

## **Mayor's Newsletter July 2017**

For this Mayor's Report, council has requested that I update the public on the accomplishments of our hard-working senior management team.

In 2015 council had a strategic planning session with our CAO, Director of Operations and Director of Parks and Recreation. Some of our goals are improvements to the Hot Springs; biomass feasibility study, revitalization of the downtown and improving our communications. The biomass study showed that we could not benefit financially.

With the expertise of our Director of Parks and Recreation, the Hot Springs is now seeing an increase in attendance and sales which in turn is a benefit to the community as a whole. Many positive changes have occurred at the hot springs including a new roof for the facility and chalets, upgrades to the chalets and our successful new advertising and marketing program. The Trails Master plan is nearing completion and will be a tool used to access funding for future trails.

The Downtown Revitalization Plan had their open house this week with 60 people in the community attending. It was a great meeting with lots of input.

The Director of Operations has been working hard on our asset management plans which are required by the province. This is comparable to doing an inventory of your house and determining the age of the roof, building structure etc. and determining needed replacements and costs. We have to do this for our entire infrastructure including water and sewer. It is a huge undertaking! We all understand the importance of having quality, efficient water and sewer systems that meet all the provincial and federal health regulations. Currently we are in the process of replacing all the old 2-inch galvanized water lines with new 6-inch lines to replace failing infrastructure and give the whole village improved water flows.

We are lucky to have such a dedicated and experienced CAO and management team in this Village. Did you know, for example, that our CAO also serves as our Chief Financial Officer? And that our Director of Operations has to have several certifications to keep up with in order to be able to manage our water and sewer systems? Or that our management staff are on call 24/7? The CAO is responsible for managing the budget and she continues to work with the directors to look for ways to be more efficient with our tax dollars. In order for us to accomplish many of our goals, we depend on grants from various areas and the use of gas tax funding. Our CAO finds the funding and brings proposals to council. She has a wonderful working relationship with our managers.

Our staff is represented by a union and the CAO and her team has been working towards a final contract agreement for the past year and a half and we hope to see it settled soon. Council, CAO and Directors are working diligently to make Nakusp a better place to live. We all love this community and want to see it flourish.

Council appreciates all the hard work that community members have put into the various projects. We could not do this work without your input and support. We are open to your suggestions. Our email addresses are on our website and of course you can always drop by the office. We recognize that community members are genuinely engaged and need access to information. We have a very detailed website that includes council agendas as well as our strategic goals and objectives. To make communication easier, we will be putting a Facebook page link on our website this week. Our next Council meeting is Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> at the Emergency Services Building at 6:30 pm. We hope to see you there.

Council and staff wish you a happy and safe summer season.