



**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN**

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017**

**Annual Report for the Village of Slocan  
Presented to Municipal Council on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Mayor Jessica Lunn

Councillor Jean Patterson  
Councillor Joel Pelletier  
Councillor Madeleine Perriere  
Councillor Burly Van Bynen

# Village of Slocan – Annual Report 2017

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### Appendices

Audited Financial Report 2017

**During the year 2017 the municipality has not made, nor is the Municipality aware of electors of the Village of Slocan having made, an application to court for a declaration of disqualification of a person elected or appointed to office on the Council of the Village of Slocan.**

## **MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JESSICA LUNN**

On behalf of Slocan Village Council, I am pleased to share with you the 2017 Annual Report for the Village of Slocan. This report provides a comprehensive overview of Village operations for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

Council provides the vision and the leadership through long range planning. Council is solely accountable for the results and activities during 2017. Even though our Council of five members has different individual views on issues, one common goal of all members is to move the Community forward in a sustainable manner by ensuring that the vision is accomplished.

The Annual Report includes the previous year's financial statements, and highlights some of our major capital initiatives and accomplishments. Through sound fiscal planning and a commitment to hard work, the Village has maintained its strong financial position, and continues to meet and exceed the expectations of Slocan residents in the delivery of services.

Municipal election was held November 15, 2014. Slocan Council is proud to serve the Village of Slocan as the first Council to be elected for the new four year term of 2014 to 2018. In cooperation with neighbouring Villages, the Village of Slocan is pleased to have signed an agreement with the City of Nelson, to provide contract Chief Financial Officer services. Council is proud of our accomplishments and the fact that taxes have remained stable over the past few years. We will continue to work hard for this community and provide improved communication with the public. The challenge facing Slocan is to provide relevant services to our residents and visitors alike.

The permanent closure of the Springer Creek Forest Products operations in Slocan in 2013, accentuated the need for the Village to investigate alternative revenue sources to replace the lost tax revenues. In 2014, the Village actively sought approvals for the development of a micro hydro power project on Springer Creek. The conceptual engineering report estimates the potential size of the Springer Creek hydropower project at  $\pm$  800 kW, with annual gross revenues estimated at \$250,000. The micro hydro project is estimated to cost  $\pm$  \$3,100,000; which includes intake & penstock, access road, powerhouse, turbine, substation and power line interconnection. Preliminary work and required consultations are in progress.

In late 2016, the Village submitted a joint application to the BC Rural Dividend Fund, partnering with the Villages of New Denver, Silverton and RDCK Area H, to develop a Slocan Valley Economic Development Strategy for our Region. In 2017 the Strategy was completed and an implementation strategy created. A consultant is expected to be hired in 2018 to roll out the Project.

The Village continues to work with the Slocan Valley Seniors' Housing Society for development of a 12-unit seniors and affordable housing complex in the Village of Slocan. Construction began in 2017 with occupancy scheduled for late 2018.

Thank you to all the citizens for their volunteer efforts over the past year. Without your dedication we would not have been able to continue with some of our activities, projects and programs. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our very dedicated employees for ensuring that services are delivered effectively. Their dedication makes the job of Council a lot easier.

Jessica Lunn  
MAYOR

## **Report from the Chief Administrative Officer**

This Annual Report provides a summary of the activities, projects, services, financial statements and some key statistical information that the reader may find useful when measuring and comparing Slocan with other local governments.

The Annual Report provides updates and accomplishments of the goals and objectives of the Village of Slocan.

The loss of the industrial tax base with the closure and demolition of the Springer Creek Forest Product operations focused the Village of Slocan on finding other sources of revenue through the development of a micro hydro power project. Council will strive to keep the municipal levels of taxation reasonable.

The Village will continue to ensure a high level of customer service to meet the needs of our citizens; but will need to do so within the constraints of limited financial resources.

Our public work employees are committed to providing a high level of services and support to the residents. Road maintenance, snow removal and water supply services remain a priority of our outside staff.

Village Office staff strives to provide timely and courteous assistance to all citizens.

Village staff will continue to monitor, control and allocate financial resources in order to achieve the community's immediate and long-term goals and objectives.

Michelle Gordon  
Chief Administrative Officer

## **2017 MUNICIPAL SERVICES & OPERATIONS**

### **Part I - Revenues**

The Village collected \$167,367 in taxes; generates \$57,721 from the sale of services; revenues from own sources are \$25,552; unconditional transfers from the provincial government amount to \$329,230. This does not include inter-fund transfers and taxes collected for other agencies, such as school taxes, regional district taxes, hospital, etc. Funds collected for other agencies (Hospital District, BC Assessment Authority, MFA, schools & RDCK) were \$200,137.

The Village used the Small Community Funding Grant to reduce the tax burden on the business and residential properties. Without the unconditional grant of \$329,230, taxes in the Village of Slokan would have been increased by 213%.

Water fund revenues, a combination of residential user fees, Westside user fees and commercial flat rate fees were \$102,932.

### **Part II – Expenditures**

#### *General Government - \$231,704*

General government expenditures includes the cost of administration, including Council operations, the office, legal and auditing services, liability insurance and other general overhead expenditures. In 2017, included in general government expenses was \$5,707 in costs associated with the micro hydro project relating to studies and grant writing preparation and submission.

#### *Protective Services - \$4,973*

Protective services include building inspections, bylaw enforcement, emergency measures and the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.

#### *Transportation Services - \$220,826*

Transportation services includes the cost of public works maintenance shop, all the Village's equipment, summer & winter road maintenance and street lights.

#### *Environmental Health - \$17,983*

Environmental health includes the cost of garbage collection, yard waste collection, tree pruning and boulevard maintenance.

#### *Public Health & Welfare - \$7,111*

Public Health & Welfare includes cemetery maintenance.

*Recreation & Cultural Services - \$90,563*

Recreation and cultural services includes the operation and maintenance of the boat ramp & wharf, curling rink, tennis court / skating rink, parks, Springer Creek RV Park & Campground, Slocan Owl Walk, Silvery Slocan Hall, and Wellness Centre / Library / Fitness Centre. This expenditure category also included a significant portion of the planned upgrades to the Slocan waterfront.

*Debt Interest & Fiscal Services - \$5,786*

*Operating Capital Expenditures - \$277,695*

The capital program included:

- Street Paving
- Legion Hall Roof Replacement
- Dump Truck with plowing and sanding attachments
- Public Works Shed and Fencing
- Breakwater

*Water Utility Operations - \$65,276*

Water utility includes administration, water supply treatment, transmission and distribution; dam, pump station and tank; and hydrants.

*Water Capital Expenditures - \$9,724*

The capital program included:

- Water plant upgrades & equipment

## 2017 BUILDING ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

The Regional District of Central Kootenay provides building inspection services for the Village of Slocan. The assigned Building Official is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Building Code and scrutinizes all building plans to ensure that the structural integrity, fire safety and plumbing are all in compliance with the Building Code and municipal bylaws.

	Total Construction Value	# Permits	Permit Fees/ Renewals	Village Fees Collected
Residential – New Starts Only	\$1,200,000	3	\$11,895	\$1,322
Residential Additions / Renovations / Accessory Buildings	73,837	6	1,392	155
Mobile Homes	0	0	0	0
Commercial – New Starts Only	0	0	0	0
Commercial Additions / Renovations	5,000	1	83	9
Industrial	0	0	0	0
Industrial Additions / Renovations	0	0	0	0
Institutional	0	0	0	0
Institutional Additions / Renovations	0	0	0	0
Demolition	0	0	0	0
Change of Use	0	1	113	11
Permit Renewal	0	3	270	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,278,837</u></b>	<b>14</b>	<b><u>\$13,753</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,527</u></b>

## PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2016

In 2016, Council set the following objectives for 2017. The objectives were set as part of the 2016 Annual Report process and the following is the progress that has been made on those objectives.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Measures and Strategies</b>	<b>Achievements and Outcomes</b>
Micro-Hydro Plant	Proceed with micro-hydro generation project owned by the Village, for the Village.	Conceptual assessment complete. Water licence and Crown Tenure application approved. Development Permit submitted to Provincial Government and approved. PPA with BC Hydro pending.
Bylaws	Review and update bylaws	The following bylaws were adopted in 2017: Financial Plan (2017-2019), Tax Rate Bylaw, Zoning Amendment Bylaw, and OCP Amendment Bylaw.
Waterline Replacement	Development of Village of Slocan 10 Year Capital Works Plan.	Plan completed. Implementation ongoing.
Economic Development	Create and support opportunities for economic development in Slocan and region.	Ongoing
WE Graham Community School	Support school	Letter sent support to maintain WE Graham as a viable school in Slocan
Legion	Support collaboration of service groups	Council support of commercial kitchen in the Silvery Slocan Hall by providing grant fund opportunities. Ongoing.
Seniors Housing	Support the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society for development of a 12 unit complex. Land to be leased from Village.	In Progress – Development and building permits issued, construction in progress.



**STATEMENT OF MUNICIPAL OBJECTIVE AND PROGRESS MEASURES FOR CURRENT YEAR (2017) AND NEXT YEAR (2018).**

- Continue to move forward with the development of the micro hydro project on Springer Creek.
- Continue to support volunteer community groups and organizations.
- Pursue grant monies for infrastructure upgrades.
- Continue to implement a ‘10 year capital water plan’ infrastructure program
- Explore community and sub-regional level strategic advantages.
- Further our Village of Slocan tourism strategy.
- Finding fiscal efficiencies in municipal cost savings.
- Identify joint municipal revenue opportunities.
- Review drainage plan
- Review Waterfront Plan in conjunction with Boat Launch plan
- Continue to support development of Seniors’ and Affordable Housing

In early 2017, Council set the following objectives, which it hoped to accomplish in the Council term. Council and staff prepared these objectives from feedback received by Councillors from constituents throughout the year.

Objective	Measures and Strategies	Achievements and Outcomes
Micro-Hydro Plant	Proceed with micro-hydro generation project owned by the Village, for the Village.	Support approval of Development Application, champion project, develop corporate governance model, arrange for financing, plan for construction and operation.
Seniors Housing	Support Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society in development of housing project.	Development and building permits issued, construction in progress.
Breakwater	Breakwater be safe and secure for public use – deck to be replaced, berm removed and replaced with a retaining wall.	Job Creation Partnership Project completed. Lock-block wall installation will commence in 2017 and be complete in 2018.
Paving	Pave/resurface priority roads within the Village.	Paving project was successfully completed in 2017.
Asset Management	Development of an Asset Management inventory.	Preparation of inventory for major assets including roads, water distribution, irrigation, storm network and structures completed in 2017. QGIS application and Preliminary State of Infrastructure Report to be completed in 2018.
Stormwater Management	10-Year Capital Works Plan	Continuation of 10-Year Plan – preliminary works completed for Main Street waterline replacement and Harold Street drainage in 2018.

## PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS 2017

For each permissive tax exemption granted by bylaw under Division 7 of Part 7 of the *Community Charter*, Council must include the amount of taxes that would have been imposed on the property if it were not exempt for that year. Calculating foregone tax revenue is done by applying the municipal tax rate to the value of the property that was permissively exempted.

Roll Number	Legal Description	Civic Address	Organization	Value of Permissive Exemption
105.000	Lot 11, Block 13, Plan 496, DL 292, Kootenay District	619 Arthur Street Slocan, BC	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Hall	\$338.42
163.000	Lot 14 and Lot 15, Block 23, Plan 496, DL 292, Kootenay District	711 Harold Street Slocan, BC	St. Mary's Catholic Church and Hall	\$319.19
205.600	Plan NEP86609, Lot 1, Plan 496, DL 292, Kootenay District, Except Plan NEP90447	1001 Harold Street Slocan, BC	WE Graham Community Service Society	\$1,155.23
72.001	Lots 1 and 2, Block 10, District Lot 292, Plan 496, Kootenay Land District,	502 Harold Street, Slocan, BC	The Silvery Slocan Hall, Canadian Legion, Slocan Valley Branch #276	\$695.65
155.000	Lots 2 to 6, Block 22, District Lot 292, Plan 496, Kootenay Land District	710 Harold Street, Slocan, BC	Slocan Community Library Society	\$267.06
204.000	Lots 1, 2, 3 and 18, 19, 20, Block 34, District Lot 292, Plan 496, Kootenay Land District	903 Hume Street, Slocan, BC	Slocan Curling Club	\$727.95
214.080 214.100	Lots 4 and 5, Block 39, District Lot 292, Kootenay Land District, Plan 496,	Adjoining Arthur Street Slocan, BC	"Community Garden", WE Graham Community Service Society	\$90.84
65.101	Lots 17 to 20, Block 8, District Lot 292, Plan 496, Kootenay Land District	503 Slocan Street, Slocan, BC	"Archives", portion leased to the Slocan Valley Historical Society.	\$168.42