



# City of Nelson News

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Nelson  
Then Now and  
Tomorrow

Celebrating our Past.  
Building our Future.

## COUNCIL UPDATE

### STREET CULTURE UPDATE

Mayor and Council have been working closely with the downtown business community and social sector representatives to address the social issues identified in the open letter to residents and Council on May 5th. Council has met with these two groups to discuss common interests and goals. Council is pleased to report that the Street Outreach program is active in the downtown core and will continue to work with impacted individuals on the street to provide social services and to assist in reducing conflict in the downtown. The Nelson Police Department will soon have additional regularly scheduled Police Officers in the downtown. An updated Clean Air and Smoking Regulation Bylaw will come before Council in June to address the smoking issues that have been raised. Council will also be reviewing our traffic and sign bylaws to ensure our sidewalks allow for the efficient movement of residents and visitors in our downtown. The social and business communities will be meeting later this month to host a community consultation with the hopes of finding more solutions that are homegrown in Nelson.

### NELSON'S DOWNTOWN URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

It has been over 35 years since Nelson's downtown was revitalized as part of Heritage Canada's Main Street Program. Services located above and below ground are nearing the end of their lifespan and will need to be replaced over the next ten+ years. This presents an opportunity to update key elements in the public realm such as lighting, sidewalks, amenity areas, signage, bike infrastructure, street furniture and landscaping.



Why now? There are a number of factors driving the need to make decisions soon including:

- Our underground utilities in the downtown are 80-90 years old and we need to start replacing these in the next 2-5 years.
- Infrastructure is expensive. There are larger than normal infrastructure grants available now – which cover up to 75% of the cost.
- If we don't have the planning in place, we are not eligible for the grants. Planning takes time.
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is going to be resurfacing Highway 3A through the city within the next 2 years.
- Our street lights in the downtown have started to fail.
- The general need is for us to collectively up our game, including patio standards, street furniture, decorative lighting, awnings, signage etc.

The Downtown Urban Design Strategy planning process began in April 2016. The process included a number of stakeholder and public engagement opportunities. Staff processed over 350 survey responses and comment forms. The feedback received was used to craft the final draft strategy, which will be going to City Council on June 19 for information.

The next step will be to identify priority initiatives and get into detail planning and policy work. Council and staff will work closely with the community on this phase of the project.

### 10 BIG MOVES

- 1 - Define a Pedestrian Priority Downtown
- 2 - Make Baker Street the First Priority
- 3 - Create a "Lanes Alive" Program
- 4 - Redesign the Amenity Areas
- 5 - Define Gateways and Connections
- 6 - Improve Signage and Wayfinding
- 7 - Expand the Outdoor Patio Program
- 8 - Implement the Strategies for Street Furniture
- 9 - Put local Artists First
- 10 - Move the Transit Station

## NELSON HYDRO

### NELSON HYDRO CUSTOMER ADVISORY: SURGE & LIGHTNING PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

During the spring and summer months, there is a greater possibility of lightning and power surges on the electrical distribution system.

The utility does not guarantee uninterrupted power supply, or protection from surges. Therefore, Nelson Hydro strongly suggests

customers install and maintain their own surge and lightning protection equipment at their electrical service entrance and/or distribution system, to protect against these possible adverse conditions.

If you are unsure if your home or business is adequately protected or

The Nelson Police Department would like to remind the public that this is the time for bears to be looking for food and to ensure that garbage, compost, and waste products are disposed of in a secure manner to avoid any possible confrontations with wildlife.



No person may accumulate, store or collect any wildlife attractants in a manner that they are accessible to dangerous wildlife which may pose a risk to the safety of any person according to the City of Nelson Waste Management and Wildlife Attractants Bylaw. A Wildlife attractant includes any substance that could be reasonably expected to attract dangerous wildlife including but not limited to food products, garbage, pet food, seed, restaurant grease, game meat, or glass or metal wear or any other item having contained food.

The City of Nelson fines start at \$100 and climb to \$300 if not paid within 28 days for the "improper storage of wildlife attractants and failure to remove fruit from the ground". The Nelson Police Department has received 25+ calls regarding bears in the City of Nelson in the past month.

If you see a bear in your area, please contact the Nelson Police Department at (250) 354-3919 or the RAPP Hotline at 1-877-952-7277 or online at [www.rapp.bc.ca](http://www.rapp.bc.ca).

### NELSON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Have a FireSmart Summer!

*Are "evergreen" bushes/trees next to my house a hazard?*

*Can gutters be a fire risk?*

*Where should I store my propane tanks?*



Nelson Fire & Rescue Services' FireSmart Program has the answers! FireSmart is a program to educate property owners about things they can do to minimize the likelihood of their home igniting from an ember shower as a result of a wildfire. Throughout the summer we will be conducting home/site assessments in select areas, offering free risk-evaluations of your property. If we don't connect with you, check out [www.firesmart.ca](http://www.firesmart.ca) for a self-assessment checklist to determine how vulnerable your home may be. No matter where your house is, you'll gain a new understanding of how fire spreads and why simple actions you take NOW can drastically alter the outcome of a wildfire. The FireSmart Homeowner's Manual can be picked up at City Hall or the Fire Hall.

Come visit our booth at the Wednesday Market on Baker Street this summer to learn more about FireSmart principles and how together we can reduce the impact of wildfire on our community.

## OPERATIONS

### TREE TRIMMING

Residents are reminded to NOT trim City-owned trees growing on City-owned land such as boulevards and laneways. Municipal Tree Bylaw 3232 states that a person could be fined up to \$10,000. Residents with concerns about site lines or branches obstructing pedestrian corridors can contact the Public Works Department at 250-352-8238.



### PROJECTS FOR 2017

#### Public Works Department

The ongoing maintenance of the City is carried out by Public Works Department. Streets, lanes, boulevards, sidewalks, bridges, retaining walls, railings, signs, storm sewers, snow removal, street sweeping and dozens of other activities are carried out by Public Works crews. There will be approximately 8000 square metres of paving repairs (about the size of a football field) completed this year.

#### Utilities Department

The Utilities Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water system and the sanitary sewer system. The duties performed by the utility workers includes water quality monitoring, main flushing and repair, hydrant and valve servicing and the sanitary duties of operating the sewage treatment plant, root cutting clogged sanitary lines and maintaining sanitary lift stations. Slated to be replaced this year: Water Lines - 1500 metres and Sewer Lines - 3500 metres.

want to install service entrance protection, you should call an electrical contractor to inspect your power system, and upgrade as required.

Thank you from Nelson Hydro!



### STATUTORY HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES: OFFICES ARE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JULY 3RD IN LIEU OF CANADA DAY

### NELSON TRANSIT SERVICE

Transit Service is not available on Saturday, July 1st. There WILL BE service on Monday, July 3rd. For transit information visit [www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com) or call 1-855-993-3100.

Want up-to-date information on City projects, jobs, events and public notices?

Find us on Facebook.

