

- **WATERFRONT:**

- **CONCEPT:** The Village of Slocan was successful in obtaining a \$10,000 grant from the BC Rural Dividend Fund, to move forward with research and planning for the waterfront area, west of the mill site. A consultant was hired to create a long-term waterfront management and development strategy. The consultant connected with stakeholders, hosted a community engagement session, analyzed existing and new-found data, and created an implementation plan. Data compiled included landowner information, traffic patterns, existing/future uses, climate change impacts, and local/regional economic benefits. With a variety of user groups and the area becoming more popular, the intent of the project was to work with all stakeholders, landowners, and the community members to create a plan that everyone could support. The concept plan was completed in August 2018.

- **DETAILED DESIGN PLAN:** In March 2019, Council authorized staff to apply to the Columbia Basin Trust through their Outdoor Revitalization Planning Grant funding stream, to complete a detailed design plan for the west portion of the waterfront. This "Phase One" project included completing detailed designs for the breakwater area (railing, ramp, sod, irrigation system, furnishings, landscaping, and completion of the block wall). The Village's \$15,000 application was successful. The detailed design plan was successfully completed and reviewed by Council in August 2019.

- **CAPITAL WORKS:** In July 2019, Council authorized staff to apply to the Columbia Basin Trust through their Outdoor Revitalization Capital Grants funding stream for completion of the "Slocan Waterfront Development Phase One: Capital Works" Project. The grant application was approved, and the Village successfully received \$282,000. In September 2019, the Village posted out for tender and a contractor was hired in October. The contractor has commenced work on this project; however, residents will see the bulk of the field work completed in Spring 2020. The project is scheduled to be completed by May 29, 2020.

- **HAROLD STREET BEAUTIFICATION:**

- **CONCEPT:** In 2017, the Village was successful with its application to the BC Rural Dividend Fund and received a \$10,000 grant to complete the Slocan "Harold Street North – Concept Plan". The purpose of this project was to create a conceptual plan for the Commercial Zone at the north end of Harold Street based on community/stakeholder consultation and feedback. The plan included recommendations on parking, sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, and overall beautification. The plan would also take into consideration the Village's stormwater drainage and water infrastructure plan. The Concept was completed in 2018.

- **DETAILED DESIGN PLAN:** In the spring of 2019, the Village successfully received \$60,500 from its application to the Rural Dividend Fund, for completion of the Harold Street Detailed Design Plan. The plan, schedule to be completed in 2020, will involve recruiting professional services for civil, electrical, and landscape engineer works, to complete a detailed design, detailed cost estimation, and preparation of tender documents for the implementation of the plan. In addition, a detailed survey of the project site will be included to accurately locate all existing infrastructure, topography, drainage, building envelope and lot lines.

- **CAPITAL WORKS:** Grant funds will be sourced for future capital works project.

- **LEGION HALL:** In 2017, the Village hired a consultant to complete a Heritage Design Plan for the Legion Hall, to assist the Village with future planning and heritage/energy upgrades. In 2018, the Village successfully received \$174,500 from CBT, for completion of a Phase One *Exterior* project. Though the Village intends to source funds to complete heritage upgrades to the interior of the building in the future, this project will implement a program of exterior preservation measures, heritage rehabilitation, and improve the overall envelope of the building. This includes replacement of the fire exit stairs, replacement or enhancement of the siding, facades, soffit, fascia, flashing, cladding, trims, painting, lighting, windows, removal of unused electrical service components, drainage improvements, insulation, wheelchair access ramps, and restoration of the original IOOF wooden logo. Staff are working with the consultant to prepare the RFP documents for a 2020 completion.

- **WATER PLANT / SOURCE WATER STUDY:** In response to the challenges we have been facing at the water plant, in 2017 the Village applied for funding to complete a study on the Village's water source. The purpose of this study was to analyze the current source (Gwillim Creek, located west of the municipality) and investigate other viable options to supply water to the Village. The Village has been experiencing maintenance and operational issues with the intake, treatment plant and reservoir, which has proven to be very costly over the past few years. This study was completed in 2018, and included options and cost estimates for Council to review, including relocation and/or installation of a new water treatment system. Village Council are currently exploring these options, and will seek out grant funding for any future upgrades.



## Season's Greetings!

As the holiday season is upon us, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the past year and all the incredible energy and activities that have contributed to the evolution of the Village of Slocan. Each and every day, community efforts continue to make Slocan such a special place to live and call home. And what a remarkable year it has been!

There is no doubt that we are living in a historical time of transition, creativity and growth.

We must acknowledge that it is our friends and neighbours - our volunteers, our non profit organizations, our school and public institutions, and our burgeoning small business community - who are leading and supporting this "Slocan Renaissance."

The Village has been working hard to support all efforts and contributions to encourage a healthy, prosperous future. A few to mention include the pending Harold Street Design Plan, supporting a more walkable, people-centric and beautiful downtown core. In 2019, the Village was successful in obtaining additional grant funding to complete the detailed design work required to move forward with implementing this project. Other plans that were completed include the Waterfront Development Strategy, for improvements to the Slocan Beach Park, preliminary plans for a new reliable water source, as well as a Social Housing Feasibility Analysis.

And lookout 2020!

A number of exciting projects will be implemented in the new year! Beginning in the spring, work will commence on the Slocan Beach Park. This project will see completion of the breakwater and greening of the "old" parking lot to increase year-round use. We will also see renovations completed on the exterior of the Legion Hall, enhancing and rehabilitating its heritage features while improving the overall building envelope. Also planned to start in 2020, CBBC will be installing backbone fibre from the south end of the valley to Nakusp, improving the region's overall connectivity. As well, stay tuned for more opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about how we envision the future of our amazing village.

On behalf of the Village of Slocan Council I would like to wish you all a joyous holiday season and may 2020 bring you much peace, happiness, health and prosperity.

Best Wishes for the New Year!

~ *Mayor Jessica Lunn*

# 2019 ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE...

The following grants were provided in 2019, totaling **\$45,677**:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	FUND	AMOUNT
Horse Association Central Kootenay	Youth Polish Shine Show	CIP/AAP	\$250
Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital Health Foundation	Surgical Services Project	CIP/AAP	500
Nelson Cares	Stepping Stones Kitchen	CIP/AAP	500
Nelson Civic Theatre Society	Build/Launch kootenayfilm.com	CIP/AAP	125
Rossland Gold Fever Follies	Travelling Show Mentorship Program	CIP/AAP	500
Silverton Community Club	Fireworks Course & Training	CIP/AAP	300
Slocan Community Library	Library & Collection Development	CIP/AAP	2,500
Slocan District Chamber of Commerce	Chamber Welcome Baskets	CIP/AAP	100
Slocan Fitness Center	Fitness Center Upgrades	CIP/AAP	2,200
Slocan Lake Golf Club	2019 Improvements & Upgrades	CIP/AAP	1,000
Slocan Legion Branch #276	Kitchen Stove & PA System	CIP/AAP	2,000
Slocan Solutions Society	Slocan Saturday Market	CIP/AAP	2,500
Slocan Valley Community Band	2019/20 Band Initiatives Funding	CIP/AAP	1,250
Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society	Vegetation Management Project	CIP/AAP	750
Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society	Seniors Outreach Programs Slocan	CIP/AAP	2,382
SQx Danza	Anti-Bullying Movement Program	CIP/AAP	1,250
WEGCSS	Farm to Kitchen Intergenerational Cooking Program	CIP/AAP	2,600
WEGCSS	Afterschool Program Van Service	CIP/AAP	6,400
Woodstove Exchange Program	Residential Rebates	RDCK/VOS	100
BC Seniors Games	Zone 6 Games 2019 Sponsorship	Disc. Grant	400
WEGCSS	Learning Center Technology Upgrade	CD Grant	2,500
Slocan Community Library	Library Flooring Upgrade	Gas Tax Grant	7,500
Slocan Legacy Society	Volunteer Recognition Event	Disc. Grant	50
Eric Clough	Wellness Center Grounds Plan	CD Grant	2,500
Slocan District Chamber of Commerce	Slocan Valley Promotional Video & Physician Recruitment	CD Grant	1,000
WEGCSS	Easter Egg Hunt 2019	Disc. Grant	75
WEGCSS	Kitchen Upgrade & Garden Expansion	CD Grant	2,320
WEGCSS	2019 Christmas Hamper Program	Disc. Grant	425
Slocan District Technical Rescue Society	2019 Fishing Derby	Disc. Grant	100
Community Futures Central Kootenay	Cannabis Transition Initiative	CD Grant	350
Halloween Hoot	Slocan Halloween Hoot 2019	Disc Grant	750
Slocan Volunteer Fire Department	Annual Christmas Appreciation Dinner	Operations	500
			<b>\$45,677</b>

- SPRINGER CREEK RV PARK & CAMPGROUND:** The Village saw another successful year at the campground. Rates were increased early in the year and the operator contract was renewed. Revenues for the 2019 camping season were 50% higher than 2018, returning a figure of \$62,000! After deducting expenses, surplus revenue will be put back into the parks budget for further upgrades, maintenance and operations.
- ASSET MANAGEMENT:** PHASE 1 (2017/18): The Village of Slocan was successful in obtaining a \$37,000 grant from FCM, and were able to complete an asset management inventory. The inventory will assist the Village with retention and replacement of assets such as roads, water infrastructure, storm water network and structures, and include life expectancy of assets, condition, and replacement costs. The linear asset data was captured on GIS base maps and layers, and has enabled generation of maps and reports for future Village infrastructure planning. Further funding was received (\$10,000) for PHASE 2 of the project in 2019, and the Village has successfully completed prioritizing asset renewal and replacement in terms of risk, level of service, climate change, and future needs.
- WILDFIRE MITIGATION:** In 2018, the Village, in partnership with SIFCo, was successful with their application to UBCM, to complete \$95,000 worth of wildfire mitigation work within the Village and outlying areas. Treatment areas included a series of small forested areas located around critical infrastructure, areas that would have caused significant damage if a wildfire had occurred. Mitigation work under this grant was completed in the summer of 2019. To date, the Village has completed over \$500,000 worth of wildfire mitigation work, all funded by government grants, making our community safer in the event of a wildfire.

- SPRINGER CREEK MICRO-HYDRO PROJECT:** Over the past decade, the Village has been working diligently on working towards development of an 800kw run-of-river hydro project on Springer Creek. To date, the Village has completed all First Nations consultations, hydrology/fisheries/aquatic/wildlife/vegetation/archaeological reports, feasibility studies, and have received permit approvals from FortisBC, Ministry of Transportation, and the Provincial Government. The Village was successful in obtaining \$2.4 million through the New Building Canada Small Communities Fund for this community renewable energy project, and once built, the project will allow us to generate as much power as we currently consume. The Hydro Project will greatly contribute to our economic sustainability, and will build our capacity to invest in our community for generations to come. Ultimately, it will provide us with a localized source of renewable energy. In 2018, BC Hydro announced termination of their Standing Offer Program, which ultimately would have provided the Village with a contract to sell power to the grid. Since this announcement, the Village has begun to explore other options for this project, including becoming our own utility. Council is not seeing this as a setback, but an opportunity to showcase small town resilience through innovative leadership. To be continued! The Project remains a top priority for the Village.
- CLIMATE ACTION:** After signing on to the Climate Action Charter in 2008, the Village completed a carbon inventory and now tracks and reports its GHG emissions annually. In 2016, a *Community Energy & Emissions Plan (SCEEP)* was completed, and in 2017, Slocan became a *Partner for Climate Protection* through the Federation of Canadian Municipality's (FCM) *Transition 2050 Program*. Most recently, Slocan was recognized for becoming the first *100% Renewable Kootenays Community* – the 5<sup>th</sup> municipality in all of Canada with a goal to become 100% renewable by 2050, and recognized for our efforts to undertake significant corporate and community-wide climate actions to reduce GHG emissions. Slocan has been awarded level 3 recognition. In November 2017, Council formed a Climate Action Committee to assist the Village with moving forward with energy emissions reduction strategies, and to provide Council recommendations for initiating related programs, activities, and incentives within the Village.
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SUB-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP:** In 2016, the Village submitted a joint application to the 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. The main objective of this project was to develop a multi-year, regional strategy with tangible, capacity-appropriate projects and an associated action plan. Public engagement sessions were hosted and a survey distributed to collect input from the public. The final strategy report was completed in 2017. Further funding was applied for and received on behalf of the partnership, for implementation of the Strategy. In 2018, Ron Leblanc was hired as the Regional Economic Development Officer to roll out implementation of the plan, and to date, work is actively being completed to further economic development in the Slocan Valley.
- FIBRE BACKBONE:** In 2019, the Village supported the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation's application for installation of 125km of fibre-optic backbone infrastructure from Playmor Junction to Nakusp. This project is a collaboration between local governments and Columbia Basin Trust, to expand affordable broadband availability to the Slocan Valley, and improve access to 20 communities based on these communities identifying broadband as a priority. The Regional District of Central Kootenay (in particular, Areas H and K) and the Villages of Slocan, Silverton, New Denver and Nakusp, are providing \$525,000 on a total project budget of \$7.2m, with the balance of funding coming from Columbia Basin Trust and Connecting BC. With a new fibre backbone in place, local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can improve service to meet the current and future needs of communities, businesses and residents in these areas. Partnering local governments and CBT intend to work with provincial and federal governments to ensure a plan is developed for the last mile component (service delivery from backbone line to home or business). Progress to date: design and permitting underway, all approvals expected by spring 2020; public consultation will close at the end of December; RFP's were issued in December and expected to close in February. Work is scheduled to commence mid-to-late 2020, dependent on permitting and procurement.
- MAIN STREET WATERLINE REPLACEMENT:** The Village saw completion of the Main Street waterline this fall/winter – an infrastructure upgrade that's been needed for several years! In September 2019, the Village posted out for tender and a contractor was hired in October. Works were completed by the first week of December. The Village would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and understanding, especially to those who experienced disruption in service during this process. Further clean up of the site is scheduled for the spring once the snow melts, as well as patching of the road crossings.
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Since the formation of the Slocan Affordable Housing Commission in 2017, the group has been actively researching the current housing situation in Slocan, and exploring opportunities for a potential housing development in Slocan. Several Village-owned sites were brought forward by the group, and in May 2019, Council committed to procuring M'akola Development Services to complete a Feasibility Analysis on 8 Village-owned lots located on the corner of Slocan St. and Giffin Ave. The Analysis is still currently underway, and will produce details such as finance models, budget (hard/soft), design work, management, operations, and contracting.