

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the City of  
Nelson Council Meeting

July 2019



## Land Use Regulations to Increase Resiliency to Potential Wildfires

City Council has taken additional steps for Nelson to be more wildfire resilient community by updating its land use regulations to include best practices from FireSmart BC. FireSmart is a program that encourages residents to take the steps necessary to protect their property from wildfire through the adoption of FireSmart techniques. FireSmart principles have proven to be effective in reducing the risk related to loss during extreme wildfire conditions.

The updated regulations include changes to building materials for new construction in the Wildfire Interface Zone within Development Permit Area #3 as well as landscaping requirements throughout the City. Given its proximity to heavily forested areas, Nelson faces a serious threat from the possibility of wildfires themselves, as well as ember showers from wildfires in the area. For this reason, the new regulations prohibit the planting of new coniferous trees/plants within 1.5 metres of a dwelling. Coniferous trees/plants are highly combustible as compared to other types of vegetation. The regulations also require fire resistant building material to be used in certain areas for new construction as well as steps to better protect homes from wildfires and ember showers.

## Council Approves Murals On City Structures

City Council has approved a request from the Nelson & District Arts Council (NDAC) to use City property as the site for four murals for the 2019 Nelson International Mural Festival. The mural locations include two retaining walls, one for the retaining wall at the east end of Vernon Street, at the intersection of Park and Morgan Streets, and a second on the retaining wall north of Vernon Street that supports Edgewood Street, with Cedar Street below. The other two murals locations are on the east wall of the City Parkade at 416/420 Vernon Street. Before approval from Council, the mural designs received support from an art jury facilitated by NDAC for the Mural Festival, and subsequently by the Cultural Development Committee. These murals (and others on property not owned by the City) are already underway in advance of the Mural Festival. Keep an eye out as these new beautiful works of art become a part of the City!

## Adoption of New Building Bylaw

City Council adopted a new Building Bylaw on July 8, which will go into effect on August 1, 2019. The purpose of adopting a new Building Bylaw is to ensure that it complies with the Provincial Building Act, which was passed in 2015 and came into full effect in 2018. Notably, the new

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Building Bylaw includes a number of changes from the previous bylaw, including the introduction of occupancy permits, regulations addressing swimming pools and swimming pool fences, a number of WorkSafeBC related requirements, and finally, a section that incorporates Step Code requirements which address energy conservation and greenhouse gas emission reduction. Incorporating Step Code requirements into the Building Bylaw will allow the City to require that new buildings be constructed in a more energy-efficient manner.

### Council Extras.....

This year's Canada Day's celebration in Nelson was outstanding and the weather was perfect to enjoy cake and celebrate Canada's birthday. On hand to partake in the festivities were Mayor Dooley and Councillors Keith Page, Brittney Anderson, Janice Morrison, Cal Renwick and Jesse Woodward. A huge thank you to the Chamber of Commerce and all the volunteers for organizing another successful event at Lakeside Park.





Mayor Dooley presented the Nelson Boxing Club with a Certificate of Recognition for their ongoing work in the community and the Club's recent achievements.



Councillors Keith Page, Brittney Anderson, Jesse Woodward and Cal Renwick along with City Manager Kevin Cormack, toured the Silver King Campus in Rosemont. The Campus has recently completed the new Student Union building, along with campus-wide upgrades including structural, painting, equipment and basic renovations.



Mayor Dooley, along with Councillors Keith Page, Brittny Anderson, Jesse Woodward, and City Manager Kevin Cormack toured the Kalesnikoff Lumber's new \$35 million mass timber manufacturing facility in the South Slokan. This facility will produce cross-laminated timber and glulam, also known as mass timber.

