you'll see a lot of exciting changes, beginning with the enhancement of Baker Street's amenity areas. They're being redeveloped into inviting and active spaces, with the addition of sculptures, improved seating, more room for outdoor restaurant patios and ample space for all sorts of street entertainment. There'll also be new City banners welcoming visitors to both Baker Street and the new Railtown area. The Ward Street bus stop will also be redesigned and improved, and further planning for the Hall Street and Railtown areas will continue through the spring.

The bus just got better too...

On the public transit front...Nelson City Council is a key partner with both the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary in making improvements to transit all across the West Kootenay. A new integrated transit approach has resulted in a number of improvements:

- Increased regional service, adding two more trips to the Nelson and Castlegar corridor, equaling the same service offered between Trail and Castlegar
- Improvements to health connection service in Kaslo and Salmo
- Improvements in conventional service in Nelson and Castlegar
- New fare zones and products
- A new Single Riders Guide that provides information on the alignment of routes and service options
- Introduction of new, smaller community busses to Nelson's public transit fleet

The new services will begin on July 2nd. More info? Click on www.busonline.ca/transitfuture. It's worth noting too that all the West Kootenay transit improvements made so far have been managed within existing budgets!

You, me and the OCP

It's been a long three-year road, but City Council plans to adopt Nelson's updated Official Community Plan (OCP) next month. The OCP is the guiding document that shapes development throughout Nelson. The community had a big hand in refining the OCP, adding considerable input and much appreciated volunteer time over the past 36 months.

NELSON HYDRO NEWS

Avoid the shock: Protect your home and business from spring power surging and lightning

It's that time of year...Nelson Hydro is reminding customers that during the spring and summer months there is a greater possibility of lightning and power surges on the City's electrical distribution system.

Did you know?— Nelson Hydro customers are required to supply, install and maintain their own surge and lightning protection equipment to protect against these possibly troublesome conditions.

City of Nelson/Nelson Hydro Bylaw #3196 states that the utility doesn't guarantee uninterrupted power supply, nor does it guarantee the constancy of its voltage or frequency. The bylaw also says that "Nelson Hydro shall not be responsible for any loss or damage due to defect in service arising from any cause whatsoever." Please make sure the electrical system in your home or business is adequately protected. If you're not sure, simply call an electrical contractor, and make whatever upgrades are required. Thanks!



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Spring is here, and so is the wind and water...

With springtime's beautiful albeit somewhat unpredictable weather here, the City's Operations Department has a number of important reminders for you...

Trees and wind: Make sure to take precautions for falling branches in City Parks during windy weather and storms.

Water main flushing program: The City's water main flushing will continue Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. through May and into June. This is done every year to remove sediment in the City's pipes and to help maintain water quality.



As an area is flushed, water pressure may drop and/or the water may be discoloured. If you turn on a cold water tap and let it run a few minutes, your tap water will clear.

Spring runoff: Use your common sense around rising creeks and drain courses. Keep a very close eye on children playing anywhere near fast-flowing water ways, and please don't hesitate to report blockages due to branches and other debris to Public Works

Speaking of water. We'll all be using more as the weather warms up...here are some quick **Water Smart** tips:

- Residents at odd-numbered addresses are asked to water on odd-numbered days, and folks with even-numbered addresses on even-numbered calendar days
- **Want to save water?** Did you know? More than 50% of the water applied to lawns and gardens is lost due to evaporation, or run-off because of over-watering. Most **lawns and gardens** require just 2.5 cms of water per week. Water early in the morning, after the dew dries. It's important to know that watering off-peak helps keeps Nelson's vital water reservoir levels and water pressure adequate, for possible fire emergencies. More water saving advice? www.nelson.ca

And finally, a few more tips for the things we do in spring (or shouldn't)...**Feeding pigeons** is prohibited by Section 12(2) of the Environmental Management Act, and you may have to pay a \$115 fine...in regards to **alley obstructions**, the City's hard working trash pick up personnel ask that you please make sure utility trailers, holiday trailers and other obstructions are removed to allow for clear, safe and efficient access for garbage removal.

CITY BULLETIN BOARD

Before you build—do you need a permit for that?

It's construction season! Did you know that a Building Permit is required for any structure over 10 sq.m. (approx.107 sq.ft.)? This includes garden sheds, carports, garages, decks, etc. Another reminder: temporary structures like portable garages aren't permitted within 4.5 metres of your front property line. All structures must be located fully on private property and meet the zoning setback requirements.

The Development Services & Sustainability webpages at Nelson.ca have information on what structures require a permit, property setbacks, building heights, other permits you may need and how to apply. More info? 250-352-8260, or stop by the 1st floor of City Hall between 8:30 am and noon.

Get your garden growin', then dig into the Kootenay's best books

Spring has sprung at the Nelson Library – your one-stop-shop for info to get your garden growing! Check out the library's very own Home Improvement Reference Centre on-line for how-to on all your spring projects. Go to www.nelsonlibrary.ca and click on e-library...

And now, drum roll please... Announcing this year's One Book, One Kootenay shortlist! The finalist's are: Confined Space by Deryn Collier. Small-town coroner Bern Fortin investigates a murder in a brewery. The Dolphin's Tooth: a Decade in Search of Adventure by Bruce Kirkby. Discover the world's edgier places. Never Going Back by Antonia Banyard. A group of friends, a 10-year memorial, and a secret.

Join us for an evening with Nelson author Deryn Collier, Thursday, May 23 at 7:30 pm. Read. Vote. Celebrate. More info? Click on www.obok.ca



Emergency Preparedness Week: Are you prepared?

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 5th-11th. In many rural and forested areas, May 5th is also Wildfire Preparedness Day. In both cases, we all need to take inventory! Are you ready for a multi-day power outage? What if Nelson is evacuated due to forest fires? Make the preparations now, as if going for a three-day campout, so that you'll know where the gear, food and emergency information is when (hopefully if) you need it. For more ideas, see embc.gov.bc.ca or search at our city website: nelson.ca

Nelson's Dog Bylaw 101

As spring is upon us, the Nelson bylaw department would like to remind everyone about a few things regarding Animal Control Bylaw # 2333: Dogs are still NOT permitted in the downtown core, in Lakeside Park or on the Lakeside Fields. They are however permitted to be walked on a leash along the pathway. The fine for being in these restricted areas — \$70.

Did you know all dogs in the city need to have a current City of Nelson dog license? It's a \$65 fine for not having man's/woman's best friend registered. Dogs aren't permitted to be tied to a post, tree or sign in a public place. The fine for failing to pick up after your pooch? \$60. One more tip... Please try to keep the dog barking to a minimum, as it can be unsettling to many residents, day or night. More info on animal bylaw? Visit the City of Nelson website or call Nelson Bylaw Control at 250-505-5676

Enjoy your Victoria Day long weekend!

Don't forget about the upcoming Victoria Day Long weekend. City Hall, Nelson Hydro, the Operations Department and Nelson Public Library will be closed Victoria Day – that's Monday, May 20th. Nelson Transit doesn't offer transit service on statutory holidays either. For Operations emergency service, call 250-352-3103.



CITY OF NELSON

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NELSON HYDRO EMERGENCY CONTACT:

To report a power outage, electrical hazard, damage to Nelson Hydro equipment or for outage updates, call 1-877-32HYDRO

(1-877-324-9376).