

Council Communiqué



From Us to You

February 14, 2014

A newsletter from the Village of New Denver Council

As a way to communicate with Village of New Denver residents, your Mayor and Councillors bring you a Council Communiqué a few times a year. This newsletter is a way for us to share information about what we have been up to and some of the challenges we face in serving as your Council. We encourage you to also use the Village website, visit Mayor Bunka during office hours, and participate in Council Conversation Cafés to share your views and interests.

Woodstove Wizardry?

Many of us enjoy the warmth of our woodstoves during the winter – especially on those cold clear nights. Concern about air pollution has been expressed by residents however, and was a topic of discussion at our last Council Conversation Café.

Localized air pollution from burning wood can be due to several factors. By following some basic guidelines, you can help keep our air quality high and save money.

In order to ensure clean and efficient wood burning, here are a few tips:

- Use properly seasoned wood. Make sure you know where your wood is coming from and that it has dried for at least 6-12 months.
- Never burn anything but firewood and a small amount of newspaper.
- Ensure you have good airflow and don't turn your stove down until the firewood is at charcoal state. Don't let your fire smolder.
- Have your stove and chimney cleaned annually.
- Use a high efficiency certified woodstove. New Denver participates in the Wood Stove Exchange Program that offers residents a financial incentive to replace your old, inefficient stove. Contact the Village regarding this rebate.

For more Burn It Smart tips, pick up a brochure at the Village office.

Meeting with Community Groups

Council and staff met with many of our community groups this fall and winter in order to better understand what organizations might need from the Village for 2014 as well as communicate what the Village might need from them. We enjoyed

discussions about new and on-going projects, and enhanced our understanding of the various groups' mandates and challenges. Our community is greatly enriched because of volunteers throughout our area who do so much to make the North Slokan Valley an excellent place to live. Thank you. We appreciate this significant contribution to our collective well-being.

Changes in the Office

Did you know?

The Garlic Festival's focus on reducing waste resulted in only four bags of garbage. All compostable materials were diverted to the school garden. Thanks for showing us what is possible!

Well, it's a lot of work being on Council, but really, it is Village staff who make things happen. There have been some staff changes already this past year and some significant ones still to come.

In December, the community celebrated the 26 years of service of Public Works' staff Mike Simpson. He has retired and we thank him for his commitment and care of our community. Carol Gordon will retire this spring after 27 years of dedicated work managing the many aspects of our Village. These are large shoes to fill.

While staff transitions and finding the appropriate organizational structure is challenging, Council has been working closely with staff to plan and prepare for these changes. You can look forward to some announcements soon.

As part of this transition, we are conducting a pilot of open office hours, as well as closing the Village office for one week for some important administrative work to be completed before Carol leaves.

The Village office will be closed:

- for the week of February 17 - 21, 2014
- all Fridays in February, March, and April, 2014

The office will otherwise be open regular hours (8 am – 4 pm) Monday through Thursday.

Thank you for your understanding in helping staff move through this important transition time, and for experimenting with us on the most effective operational process for the Village. If you have any feedback, please come to the next Conversation Café and let Council know your thoughts.

Nikkei Centre Celebrates 20 years!

Save the date! On August 9th, 2014 the Village of New Denver will be hosting a 20th anniversary celebration of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre. You can

look forward to more details soon. If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact NIMC Manager Momoko Ito at nimc@netidea.com.

The 20th anniversary celebration is also a fundraising event for this incredible and unique national heritage site. Donations are welcomed and charitable tax receipts are provided.

Did you know?

The Village of New Denver is able to provide charitable tax receipts for all monetary donations. All contributions are gratefully accepted. Unfortunately, your annual tax payment does not qualify 😊

Recycling Drop-off Change is Coming

A couple of years ago the Province advised the producers of recyclable material that come May 2014 producers would be responsible for the costs and operations of recycling. Out of this was born the Multi-Materials (MMBC) packaging regulations. Due to the requirements of this program, RDCK is negotiating with MMBC to have our recycling handled by the Transfer Stations run by the RDCK. Our closest site is the Rosebery Transfer Station. This new program does not include commercial recycling, however MMBC will be deducting 25% off the top of their payments to the

operator on the assumption that there will be commercial recycling at the bins. This means it is imperative that businesses continue to add their recycling to the bins. There is still much to be sorted out and confirmed, but we will continue to keep everyone up to date as we learn more details.

**Next Council Conversation Café –
March 1st from 2 – 4 pm at Apple Tree**

Council Conversation Cafés are an initiative by Council to learn and better understand residents’ views and interests. Grab a cup of tea or coffee and a baked good, and come share your ideas for a healthy and vibrant New Denver.

Thanks for reading!

Mayor Ann Bunka, Councillor Heather Fox, Councillor David Hodsall, Councillor Henning von Krogh, and Councillor Nadine Raynolds

Questions? Comments? Ideas?

Please let us know!

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Mayor Bunka’s open office hours: Tuesday 9am – 1pm