



**L**ooking back on one heck of a year for the City of Nelson, it's a sentiment shared by all members of City Council.

"We're all really blessed to live here," says Mayor John Dooley.

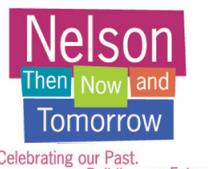
The Mayor, and Council — Bob Adams, Donna Macdonald, Robin Cherbo, Candace Batycki and Paula Kiss — agree that credit for the City of Nelson's many accomplishments over the last calendar year is due to the City's 170-member staff, and the many volunteers that give literally hundreds of hours of their time on various boards and committees.

Stressing the importance of the dedication City staff and workers have shown throughout 2013, Council presented six City of Nelson employees with Long Service Awards last month at a celebratory Annual Reception.

In a year almost unlike any other in recent memory, there were major accomplishments across-the-board, courtesy all the City's departments: those include the core services of Administration and Finance, Nelson Hydro, Development Services and Sustainability, the Nelson Public Library, the Nelson Police Department, the Operations and Engineering Department, the Nelson and District Youth Centre, and the Nelson Fire Department, which celebrated its 100 anniversary this year.

Some of the City's numerous projects completed in 2013, or well underway, include:

- **Nelson Hydro's Downtown Conversion** project and Rosemont's new sub station
- **Installment of the city's high speed broadband fibre optic system**
- **On-going water and sewer line conversion** and storm water outfall improvements
- **New parks** on Davies Street and 7th Street



Celebrating our Past.  
Building our Future.

• **Public art installments** throughout the city

- Nelson's new **skate and bike park in Rosemont**

• The **Hall Street corridor** plan and on-going **Downtown Waterfront Plan** efforts

• A major **Zoning Bylaw review** and the drafting of the city's new **Official Community Plan**

- Additions of two **new Vicinity buses** to Nelson Transit's fleet

On the development front, the 2013 construction season was on par with the past few years and 2014 is shaping up to be a record year.

"And that's a good thing," Mayor Dooley adds, "because if your city's not growing, it's dying. City staff have worked very hard to put us in a sustainable financial situation, like we are now."

So too has Council. Each councillor is responsible for numerous portfolios, and the considerable time commitment required for each one.

Council portfolios cover a wide range of initiatives like housing, economic development, youth and seniors, health, sports and culture, library, transit, tramway and the airport.

A little known fact: Nelson Council stands out across Canada thanks to its balance of women and men.

"Municipal governments across the country are trying to achieve gender balance in city government," the Mayor noted, "and Nelson is way ahead of where other municipalities want to be."

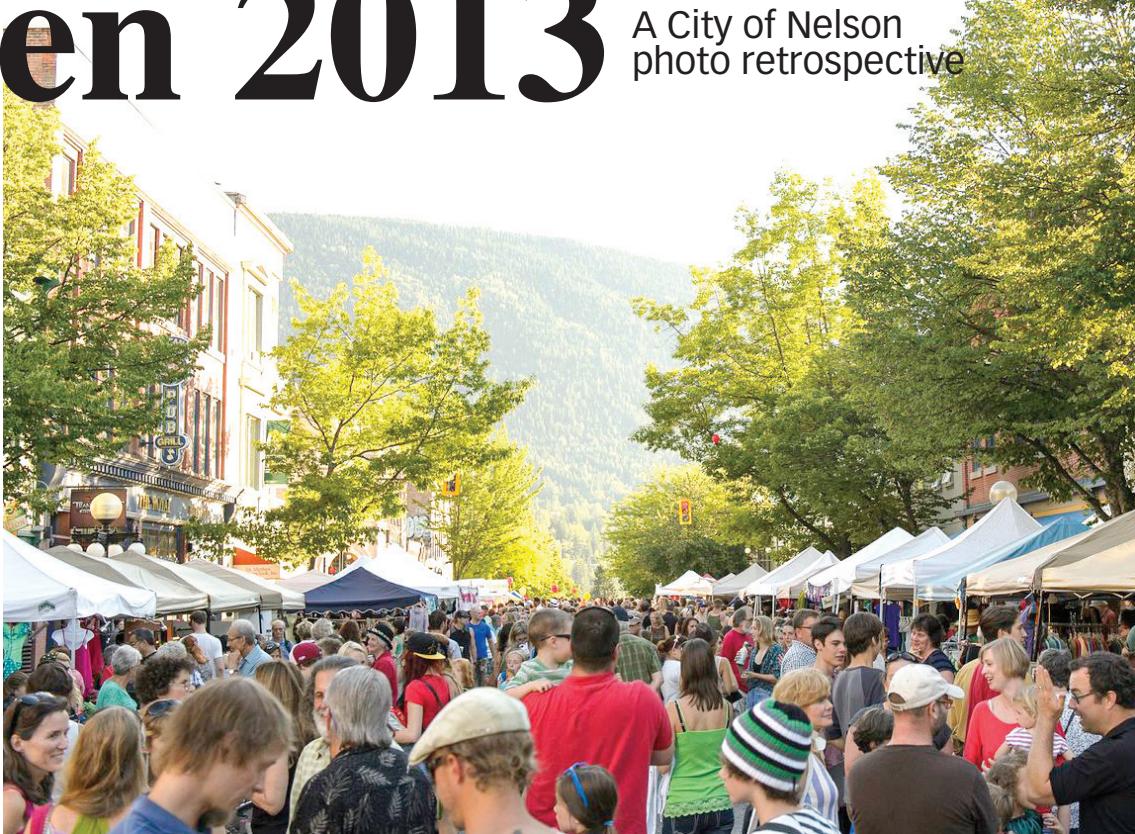
Council wishes Nelson residents, and all their families and friends in other parts of B.C. and abroad, all the best in the upcoming New Year.

Mayor Dooley says he honestly believes the folks who call Nelson home may be amongst the most fortunate, anywhere.

"It's the best place in the world."

# The Year That's Been 2013

A City of Nelson photo retrospective



## And what a year it'll have been after 2014! Nelson City Council's Strategic Priorities for the next 12 months

- To successfully achieve the vision of the publicly-consulted Downtown Waterfront Plan
- On-going infrastructure maintenance and improvement
- A City-wide commitment to sustainability on all fronts
- To pursue the benefits of shared services with the provincial government and the Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Aim for continued innovation in changing and challenging times



Photos by Emilee Zaitoff, Peter Moynes and Darren Davidson

#### A YEAR, IN FOCUS

*Opposite page, clockwise from top*

The continued implementation of the City's **Downtown Waterfront Plan** is aimed at ensuring the business core is bustling and beautiful, like this evening during Nelson Marketfest... Local artists contributed some extraordinary work to the cityscape. Brent Bunkowski constructed this installation along the Cottonwood Creek Bridge, the gateway to the city's new **Railtown District**... Nelson Emergency Services had a successful year. The Nelson Police Department held its first-ever **Nelson Police Board Citizen Recognition and Award Night**, honouring citizens, officers and staff for their year's contributions and achievements. Here, an NPD dispatcher keeps an eye on business.... The Nelson Fire Hall celebrated its **100th anniversary**, and Chief Simon Grypma was one of six City employees to receive a Long Service Award this year, for his 35 years on the job. "I think Simon was born at the fire hall," jokes Mayor John Dooley. Nelson Transit took the wraps off two new Vicinity buses, and helped establish the new West Kootenay Regional Transit System.... The city's downtown is a brighter place in more ways than one, thanks to **Nelson Hydro's Downtown Conversion** project. The major upgrading will provide dependable electricity distribution for years, more room for pedestrian and vehicle traffic, terrific lighting at night and new transformers — adorned with historical imagery from Nelson's past.

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City of Nelson departments, other local government buildings and the downtown core are now connected with a fibre-optic cable network. The Nelson and Area Economic Development Partnership helped roll the line out this summer. The network, which **brings faster broadband internet** to city buildings will soon be available for the Nelson businesses community as well... Nelson unveiled a beautiful series of **public art** displays, including eight sculptures, this summer. Here, the bronze work "Man In Motion" offers up a sunny stop at a Baker Street amenity area... The creation of two new parks at Davies Street, and here at Seventh Street, have been wonderful additions to Nelson **remarkable collection of greenspaces**. Seventh Street even has raised beds for local seniors to plant and enjoy.... After 12 years, and a huge volunteer/community fundraising effort, the city took the wraps off the **Nelson Skatepark**, at Rosemont's Art Gibbon Memorial Park. Along with a new bike park, the sprawling recreation amenity is built for skateboarders, BMX riders and mountain bikers alike... The **City's 170 staff**, including the snow removal experts in the Public Works Department, had a huge hand in all of the City's success in 2013... **volunteers** played a big role on City of Nelson boards, committees and work parties, like the expanded Lights on Baker effort that took place just in time for this little fella to enjoy Elf Walk and Santa's arrival earlier this month. Happy New Year everyone!

## We asked Nelson City Council members: What were your highlights for 2013?

### Councillor Bob Adams

My highlight for 2013 was the expansion of the Lights on Baker Street project. The people who volunteered worked long, cold hours — special thanks to Nelson Fire Department and their ladder truck. The trees in the 400 Block, with the trunk wraps, will be expanded next year and it will be even better. The Skateboard Park opening, after several years of fund raising and the problem of where to build, was a 2013 highlight too.

### Councillor Deb Kozak

I have two highlights to share. The first is the tremendous citizen turnout for the community meetings about the Columbia River Treaty. Nelson people demonstrated their passion and knowledge about the

beautiful place we live in. And second was being able to participate in the Capitol Theatre Christmas Pantomime. The Pantomime showcases some of the very best qualities of the people who live here and the joy we take in being part of our community. Merry Christmas!

### Councillor Donna Macdonald

I've been delighted by investments made by non-profit groups — the re-opening of the Civic Theatre, new homes for Our Daily Bread, the Shambhala Meditation Centre, Kootenay Kids and the skate park. Community commitment and enterprising spirit! City Council's role is to provide the infrastructure and confidence for these and upcoming investments. My personal highlight was my recent trip to Peru and

the Galapagos Islands. Truly inspiring to see the beauty and resilience of life.

### Councillor Candace Batycki

I have enjoyed learning how local governments work together to influence key issues. In 2013 I attended four conferences — the Association of Kootenay-Boundary Local Governments, the Centre for Civic Governance, the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federal of Canadian Municipalities. Take-homes: Nelson is out front on reducing climate impacts, but lagging on food security. Congratulations to the EcoSave project, and to the wonderful SEEDS project in the Lakeside park greenhouses.

### Councillor Paula Kiss

My highlights for the year include really

enjoyable work with the Chamber of Commerce and the Youth Center, not only productive and inspiring groups, but marked by honesty and good humour. Another highlight is the Planning Department (and the Advisory Planning Committee) who collectively accomplished an amazing amount of work this year in the face of all kinds of challenges. Thank-you!

### Mayor John Dooley

Locally, the progress made on our infrastructure upgrades, underway for six years now. Regionally, the new Taghum Transfer Station project is going well, creating options for future use of the Nelson Transfer Station parcel. Nationally, I was honoured to be elected to the FCM Board of Directors and Chair of the BC

Caucus. Pat and I camped, golfed and traveled to Newfoundland and South Africa — we marveled at the wonderful world we live in.

### Councillor Robin Cherbo

The UBCM Convention was great, particularly the Emergency Services seminars, which highlighted the efficiency of our fire department compared to other cities'. Connecting with other councillors around the BC was really helpful. The William Templeton BC Aviation Award the Nelson Airport won was a feather in the cap for our Pilots Association, and the City. We did some traveling too — Puerto Vallarta was great. Colleen went to Scotland. I stayed home and took care of the cats.