

COUNCIL UPDATES

With budget time here, Council on track with priorities and goals

With Mayor John Dooley, Councilors and City staff in the midst of budget deliberations for another year, now is an opportune time to see how your City Council has done in its aim to meet its priorities set out for 2012. Did you know that Council has established 25 goals and objectives across four broad priority areas: those being financial, community, internal operations and human resources?

Here's a snap shot of Council's success thus far.

• **Financial** — Council has asked staff to prepare a Five Year Financial Plan which includes strategies to limit tax increases to a maximum of 2% per year. This included identifying new revenues, growing the City's tax base through new development, and managing costs at or less than the rate of inflation.

Significant progress was made in this area and more information will be shared with the public throughout the 2013-17 Financial Plan process.

• **Community** — Council has set goals and objectives for housing, implementation of the Downtown Waterfront Plan, implementation of the Community Energy Plan and focused on on-going economic development. Council has seen a variety of new housing added in 2012 included subsidized housing, entry level housing and multi-family housing. A Housing Committee was formalized. Progress is also being made on the downtown revitalization front, with exciting improvements to Railtown, at Baker Street's west end. On the conservation and sustainability front, the City's Eco-Save Energy Retrofit Program has been a resounding success, reducing energy costs, greenhouse gas emissions and the creation of significant economic activity in our community.

• **Internal Operations** — The City continues to invest in infrastructure: it's vital water and sewer system, parks, roads, sidewalks and Nelson Hydro. Some outstanding planning work has now been completed including the Technology Plan, a Facilities Maintenance Plan and the revised Official Community Plan.

• **Human Resources** — The City continues to invest in its incredible team of employees through training and work opportunities.

You can see the Council's complete Strategic Plan at www.Nelson.ca/assets/CityServices/PubsandReports

CBT grant funding deadline approaching...

City of Nelson residents looking to garner financial support for important local social, economic and environmental initiatives have until March 4th to submit an application to the Regional District of Central Kootenay for grant funding under the 2013 CBT Community Initiatives Program. More info? Visit the City's website at <http://www.nelson.ca/EN/main/services/corporate-services/finance/grants.html>

FINANCE - UPDATE

Learn about the City's budget for 2013, and share your thoughts!

The City's budget will be set within the next few weeks. The public will have a great opportunity to not only learn all about the City's goals for 2013, but to share their thoughts. A 2013 Budget Open House is being held Monday, March 11 at the Nelson Library. Staff will be available to answer questions from the public, from noon to 4:00 pm and 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

NELSON HYDRO NEWS

It's electrifying! Downtown hydro system replacement project will result in better service, beautiful art and informative new heritage highlights

Nelson Hydro is forging ahead with its Downtown Voltage Conversion project starting in May, 2013. To date all civic works and new pole installations are completed. Pad-mounted transformers have been placed and energized, with about 60% of the downtown load transferred to the new system. All existing two-pole structures, wires and transformers will be removed. Once the project is completed, customers in the downtown area will experience fewer outages and significantly improved voltage regulation. The project replaces the existing downtown electrical distribution system, some of which is over 60 years old! The upgrade is expected to serve Nelson Hydro customers for the next 30 years.

Decorative art work will be applied to all new pad mount transformers. Some transformers have already been, well, transformed you could say... the wonderful art tells the story of Nelson Hydro's fascinating history, and the Utility's important role in the City's past. New decorative lane lighting will be installed on all new poles, similar to Baker Street's heritage theme lighting. Upon completion of the project, Nelson Hydro will install a two-pole heritage structure with de-energized transformers, and a deck with a special commemorative plaque.

During construction there will be longer duration outages for customers, but those outages will occur in specific smaller zones, to minimize the impact of our work. All work should be finished by the end of the summer 2013. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nelson Hydro at 250-352-8240.



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Got your ears on? A heads up for Easter Holidays, street cleaning and sand sweeping

Easter holidays are on the way. Here are some important dates and closures to keep in mind:

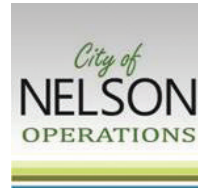
• **Easter Holiday** runs from Friday, March 29th through Monday, April 1st. City Hall, Nelson Hydro, the Operations Department and the Nelson Public Library will all be closed. For Operations emergency service, please call 250-352-3103. To report a power outage, electrical hazard, damage to Nelson Hydro equipment or for outage updates, call 1-877-32HYDRO (1-877-324-9376).

• **Nelson Transit Service** busses will not be running on Friday, March 29th or Monday, April 1, 2013.

The City's street cleaning and clearing crews will be out soon. Once the snow has gone, City crews will begin sweeping and flushing streets. The downtown core will be first, followed by Fairview, Uphill and then Rosemont. Here's how residents and business owners can help out.

Just as folks do during snowy times of year, from November 1st to April 30th, 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, which helps crews do the best job they can keeping the streets clear.

For homeowners whose property has a boulevard, feel free to rake sand off of the boulevard and onto the road beside the curb and then call 352-8238 to request removal by a city sweeper. But just a reminder – please don't place sand in piles or in bags. Thanks!



CITY BULLETIN BOARD

Phair Tea, Altered Books and getting around Google...



It's a busy month's end at the Nelson Library.

• **Sunday Afternoon Tea**

At The Phair runs this Sunday, Feb. 24th,

starting at 2:00 pm. The

Nelson Public Library celebrates the history of its location with Sunday Afternoon Tea at the Hotel Phair. Gretchen Hatt Gibson, daughter of proprietor Edwin Phair, will address a 1928 meeting of the Ladies Literary Society — and you can be there! The character of Gibson is played by professional storyteller Susan LeFebour. A photographic display courtesy of Touchstones Nelson traces the history of the Library's footprint. Celebrate B.C. Heritage Week! Admission is by donation.

• **The Altered Book Workshop with Helen Quinn** runs Tuesday, Feb. 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Unleash your inner artist and transform an

unwanted book into a new, personalized Art Journal. The cost is \$69 and includes all materials. Please pre-register by calling the Library. More info? E-mail Catherine @ NelsonLibraryFriends@gmail.com. Proceeds from the workshop will go to the Friends of the Library.

• **Google is now a verb!** Tweeting is no longer for the birds and your favorite novel might live in the cloud! What's a digitally baffled person to do?

Book an appointment with Sara or Tim and get a one-to-one training session on anything from basic computer navigation and using the internet, to social software programs such as Facebook, to learning how to download an e-book to your device. Call 352-6333 or email npleap@gmail.com. This program is supported by Federal Community Access Program Funding and runs until March 31st, 2013.

Chimney fire! Do you know what to do?

Do you know what you'd do if you had a chimney fire?

First off, call the Fire Hall. Even if it turns out you don't have a chimney fire, you won't be billed for the service. And if the chimney is on fire, you want to get it dealt with properly. After calling 911, and if you are comfortable enough with your situation, toss half a litre of water into the chimney's firebox. The steam will rise and smother most of the fire, reducing the damage that may occur and slowing the fire's growth. After that, evacuate the house and wait for fire fighters!



We've got your number. And if we don't let us know...

Here's an important notice to Nelson business owners... The Nelson Police Department is requesting that all business owners please update their contact call-out lists with the NPD. These contacts are used in the event of an alarm or incident at your business after hours.

It's very important for the NPD to maintain up-to-date information. This info should include the name of at least three people police can call in the event of an emergency, along with current phone numbers.

Please drop off your up-to-date lists at the front counter of the Nelson Police Department. Our records will be updated and the information will be used in emergency situations only. Thanks for your cooperation!



CITY OF NELSON

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website: <http://www.nelson.ca>

NELSON HYDRO EMERGENCY CONTACT:

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(1-877-324-9376).