

Revelstoke Development News

September 2014



**COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



The Community Economic Development (CED) Department is funded by the City of Revelstoke and the CSRD Area B. The purpose of the Department is to implement the CED goals and objectives identified by the community in the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). The CED Department has been working on the following initiatives over the past few months. For information on CED initiatives contact Alan Mason, Director of Community Economic Development at 250-827-5345 or e-mail amason@revelstoke.ca.

TOURISM

A number of tourism infrastructure projects have been worked on during the summer:

- Selkirk Saddle Club covered riding facility completion
- major renovations at the Revelstoke Museum and Archives
- runway expansion at the Revelstoke Airport
- new trails at the Revy Riders Dirt Bike track facility on Westside Road
- new directional signage to attract visitors to Revelstoke
- sidewalk and bike trail improvements along Nichol Road
- downtown streetscape enhancement adjacent to City Hall.



New sign installed to help attract more visitors to Revelstoke.

Resort Municipality Initiative funds will also be invested this fall in new grooming equipment to assist the Revelstoke Snowmobile Club to maintain the high quality trail system and the Nordic Ski Club to develop lighted trails at Mt MacPherson.

Most of these projects could not have been completed without the support and hard work of the many volunteer clubs and groups in the community which contribute significantly to the development and maintenance of tourism infrastructure in Revelstoke.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS AWARD

Revelstoke was shortlisted as a finalist by the Small Business Roundtable of BC for an Open for Business Award. An application was prepared and submitted which recognizes the work that the City and other community agencies are doing to help create a more business-friendly environment in the community. For many years, the City has provided financial support to the Chamber of Commerce, which has worked hard to promote the interests of the local business community. Community Connections has been involved in several initiatives to assist residents with disabilities to participate in the workplace, and Okanagan College has delivered a number of programs to assist youth, older workers and others develop the skills they need to find employment. The City continues its efforts to reduce taxes for business and to improve development and application processes at City Hall. The Open for Business Award nomination takes all these activities into account.

LABOUR MARKET STRATEGY

The CED Department is initiating a Labour Market Strategy this fall. The Department has heard from the business community about the challenges they are facing to find and retain employees. The labour market situation will become more challenging over the next few years as a large number of workers enter their retirement years. The purpose of the Labour Market Strategy is to engage local businesses and industry to find out exactly what their current labour needs are and what their needs will be in the future. A concrete plan of action will be prepared to help address these issues, including attracting and training new workers. The Steering Committee for the Project is the Community Labour Market Network, a group of local business leaders, the Chamber of Commerce, Okanagan College and the Director of CED, established by the WorkBC - Revelstoke Employment Centre. The majority of the funding for this project has been secured through a grant from the Province of BC.

BIOENERGY PROJECT

The CED Department has been working with the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation, Revelstoke Community Energy Corporation and Downie Timber to explore opportunities to make better use of waste wood in the community. The City issued a request for Expressions of Interest for projects that might make use of the wood waste in Revelstoke with the goals of adding value and creating employment. Over 50 Expressions of Interest were submitted, and the City has requested some firm proposals from the interested parties on how they would utilize the waste wood. We hope to evaluate these proposals this fall. Obtaining more value from wood waste in Revelstoke has been a long-term economic development goal for the community.

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REVELSTOKE COMMUNITY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Supporting Social Planning and Action in Revelstoke since July 2008

CONNECTING NEWCOMERS AND THE COMMUNITY

Welcome Week is Revelstoke putting our best foot forward. It's a week of free or low cost events, coupled with a spirit of celebration. It's an opportunity to share community spirit and inspire all newcomers – seasonal or otherwise – to get involved, to showcase the town, businesses, events, facilities, and services. The third annual Welcome Week will take place November 22nd to 29th, and includes the annual Volunteer Fair 3 pm Wednesday, November 26th at the Community Centre.

ADDRESSING PROBLEM SUBSTANCE USE

Since the *Revelstoke Community Substance Use Strategy* was released in 2010, our focus has been on the Youth Initiative and strengthening positive support for youth in our community. To provide a deeper level of support, in March of 2012 the Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Committee was formed – a group of service providers dedicated to supporting youth in partnership with Revelstoke Secondary School. Last year for the first time since 2009, we administered the Youth Drug Survey at RSS. The survey covers a wide range of topics from personal substance use to how much RSS students know or have experienced about harms related to drugs and alcohol. Over 85% of students completed the survey. The *Youth Drug Survey Final Report* compares the 2009 & 2013 results. In 2013, we found that binge drinking, as well as regular use of tobacco and marijuana, has declined since 2009.

POVERTY REDUCTION

Following the release of the *Revelstoke Community Poverty Reduction Strategy* in 2012, 'improved information sharing, networking and communication on poverty reduction goals and strategies' has been an important community goal. In April, we were invited to Nelson to share our experience in developing a poverty reduction strategy. In May, presentations were made to our local Chamber and Rotary Club. In September, Revelstoke was invited to present alongside the Cities of Surrey and Victoria at a workshop on "Tackling Poverty at the Community Level" at the annual Union of BC Municipalities convention in Whistler.

The Poverty Reduction Working Group is growing. Among other things, the working group's purpose is to act as a 'think tank', brainstorming ideas and building community partnerships to act on those ideas, track progress, and measure, evaluate and report on outcomes. This fall, watch for newspaper articles in the Times Review describing the many poverty reduction efforts going on in Revelstoke.



The Social Development Committee is an Advisory Committee to Revelstoke City Council. The Committee provides input to the work plan of the Social Development Coordinator, Jill Zacharias, who is contracted to the City of Revelstoke and reports to the Director of Community Economic Development.

Jill works to address community-wide social issues through planning and bringing together community partners to work on related strategies and projects. Jill also supports social sector organizations and non-profits in Revelstoke by bringing in training opportunities, helping out with grant writing, and connecting groups with potential resources. Since 2008, \$377,000 has been brought in to support 25 different social projects in the community.

For more information about Social Development check out www.revelstokesocialdevelopment.org

Want to get involved?

Contact Jill Zacharias, Social Development Coordinator
e.jill.zacharias@gmail.com

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The provision of affordable housing in Revelstoke has been identified as a high community priority for several years.



The Revelstoke Community Housing Society announced that the start of construction of the affordable rental housing project on Oscar Street has been delayed until the spring of 2015. The Chair of the Society, Mark McKee stated: "The members of the Society are disappointed that there is a delay in getting this important community project underway. The Society and their consulting team have worked hard to move the project forward, but there are still some issues that need to be resolved, and we are getting too close to winter to begin construction."

This project will deliver 12 townhouse units that will be rented at affordable rates to meet the needs of people in the community. The Society has received funding from BC Housing and CBT to assist with the construction of the units, and the City of Revelstoke has agreed to lease land on Oscar Street to the Society. The Society hopes to be able to start renting the units later in 2015.

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Community Futures Revelstoke provides a number of business services to both new and existing Revelstoke Entrepreneurs. These services include one-on-one business counselling and advice, business planning assistance, business training, the Self-Employment Program, and business financing for start-up and existing business. For more information phone 250 837-5345 or visit www.revelstokecf.com.

There have been significant changes at Community Futures in the last few months. Darryl Willoughby, who served as General Manager since the organization's inception, retired after 27 years of service. Administrative Assistant, Margaret Pacaud retired after 21 years at Community Futures. The entire Community Futures family would like to wish Darryl and Margaret all the best in their retirement, and many thanks for all the hard work and dedication over the years.

Kevin Dorrius has taken over as the General Manager effective July 2014 and has been with Community Futures since 1997. Kevin is actively involved in the local squash club as a player and coach, and enjoys the hiking, biking and camping opportunities that Revelstoke has to offer. Kevin can be reached at kdorrius@revelstokecf.com.

Cindy Maloney is our new Loans Analyst who was hired in 2013 as the Self Employment Program Coordinator. Cindy moved to Revelstoke from Calgary with her husband and children seven years ago to enjoy the lifestyle of a small mountain town. Cindy enjoys mountain/road biking, running, cross-country and downhill skiing. For any loan, business advisory or self employment inquiry, contact cmaloney@revelstokecf.com.

Brooke Burke is our new Administrative Assistant. She moved here in December of 2005 with her husband and her son was born here the following spring. She loves gardening, baking and spending time with her family and is devoted to Minor Hockey. Brooke can be reached at bburke@revelstokecf.com.

Debra Wozniak has been with Community Futures since 1990 and continues in her role as Community Economic Development Coordinator. She also works with the Revelstoke Community Housing Society, Revelstoke Community Foundation and the Revelstoke Community Initiatives Program. Debra can be reached at dwozniak@revelstokecf.com.

BASIN BUSINESS
ADVISORS PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF
Columbia
Basin **trust**

ADMINISTERED & MANAGED BY
**Community
Futures**



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Small business owners face all sorts of challenges and opportunities every day and we are here to help. With 4 professional business advisors the Basin Business Advisors program supports businesses like yours through challenges and opportunities, we can advise on any number of business areas such as accounting, growth, marketing, business planning, succession, technology and much more. The process is driven by you as a business owner, you work with us to determine areas where advisement is required and we provide it. It is that simple, and it is free. We offer up to 20 hours of free support to you and can focus on finding solutions to specific issues or complete a business overview to determine areas that can be improved to take your business to the next level. We can also bring in a 3rd party consultant if you choose and we cover 60% of the consultant fee; so if you are looking for a consultant, come see us. Visit our website www.cbt.org/bba to find out more.

The Basin Business Advisors program is funded by Columbia Basin Trust and managed by Community Futures.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (ICSP)

THE CED Department will be organizing the annual review of the ICSP this fall. The ICSP identifies the economic, social and environmental goals that the community has identified. The review process tracks progress on how the community agencies and organizations are addressing these goals and gives citizens an opportunity to comment and identify new community priorities. Look for information boards in the Community Centre during late October and early November.

Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce

The Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce team had an exciting summer! Our new Business and Visitor Information Centre was buzzing! While our visitor numbers have increased so has the number of local residents that use the centre. In addition to visitor information pertaining to activities, attractions and local businesses we also offer complimentary use of three computer stations and free Wi-Fi access. Our Business Centre provides information for new potential residents, facilitation of access to new and existing business consultation services and funding through the Chamber, Community Futures and Economic Development, including information with regards to the Revelstoke Community Housing Society, Revelstoke Community Foundation and Revelstoke Community Social Development. We also support the community and arts and culture organizations through event promotion and ticket sales.

Revelstoke Business and Visitor Information Centre Statistics

Total Visitors	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
2014	261	1131	1121	1060	2605	5523	9504	11268
% change 2014-2013	25.5%	189.3%	250.3%	265.5%	52.3%	12.0%	8.0%	7.7%
2013	208	391	320	290	1710	4930	8797	10465

Our 2014 Tourism Revelstoke Vacation guide was a huge success! We received many compliments on Megan Tabor's efforts and are almost out of guides due to reorders from suppliers across Alberta and BC. The 2015 "Experience Guide" opportunities have been sent out to our membership and the participation deadline is October 3, 2014.

Chamber of Commerce Vision: "We represent our member's interests in promoting the progress and development of Revelstoke in order to make it a better place in which to do business, live, work and play."



Chamber Fall Calendar

The Chamber has several projects and initiatives in the works. Continuing with the updated sign initiative, we are working with the enhancement committee to create new wayfinding signage within the downtown and industrial areas. We will flip the switch on the light-up project downtown to welcome moonlight madness and our wonderful winter season! Our policy & advocacy committee continues to work with city staff and council to improve our economic environment and business services as well as communicating the 2015 financial plan through facilitation of information and public open houses.

The 2014 municipal election will begin October 1st. Chambers across Canada are tasked with hosting all candidate forums and open houses to encourage voter participation. "Every Revelstokian can make their vote count by taking time to research the candidates and issues and vote according to what they believe will best benefit our community", states Chamber President Steve Bailey.

October 14th – Sign Bylaw Public Open House at 2:30 PM in Council Chambers

October 15th – Chamber Luncheon & Board Nominations

October 22nd at 7 PM – All Candidates Forum at Community Recreation Centre

October 25th 2 PM to 4 PM – Candidate Speed Dating at McPherson Room. Come out and chat one on one for a few minutes with the participating City Council candidates!

October 28th – School Trustee All Candidates Forum at the Seniors Centre

November 1st - is the 21st Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala! Tickets on sale at the Information Centre.

November 5th – Advanced Poll Open to Vote!

November 15th – Get out and Vote!

November 19th – Chamber Luncheon & Board Elections

View and post all community events at
www.seerevelstoke.com