

# The Year That's Been 2014

A City of Nelson  
photo retrospective

For residents, the City of Nelson's 170-member staff and its many volunteers, 2014 has been a year marked by considerable accomplishment and exciting change. "We're all looking so forward to building on the great achievements of our past council," says new Mayor Deb Kozak. "We can step forward with confidence towards the next evolution of our community."

Mayor Kozak — the first female mayor in Nelson's 117-year history — officially began her new duties along with a new council earlier this month, following November's election. She's joined by returning councillors Bob Adams and Robin Cherbo, second-time councillor Janice Morrison and new council members Anna Purcell, Valerie Warmington and Michael Dailly. There've been great strides made by all the City's departments over the past year. Here's a look at some of 2014's highlights.

• **Broadband Fibre Optics.** The City's High Speed Broadband Network launched this year and has since attracted the support of 25 clients servicing 38 new sites and generating \$83,000 in new revenue.

• **Water and Sewer.** Critical to the dependable long-term well being of residences and business, the City's Operations Department has re-lined 2.6 kilometres of sewer line this year, and replaced another 2.5 kilometers of water line. Some of the pipes were nearly 100 years old.

• **Nelson Hydro's Downtown Conversion** is all but complete, resulting in reliable 25 kilowatt power, better vehicle and pedestrian traffic and safer, more beautified lane ways. The vital Granite Road Substation has also been upgraded.

• In the **Arts and Culture** realm... A new round of leased public art was provided this spring throughout the downtown...actress/singer/musician Bessie Wapp has been named the City's of Nelson's Cultural Ambassador for 2015.

• This summer, the City's Administration department launched a terrific **new Facebook page** which has so far garnered 1,600 followers in just five months.



• Details on the proposed **Hall Street Stores To Shores** project are advancing thanks to input from the historic thoroughfare's many business owners.

• On the development front...the 54-unit **Nelson Commons** project is ready to break ground...The first phase of **Nelson Landing** was approved this year...a new residential development on Choquette Avenue made way for more affordable housing, and more accessible suites for seniors. In total, the City approved 96 new housing units in 2014 — 29 more than the previous two years combined.

• Baker Street's **Railtown District** is continuing to evolve thanks to \$800,000 in renovations to its anchor venue, the historic **CP Rail Station**, which will be known as the **Regional Visitor Gateway/Business Opportunity Centre**.

• The **Nelson Skateboard and All Wheel Recreation Park** officially opened this spring with additional beautification and steady crowds throughout the summer and fall.

• **Nelson Fire and Rescue** bid so long to veteran Chief Simon Grypma, welcomed new Chief Len MacCharles and launched a new historical site.

• The City also hired on three new managers. Pam Mierau is the City's **new Manager of Development Services** following the retirement of Senior Planner Dave

Wahn. Colin Innes is the **new Director of Public Works and Utilities** and Dan Geissler is the **Operations Manager at Nelson Hydro**, after the retirement of Mike Amos. Chief Building Inspector Bernie Zimmer also retired after 26 years with the City.

• **The Nelson Police Department** launched its 16-volunteer Restorative Justice Program and welcomed new Constable Matthew Caldwell.

Looking beyond The City's successful past 12 months, Mayor Kozak says she and her new council will aim to hear from all sides in the many decisions to come.

"Inclusiveness is important," she says, "the best decisions are made when people from different backgrounds work together — and that's what we intend to ensure. Council, City staff and the citizens of Nelson are going to do great things in the year ahead. Merry Christmas to everyone, and here's to all the best 2015 has to offer."



## Meet Your Council

The City of Nelson has a brand new mayor and council for the next four years. Here's a bit about the returning members and those new to the fold.

### Mayor Deb Kozak

Deb grew up in Saskatchewan with four siblings and attended University and Technical School in Saskatoon. She and her husband Peter have lived in Nelson for over 30 years. They



have two children, Terry and Laura. In 2014, the family joyfully welcomed granddaughter Aizlinn. Deb is the first woman to serve as Mayor of the City of Nelson. She has served three terms on City Council and is the President of the Association of

Kootenay Boundary Local Governments. She chairs the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee and is passionate about the future of the Columbia Basin, its issues and the promotion of understanding and cooperation between communities and nations. As well, Deb is a Regional Director on the Regional District of Central Kootenay and serves on the Recreation Commission. She is one of the founding members of the Nelson and Area Economic Development Partnership, having worked in both the private and non-profit sectors and has served on volunteer organizations at local, provincial and national levels.

### Councillor Bob Adams

Born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Bob has been married to his wife Lynn for 48 years. They have two children and four grandkids. Bob worked in the municipal field for



37 years, in Nelson for 27 as the Director of Works and Services. He was first elected in 2005 as City Councillor, and re-elected this year for a four-year term. His professional achievements include a term as President of BC

Public Works Association from 1996-1997, American Public Works Association Life Member 1999, Membership with the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC. Bob's community service work includes Rotary Club of Nelson, School District 8 and Selkirk College's Aboriginal Education Enhancement Committee, President of the Nelson and Area Metis Society and a member of Nelson Seniors Branch 51. Bob has served as a Justice of the Peace in both Saskatchewan and BC, and in 2012 he was awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for my work with the Metis Nation of BC.

### Councillor Anna Purcell

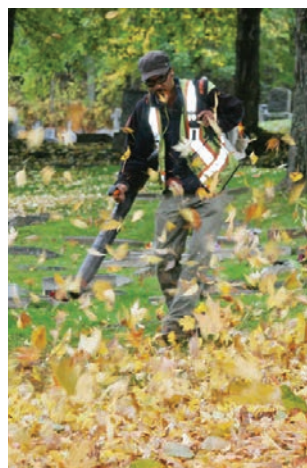
Born in Halifax, Anna grew up in Toronto, attended the Toronto Waldorf School, and acted in professional theatre at a young age. After graduating from Dalhousie University



she made her way to Nelson in 2008, by way of Vancouver, Victoria and Gabriola Island. Anna has supported herself as registrar and activities and homestay coordinator at a busy private ESL college in Vancouver, a self-employed artist,

and through running her own book business. She has taught theatre sports and felting workshops, is active with Amnesty International and serves as the volunteer coordinator for the Civic Theatre. Anna works at MapleRose store on Baker Street and in her spare time travels with her partner Gary, gardens, reads, writes, plays piano, hikes the rail trail, plays with her neighbour's cat, and makes things. Anna is keen to work with others to ensure Nelson is green, prepared, connected, inclusive, fair, prosperous, attractive and gloriously self-expressive.





#### WHAT A YEAR!

*Opposite page, clockwise from top*

Nelson Fire and Rescue Firefighter Scott Jefferies gets pole position. The **NFD bid farewell** to their long time chief and welcomed a new boss this year. A bird's eye view of one of the City's compelling new leased sculptures, Martin Eichinger's *To Love Is To Be*, and its proximity to Baker Street's patio-laden springtime stroll. There'll be a **new round of sculptures** arriving next spring. (Did you know? — There are currently five public sculptures available for private lease or purchase.) City Senior Planner Megan Squires and Planning and Building Analyst Krista Webb look over a spread of preliminary plans for the **Hall Street Stores To Shores** project. Nelson Police Department Sergeant Dino Falcone and **Restorative Justice Program** Coordinator Gerry Sobie launched the 16-volunteer program this summer. The City of Nelson IT team spearheaded the City's **High Speed Broadband** project this year, which has generated \$83,000 in new revenue as of December. Hustling year round through all four increasingly wild seasons, Nelson's Public Works personnel prepped for Nelson's annual autumn leaf clean up. The City re-lined 2.6 kilometres of **sewer main** this year, and replaced another 2.5 kilometres of **water line**. Some of the lines were nearly 100 years old. Above ground, thoroughfares like Latimer Street received new curbs, gutters and a solid layer of new asphalt.

*This page, clockwise from top left*

**Nelson Hydro's Downtown Conversion Project** seen from a Herridge Lane perspective — before, and after. The **Nelson and District Youth Centre** celebrated another year of programs for kids, teens and young adults — from skateboarding and job searching to computer animation, yoga, movies, even magic. The City of Nelson **garage crew** kept the City's 105-vehicle fleet running tip top. From left: Clint Nay, Barry Morris, Dean Centrone, Jeremy Baker and Steve Pickering. **Halloween hijinks** brought a little levity to those in contravention of the City's parking bylaws. City Parks worker Braden Johnson leaves nothing to doubt at the Nelson Cemetery. Johnson is one of 17 Parks staff who take care of the City's **16 greenspaces**, including the unrivalled beauty of Nelson Lakeside Park. Drea Pittam, winner of the **Annual Nelson Green Home and Energy Show** Grand Prize 48V Electric Pedego Bike, stands with **EcoSave Program** Coordinator Carmen Proctor and Mike Clyde from Voltage Bikes. The show attracted over 300 visitors and exhibitors. The EcoSave Program has been in operation since April of 2012 with over 400 registering for home energy assessments. You can too! Nelson Library staffer Helen Blum peers through the pages. The Library has a whopping total of **12,900 members** from the City and Regional District. Each month, 4,000 people use the Library website to borrow **1,200 e-books and magazines**, or to search databases.

#### Councillor Robin Cherbo

Born in Creston in 1946, Robin lived near Sirdar. He attended Notre Dame University in 1966/67 before being hired by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways as a surveyor. Robin moved to Nelson in 1976, retiring from the Nelson District Highways Office in 2002 after 34 years with MOTH. He has been married to Colleen Driscoll, who has worked at Kootenay Lake Hospital for 21 years. In 2005, concerned



with local health issues and the Nelson Norman Stubbs Municipal Airport, Robin was elected to Nelson Council in 2008 and 2011. He has participated in City projects including The Path To 2040, the Active Transportation Plan, the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan, and Nelson Hydro Green Energy upgrades. Robin has been Council's representative to the Interior Health Association Healthy Communities initiative, the Nelson Electric Tramway Society, Seniors' Coordinating Society, Nelson Committee on Homelessness, the Social Planning Action Network, and the Nelson Pilots Association.

#### Councillor Janice Morrison

Janice grew up in Vancouver attending Crofton House School for girls. She went on the obtain degrees in Microbiology from UBC, an Interdisciplinary Masters with a Specialty in Physiology from New Mexico State University and a Physical Therapy Degree at the U of A. She also has Certification in Acupuncture. Elected to Nelson City Council from 1999-2002, Janice has called Nelson



home for 25 years with family first settling here in the 1920s. She has worked as a Physical Therapist at Kootenay Lake Hospital for 25 years and with her partner Mike own Kastlerock B&B. They have no children but do own a friendly cat called Mr. Mouse. Janice has been a director of the Nelson Maple Leafs hockey team, chaired the KLH Foundation, was president of the Chamber of Commerce, chaired the City Advisory Planning Commission and has been a Nelson Rotary Club member for 23 years. Janice likes to stay active in her free time and is involved with the Mountain Spirit Triathlon Club.

#### Councillor Valerie Warmington

Valerie moved to Nelson in 2007 after a decade managing humanitarian aid projects in a variety of countries recovering from war. Prior to that, she represented Canada on several delegations negotiating arms control agreements at the United Nations and chaired the Canadian chapter of the Nobel Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines. After arriving in Nelson, Valerie worked



as a project manager for Oxygen Art Centre, later chairing its Board of Directors, a position she recently resigned. Since early 2011, she has worked as the Executive Director of Kootenay Kids Society, an organization providing wide-ranging services for children and families throughout the West Kootenay region. Valerie has an Undergraduate and a Master's Degree in Geography. She continues post-graduate work online through the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica with a focus on Human Rights. Valerie has two sons aged 7 and 23.

#### Councillor Michael Dailly

During a visit to the Kootenays in 2007 Michael and his wife Julie discovered the community of Nelson and decided the natural beauty, friendly community and diverse culture of Nelson were exactly what they were looking for. Michael completed a 30-year career with the City of Toronto Fire Services serving as both a Fire Captain and a Union Executive Officer. Since making Nelson home Michael has



been involved as a board member of Transition Nelson and Nelson C.A.R.E.S. focusing on environmental, social and housing issues. Michael's two daughters, two sons and a recent addition — a granddaughter — bring him much joy and motivation to help make our world a better place for future generations. Michael's academic pursuits include university courses in Solution Focused Counseling, Transformative Justice, Peace Studies, and History. He believes learning and service to one's community is a lifelong process and the secret to longevity and happiness.