



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

**Annual Report for the Village of Slocan
Presented to Municipal Council on June 22, 2015.**

Mayor Jessica Lunn

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

Village of Slocan – Annual Report 2014

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Appendices

- Audited Financial Report 2014
- Auditor’s Management Letter 2014

During the year 2014 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 2014 Annual Report for the Village of Slocan. This report provides a comprehensive overview of Village operations for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014.

Council provides the vision and the leadership through long range planning. Council is solely accountable for the results and activities during 2014. 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.

A municipal election was held November 15, 2014. The new Council is proud to serve as the Village of Slocan as the first Council to be elected for the new four year term of 2014 to 2018. In 2014 an interim Chief Administrative Officer was hired to support in transition for a succession plan for Village Office Staff. In cooperation with neighbouring Villages, the Village of Slocan is pleased to have signed a three year 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.

The Wellness Centre was the focus of much activity and excitement and has been approved for use by a Nurse Practitioner to provide regular office hours in the Village through Interior Health Authority. The Library and Fitness Centre both had a successful year providing community activities.

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.

Patricia Dehnel
Chief Administrative Officer

2014 MUNICIPAL SERVICES & OPERATIONS

Part I - Revenues

The Village collected \$151,863 in taxes; generates \$48,119 from the sale of services; revenues from own sources are \$17,686; unconditional transfers from the provincial government amount to \$212,494. 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 \$213,210.

The Village used the Small Community Funding Grant to reduce the tax burden on the business and residential properties. Without the unconditional grant of \$212,494, taxes in the Village of Slokan would have been increased by 140%.

Water fund revenues, a combination of residential user fees, Westside user fees and commercial flat rate fees were \$95,177.

Part II – Expenditures

General Government - \$207,429

General government expenditures includes the cost of administration, including Council operations, the office, legal and auditing services, liability insurance and other general overhead expenditures.

Protective Services - \$188,618

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

Transportation Services - \$178,752

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

Environmental Health - \$11,590

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

Public Health & Welfare - \$1,103

Public Health & Welfare includes cemetery maintenance.

Recreation & Cultural Services - \$49,167

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, Valhalla Crew Camp, Silvery Slokan Hall, and Wellness Centre / Library / Fitness Centre.

Debt Interest & Fiscal Services - \$29,549

Debt interest, leases, fiscal services, bank service charges, transfers; and expenditures out of reserves.

Capital Expenditures - \$12,238

The capital program included:

- Hydro Project \$12,238

Water Utility - \$72,161

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

2014 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	0	0	0	0
Residential Additions / Renovations / Accessory Buildings	\$87,000	2	\$1000.50	\$100.05
Mobile Homes	0	0	0	0
Commercial	0	0	0	0
Commercial Additions / Renovations	\$50,000	1	\$536.27	\$53.62
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		1	\$100.00	\$10.00
TOTAL	<u>\$137,000</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>\$1636.77</u>	<u>\$163.67</u>

PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2014

In 2013, Council set the following objectives for 2014. The objectives were set as part of the 2013 Annual Report process and the following is the progress that has been made on those objectives.

Objective	Measures and Strategies	Achievements and Outcomes
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
Bylaws	Review and update bylaws	The following bylaws were adopted in 2014; Officer's Bylaw #639
CPR Land Negotiations	Finalize land transfer arrangements regarding former CPR rail land.	In progress
Waterline Replacement	Development of Village of Slokan 10 Year Capital Works Plan.	Plan completed. Implementation ongoing.
Economic Development	Create and support opportunities for economic development in Slokan.	ongoing
Valhalla Crew Camp	Sell trailers and site clean-up	Completed a Job Creation Program application to hire a construction crew and communications officer to clean and develop a tourism site. Trailers were sold.
Find creative ways to provide joint Valley wide health and education services	Promote Wellness Centre for Nurse Practitioner with RDCK	IHA hired nurse practitioner who will provide office hours in Slokan beginning in 2015.
Investigate joint Chief Financial Officer with area municipalities	Feasibility study funded by CBT and service agreement	Service agreement signed with City of Nelson September 2014
WE Graham Community School	Support school	Letter of support to maintain WE Graham as a viable school in Slokan
Legion/WI Hall	Support collaboration of service groups	Council support of commercial kitchen in the Silvery Slokan Hall

STATEMENT OF MUNICIPAL OBJECTIVE AND PROGRESS MEASURES FOR CURRENT YEAR (2014) AND NEXT YEAR (2015).

- 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.
- Implement a ‘10 year capital water plan’ infrastructure program
- Explore community and sub-regional level strategic advantages.
- Further our Village of Slocan tourism strategy (trail connections to rails-to-trails program).
- Finding fiscal efficiencies in municipal cost savings.
- Identify joint municipal revenue opportunities.
- Review drainage plan
- Review Waterfront Plan in conjunction with Boat Launch plan
- Support development of Seniors’ Housing

In early 2015, 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.
CPR Land Negotiations and Waterfront Plan	Continue negotiations with stakeholders for land transfer arrangements of former CPR rail land.	Negotiations are in progress with stakeholders. Achieve tenure for pathway and gazebo, develop a parking and boat launch plan.
Seniors Housing	Support Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society in development of housing project.	Feasibility and needs study to be completed by Society. Servicing needs to be addressed.
Boat launch	Boat launch and breakwater be safe and secure for public use.	Ensure safety for boaters. Consider Waterfront ambassador to monitor use.

PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS 2014

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	\$302.80
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	\$283.60
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	\$1085.20
72.001	Lots 1 and 2, Block 10, District Lot 292, Plan 496, Kootenay Land District,	502 Harold Street, Slocan, BC	Canadian Legion, Slocan Valley Branch	\$560.00
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	\$320.00
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	\$1020.00
214.080	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	\$80.00
65.000	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.	0