

# NEWS

## February 24, 2012

### COUNCIL UPDATES

#### 116 Years of Power and Sustainability

This week is Heritage Week and communities across the province are celebrating "Energy in BC: A Powerful Past, a Sustainable Future." The theme has a lot of meaning here in Nelson, as this month marks 116 years of hydro generation by the City of Nelson.



The hydro electric generating plant at Cottonwood Falls was built in 1895-1896 and was the first hydro generating station in BC. Photo, circa 1898, courtesy of Touchstones Nelson.

Nelson Hydro is the only municipally-owned hydro utility in the province that has its own generation, transmission and distribution system.

Nelson Hydro's revenues make a significant contribution to the City's annual budget.

2012 will be a significant year for Nelson Hydro as the City continues to invest in renewing hydro infrastructure. "Nelson Hydro is an asset not just in energy terms, but also in terms of our financial position," say Mayor John Dooley. "Pretty soon we will see electrical upgrade work starting up again. I hope that, when residents see that work happening it will be with a sense of pride. We are in the final stages of renewing our community's hydro utility."

#### What Can You do to Celebrate Heritage Week?

Why not...

- Visit the Library and check out one of the many fascinating books about the history of Nelson
- Visit Touchstones Nelson
- Familiarise yourself with the City's Heritage Register
- Take a self-guided walking tour of the City's Heritage Buildings and the Nelson Memorial Park Cemetery
- Enjoy a stroll through the City's historic downtown...

You can also visit [www.heritagebc.ca](http://www.heritagebc.ca) and [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca) for more information and ideas.

### OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

#### Operations Projects for 2012

Operations will continue to focus on renewing infrastructure. The major projects planned for 2012 include ongoing replacement of watermains, replacement of the pressure reducing station at Ninth Street, and chlorinator and disinfection upgrades at the Mountain Station Reservoir. Sanitary projects include ongoing work to separate the storm sewer catch basins from the sanitary system, re-lining of existing sanitary mains, ongoing improvements at the Sewage Treatment Plant, and at sanitary lift stations.

#### Street Plowing, Cleaning and Clearing

From **November 1st to April 30th** each year, vehicles must be parked on the odd-numbered side of the street on odd-numbered dates; and the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered dates, within residential zones, to allow City Operations to plow snow, clean and clear the streets. Once the snow has gone, the City of Nelson will begin sweeping and flushing streets.

#### Water Construction on Victoria and Kootenay Streets

City crews are currently at work adding a water service on Victoria Street. While working, they discovered some additional upgrades that need to be made. The 200 to 300 block of Victoria Street will be open intermittently over the next week, and the work will also impact the 500 block of Kootenay Street. Crews expect to complete the work by **Friday, March 2**.

Thank you for your patience as we maintain the infrastructure that is so vital to our whole community!

### CITY BULLETIN BOARD

#### 2012 Budget Meetings

Council has been holding its annual series of budget meetings throughout January, February and March. These meetings are open to the public. Residents who want to be informed about decisions made at City Hall are encouraged to attend.

The next meetings will take place on **Thursday, March 1st and Monday, March 5th**, from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Meetings are held in Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall. A Budget Open House will also take place later in March. Details will be coming soon to our website at [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca) and in local media.

#### Extension Cord Use and Abuse

Are you using any extension cords in your home? Are you using them safely? Few people realize that an extension cord that might look perfectly good can easily start a fire. On our home page at [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca) you can see a video that shows how coiling an extension cord can start a fire. Take a look around your home and make sure you aren't using extension cords on a permanent basis. If you are, replace them with a ULC-certified power bar.

Power bars have breakers to protect you and your home. They are also built to be used daily, on an ongoing basis. Extension cords are NOT constructed to meet the same standard. You can always find more safety tips, guides and video links on our fire safety page at [www.nelson.ca/firesafety](http://www.nelson.ca/firesafety).

#### Vibrant Library, Healthy Community

The Nelson Public Library Annual Report for 2011 is now available online at [www.nelsonlibrary.ca](http://www.nelsonlibrary.ca) and in print at the Library. Here are a few highlights, for your reading pleasure:

- Circulation: up 13%
- Membership: up 14%
- Downloaded e-books: up 77%
- Items in the collection: 43,000
- Number of items circulated each month: 20,000
- Programs enjoyed by adults, children, and teens: 104
- Attendance numbers: 5,593

Quote from a library user: "Library access is crucial for a healthy community. Thank you!"

#### U-Turn Epidemic

Under the BC Motor Vehicle Act a driver must not make a U-turn over any type of line painted down the center of the highway (this includes Baker Street). It doesn't matter if the line is a double solid, a single solid, a solid with a broken line or a single broken line.

Under City of Nelson Traffic Bylaw N0. 3156, a U-turn is called a reverse turn. You can learn more about this bylaw and reverse turns by visiting our website at [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca). Nelson Police's message on this one is clear: the best way to change directions is to drive around the block. It will save you time and money in the long run.

### 2012 HYDRO UPGRADES



2012 will see the completion of the three-year downtown electrical conversion project. The exact start date depends on the weather, but the project will be complete by this fall.

#### Downtown Electrical Conversion Project

The start date of this project is weather dependant. It will begin with zone by zone installation of the aerial secondary distribution system conductors on all of the newly installed poles. Next, the zone by zone customer transfers to the new overhead secondary distribution system will take place, followed by the removal of the old electrical overhead infrastructure. Telus and Shaw Cable will then install their cables on the new poles. Removal of old pole structures and communication lines will complete this three-year project.

#### Rosemont Substation Rebuild Project

Rosemont Substation was installed in 1950 to accommodate the new transmission line from the power plant into Nelson. The system load increases since 1980 are now approaching the full capacity of these transformers. In order to meet normal system load growth plus voltage conversion loads, the existing Rosemont Substation must be removed from service and replaced. Completion of this rebuild project will enable us to retire the City Substation at Victoria and Josephine Streets.

#### Bonnington Falls G4 Generator Rewind and Automation Project

The G4 Generator was installed in 1948. The unit is original except for a new high efficiency runner, installed in 1984. The Generator windings were scheduled for rewind in 2013. On July 23rd, 2011 the 63 year old windings suffered a failure causing the rewind project to take place this year. While the G4 Generator is down we are utilizing the G3 and G5 Generators, each at full capacity to meet our generation entitlement of 9.1 MW.