

COUNCIL UPDATES

NEW MAYOR, NEW COUNCIL TO BUILD ON STRONG FOUNDATION OF COUNCILS' PAST

Hello folks and welcome to the City of Nelson's December newsletter. There've been some exciting changes at City Hall, and some new faces added to the City's roster over the past month.

The City of Nelson's brand new mayor — Nelson's **first ever female mayor** in fact — will be officially sworn into office Dec. 8, along with her new council. The ceremony will start at 7 p.m. at the Prestige Lakeside Resort, and like all regular Council and Committee of the Whole meetings, the ceremony will be open to the public. There's a full schedule of 2015 council meetings posted at www.nelson.ca/meetings.

And in case you missed the results of the City's Nov. 15 election... Three-time councillor **Deb Kozak** is Nelson's new mayor for the next four years (not three, as in elections past). Mayor Elect Kozak will be joined by veteran councillors **Bob Adams** and **Robin Cherbo**, former councillor **Janice Morrison**, and newcomers **Anna Purcell**, **Michael Daily** and **Val Warminton**.

"The excellent planning of previous councils has built a foundation that we'll build on over the next four years," says Kozak. "It's set the stage for Nelson to become a leader among communities everywhere across BC and Canada. I'm proud to represent our City as your Mayor and ready to begin the journey with my new Council."

The outgoing council's last meeting was held Nov. 17. The City is bidding farewell to **Mayor John Dooley**, and councillors **Paula Kiss**, **Candace Batycki** and **Donna Macdonald**, who is Nelson's longest serving woman councillor, having sat on council for 19 of the past 26 years.

The departing Mayor and Council have achieved many accomplishments in their term, including the establishment of the Regional West Kootenay Transit System, the Eco-Save/Home Energy Retrofit Program, the achievement of targets to reduce the City's corporate greenhouse gases emissions by 25 per cent from 2007 while saving over \$100,000 per year on energy costs. There've also been significant investments in core infrastructure including water and sewer — 13 kilometres of sewer main have been relined and there's been significant progress on the aim to replace of all Nelson's galvanized water mains by the end of 2015. Nelson Hydro has made great strides as well, with its Downtown Conversion to 25kv and the new Rosemont sub-station.

The outgoing Mayor and Council also invested in the downtown, and culture, by improving amenity areas, Raintown and adding public art like beautiful sculptures and terrific new bike racks. New housing was added throughout the city too — including Anderson Street Gardens and its 33 units of subsidized housing.

"I would hold the accomplishments of the last three years up against those of any other City Council in the province or country," says outgoing Mayor John Dooley.



CITY OF NELSON

CITY BULLETIN BOARD

LIBRARY

Cold winds, warm hearts @ your Library

A Book Under Every Tree aims to put books for kids into the Nelson Food Cupboard's Holiday Hampers. Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, the Nelson Library, and the Nelson Star are collecting unwrapped new, or new condition books for kids aged 0 to 15 years until Dec. 11. Boxes are at the Library, The Nelson Star office, or the Learning Place on the lower level of City Hall.

Fines for Food Day is Monday, Dec. 8. Fines paid on this day benefit the Nelson Food Cupboard to feed individuals and families this winter.

The holiday spirit is alive and well at your Library, with special events, programs, displays, and contests for all ages. Go to www.nelsonlibrary.ca. **Follow us on Facebook!**

Holiday hours: Closing at 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31. Closed Dec. 25, 26, and Jan. 1.



NELSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Hand over the keys. And drop that call.

Let's hear it for designated drivers—those unsung heroes who choose not to drink so they can get their friends home safely. Remember — plan your ride.

If your activities involve alcohol, make a plan before you head out. Arrange for a designated driver or use other options to get home safely—call a taxi, take transit or call a sober friend.

A designated driver is the person who decides not to drink at all so they can drive others home safely. So choose your designated driver before the first round of drinks arrive. And remember — being a designated driver is a shared responsibility. You can promote safe driving and encourage your friends and family to make smart choices. Set a positive example and take your turn to be the designated driver.

Tips for safe mobile phone use

- Ignore your phone. Let calls go to voicemail, reply to text messages later or ask your passenger to receive them for you. No call or text is worth risking your life.
- Break the bad habit. Turn off your phone and put it in the trunk to avoid temptation.
- Hold on to your steering wheel. Use a Bluetooth, or a wired headset or speakerphone that is securely attached to the car.
- Stop driving. If you have to take a call, pull over to the side once it is safe to do so.
- Check the facts. "Can I text at a red light?" "Is using the speakerphone safe?" Make sure you understand the law. Review the facts about distracted driving.



NELSON AND DISTRICT YOUTH CENTRE

Hip Hoppin', health services for youth, good eats and a new face

We've got tonnes of great stuff happening at the NDYC over the month of December. BOOMBOX, an evening devoted to hip hop culture, runs Dec. 6, from 2 to 6 p.m. There'll be live art, dancing, music and prizes to give away. Starting December 9, every Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m., we'll be opening a drop-in clinic for youth where we'll have a nurse practitioner here offering private services and support.

And there's more... We've recently installed a beautiful laminate floor in our upstairs multi-purpose room and added healthy vending machines downstairs to provide the best possible facility for Nelson youth. We're also very excited to welcome **Kim Palfenier**, director of the Nelson Regional Sports Council, to the centre. Kim's office is now located right here in the youth centre building. Kim's arrival is another step in ensuring the NYDC is a hub where youth from all walks of life can come for services and activities — all in an effort to help young folks along their path. More info? Click on www.ndyc.ca for weekly programming, hours of operation, and more info about NDYC.



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

KNOW YOUR SNOW-HOW!

Street Snow Plowing

The Operation Department's goal is to keep Nelson safe for everyone, motorists and pedestrians alike. Our first priority is to clear and sand emergency routes, major access routes and streets in the downtown area. From Nov. 1 to April 30, vehicles in residential neighbourhoods must be parked on the odd-numbered side of the street on odd-numbered dates; conversely, they should be parked on the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered dates. With your help, this system allows the City's snow clearing fleet to plow close to the curbs and maintain maximum street width through the snowy months of late fall, winter and early spring.

City Sidewalk Snow Removal

When it comes to making things safe for Nelson's pedestrian traffic, the City's snow plowing crews clear high traffic sidewalks only — and in most cases, only a sidewalk on one side of the street will be done. A sidewalk snowplow map is available on the City of Nelson's web page. Every business owner or resident is asked to remove new snow and ice on their sidewalks by 11 a.m. daily, except Sundays for businesses.

Need more info on the City's Snow Plowing Program?

Visit www.nelson.ca ... then click on 'City Services' ... then click on 'Operations' ... then click on 'Winter Snow and Ice Management.'

Holy Smokes!
Thanks Chief Grypma for your 36 years of service. All the best in your retirement!



Beyond the new faces around the council table, there are two new senior managers on the job now. **Pam Mierau**, the City's new **Manager of Development Services**, had her first day Nov. 17. **Len MacCharles**, the City's new **Nelson Fire Chief** is officially on the job now too, transitioning into the position that is being departed by Nelson's longtime chief, **Simon Grypma**, who marked his final day job, today — Friday, Nov. 28

NELSON HYDRO NEWS

POWER OUT? HERE'S WHAT TO DO!

What to do during a power outage

Fallen trees, high winds, freezing rain and even automobile accidents can damage power lines and cause power outages that may last from several hours to a few days. An extended loss of power during the winter months can result in cold, damp homes and downright difficult living conditions. Homeowners can protect their homes against frost damage by installing standby heating systems that run throughout a winter storm emergency. The consequences of power loss can be minimized by taking the following necessary precautions:

- Determine whether the power outage is affecting only your home or whether it includes your neighbours. If your neighbour still has power, check your circuit breaker panel or fuse box.
- If your circuit breaker panel or fuse box has not tripped off, call the Nelson Hydro Outage Phone Line at 1-877-324-9376 to report the outage.
- If you see a downed power line, please call immediately with the exact location. Keep back a minimum of 10 metres (33 feet) from the wires or anything in contact with the wires, and warn others of the danger. Always assume that the lines are energized.

Statutory Holidays - Christmas and New Years Office Closures & After Hours Emergency Service

City Hall, Nelson Hydro, the Operations Department and the Nelson Public Library will all be closed for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. For Operations emergency service, please call 250-352-3103. To report a power outage, electrical hazard, damage to Nelson Hydro equipment or for outage updates, call 1-877-32HYDRO (1-877-324-9376).

Nelson Transit Service Nelson Transit busses do not run on Statutory Holidays.