

From the Mayor's Desk



March has been an exciting month at Sun Peaks with great spring (winter) skiing and the Municipal announcement that the community had received a \$6 million dollar grant towards the Sun Peaks Centre project, a roof over the existing outdoor rink that will become the community's event center. There was also the exciting announcement by Sun Peaks Resort LLP that they will install a new quad chairlift up the Orient Ridge. Wow! Wonderful news for Sun Peaks.

Sun Peaks Municipal Utilities

Effective March 1, the Municipality now owns the water and sewer utilities. We were fortunate to receive \$2 million for the \$2.45 expansion of the waste water treatment plant. We now have waste water capacity for future expansion and our longer term plan is to recirculate our treated waste water to reservoirs for snowmaking and irrigation purposes. We are actively reviewing our expansion options for the domestic water supply system. No decisions yet but to maintain sufficient domestic water supply to meet future demand and fire protection, we need to expand the system sooner than later. We will keep you all posted. We will introduce Development Cost Charges (DCC) this spring so that new development will also contribute to the costs of infrastructure expansion. The DCC contributions combined with successful grant applications should carry most of the expansion costs. We will actively seek funding support from senior levels of government wherever possible.

2018 Concert Summer Dates

- June 30th - Big Sugar 6pm-8pm, Slopeside The Annex*
- August 10-12th - 9th Annual Retro Concert Weekend, Slopeside The Annex*
- August 25th -TBA*

Short Term Rentals

We have recently finalized a policy and guidelines on how short term rentals will be managed for the next few years. The policy can be found on our website under the document library tab on the home page. This is truly a fluid situation in that we will be adjusting policies as we monitor the outcome of the present policies. Our goal is to make sure that all property owners can peacefully enjoy their property without unreasonable disturbances. Excessive noise, onsite parking, overcrowding and building and fire code standards will be enforced through expanded bylaw enforcement. Bylaw compliance is an important part of the proposed changes. For any issues or complaints, please call the 24 hour Bylaw line at 778-257-2275 .

We seem to have people on both sides of this issue believing that the Municipality is making a major mistake by approving or denying short term rental applications. We must remember that about 73% of all properties in Sun Peaks have zoning that permits short term rentals. The remaining 27% of properties are either single family residential zoning or residential multifamily townhouses. We have moved very slowly to address these latter zones and have adjusted our approach with continuous public meeting input. In the subdivisions that existed prior to Municipal incorporation (June 2010), short term rentals were occurring and there were no rules or enforcement at that time. We are attempting to permit well-managed short term rentals with rules, enforcement fines and business licenses which may be cancelled where a property is the source of a number of complaints and fines. (3 strike rule)

WELCOME SPRING



Our Sun Peaks Vision

We estimate that there are some 750 to 800 fulltime residents living in Sun Peaks today. Our population has more than doubled over the past 5 years. We are becoming a true small community. The new Sun Peaks Family Practice has been well received by community members and



visitors. We have two wonderful family doctors, Dr. Shane Barclay and Dr. Harpreet Kelly. Dr. Kelly is only working limited hours at this time but as demand increases we hope to see her more often. To date, patient numbers have been very encouraging. If you have not registered your family with the facility, do it right away @ 778 644 0635. Over the quieter months ahead, the Family Practice will be taking more patients from the Kamloops region. Some residents have suggested that the Family Practice should be a walk-in clinic. With longer hours, up to 30 plus patients per day, this would be a potential nightmare. Call and make an appointment, you will be seen either that day or the next at your appointment time, no waiting necessary!

We are pleased to see a variety of social clubs springing to life. It is great to see the community interest expanding. The fundraising support for our Health Centre was just awesome, all we can say is thank you all for your support, thank you for making Sun Peaks an exciting community. The mayor hasn't joined the Sun Peaks Antiques yet and has not been allowed to join Polar Bears but we are pleased to see so many people having so much fun skiing together.

The Municipality will continue to encourage stronger summer attractions and events. Diversification is also a goal for our local economy. We are also developing a strategy for employer and employee housing through the Sun Peaks Housing Authority, stay tuned as the strategy is rolled out. Our hope is that over time, employers are able to purchase non-market housing specifically for their employees and that longer term full-time employees will have access to restricted non-market employee housing. We hope to purchase the first employee housing sites this year.

Municipal Elections – October 20, 2018 Mayor and 3 Councillors

The nomination period is from September 4th -14th 2018. Full election information will be available on our website this summer

Property Speculation Tax

We received a number of questions about the new “Property Speculation Tax” that applies to non-British Columbian property owners in certain cities. The speculation tax does not apply to any mountain resort communities in B.C. This new tax appears to be aimed at property owners in the larger cities where the government sees a housing shortage and they believe that foreign ownership is buying on speculation and are neither occupying or renting these properties. No issue here in Sun Peaks.

PROPERTY TAXES

2018 Property Taxes are due by 4 PM July 3, 2018. All payments and Home Owner Grant applications (if applicable) must be received by July 3, 2018 to avoid the 10% penalty. There are no penalty exceptions for late payments.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, money order or online with most Canadian banks.

