

## *Village of Lytton Annual Report*

June 2010

This Annual Report outlines the activities and finances of the year 2009 for the Village of Lytton. As directed under the Community Charter, every municipality publishes this report each year at the end of June. The report presents the year's activities and operations, audited financial statements and objectives for the 09/10 year.

As the Mayor, for the Village of Lytton, I hope this report is informative and a fairly accurate portrayal of the last year. Below are a few of the highlights from 2009

A new Council and Mayor was elected in November 2008 and sworn in, in early December.

In January the Village hosted a meeting with the Ministry of Community Development to learn about the Community Development Trust Initiative. In an effort to address the loss of jobs in the forest sector, the Jobs Opportunity Program was established. This program offered employment to displaced forest workers by providing funds for fuel management. Subsequently, a proposal was submitted and later in the year was given approval for \$249,800. The Village was able to give employment to ten workers from 01 October 2009 to 31 March 2010. Their work minimized the forest fuels and thus the fire risk to the Village.

In February 2009 several Council members attended the SILGA Elected Official Training Seminar in Penticton. Also, the Council met with the Chamber of Commerce for a discussion on various issues.

The Council met in March with facilitator Rick Beauchamps to develop a long-term vision and to establish short term priorities. Later that month the Village and the surrounding First Nations took part in a Community to Community forum, facilitated by Dave Morris. The resulting document outlined the governance and services needs of the area. Sub Regional Governance Group met several more times throughout the year. Fire Protection and Emergency Response Workshops, organized by LFN, were attended by the wider community.

Mid-March, the emergency room, physician's clinic and pharmacy moved into the new health facility on Main Street. In late July the official opening was held. Assisted Living units would become available for residents in early 2010

Many of the activities that happen in the Village are the result of citizens volunteering their time and energies. In appreciation of their work and dedication, a Volunteer Dinner was held in April.

Exterior siding for the Museum was installed and the roof on the Information Centre was replaced in 2009. A new heat pump has been approved for the Museum and it will be put in place prior to the 2010 winter season.

The Spirit Square grant provided funds for the completion of the stairway in Pocket Park and garden plantings. A Trees for Tomorrow application was made and approved in the amount of \$22,500.

In July, we were approached by the Paralympics Committee to host an event in March 2010. A committee of community members worked to develop plans for an energizing and exciting day of activities.

The Council identified youth as a priority, focusing on developing recreation activities and training opportunities. Last year, in addition to swimming activities, our Recreation Director organized T-ball and soccer programs for the youth.

The Village's economic strategy included the hiring of an Economic Development Officer and Grant Writer. This position was posted and a selection made. Our EDO Daniel Steiner, began August 1<sup>st</sup>. Given the task of aiding local entrepreneurs and attracting business to the community, he has been kept busy interacting with the community and the wider region EDO's as well. The Village has received approval for an Age Friendly Communities Grant, Walking Program, Canada Day Multicultural activities and more Fuel Management work.

A change in the way municipalities report Tangible Capital Assets required additional staff time to compile capital assets inventory and depreciation formulas. This change in accounting will give us better insight to plan for replacement and improvements of our capital assets.

During 2009, we experienced numerous fires, starting early in the year. Lillooet, our neighbour to the north, was evacuated in the summer and a fire on the Westside, midway between our two communities, burned for several weeks. Unfortunately during the response operations, a helicopter crashed into the Fraser River and the pilot lost his life. A riverside service, in Lillooet, was attended by hundreds of grateful personnel. Locally the JOPS program helped minimize fire hazard in the Village area.

A Fire Inspector was contracted to insure businesses complied with the Fire Code. A search for a fire trainer was conducted and resulted in the hiring of a Kamloops Fire Trainer. The addition of this person was made so that the Lytton Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department is adequately trained and proper operating procedures are in place. The Council recognizes the need for the replacement of the Fire Hall and this remains a priority for the coming year.

The River Fest Society hosted another entertaining Labour Day festival.

Much to the dismay of the Village, the BC Liquor Board announced the closure of the Government Liquor Store. Council expressed their concerns and lobbied to have the store remain, but was unsuccessful in its attempt.

Council attended the UBCM convention in Vancouver in September, where it met with several Ministers and their staff regarding a number of concerns. One concern was to receive an extension for completion of the Water Supply Upgrade Project - Council met with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development, requested and was granted an extension for the project. The timeline now gives us until 31 March 2012 to complete the work. At this point the design phase has been completed and it is expected that the first of two reservoirs will be tendered soon. A major leak between the intake pond and the reservoir was discovered and repaired. Replacement of that supply line will be part of our water system improvement plan. A dam inspection was conducted and recommendations on improvements were received by Council. Staff and Council have had numerous meetings with IHA engineers, consultants, INAC personnel and LFN to ensure the final result will comply with water quality regulations (4-3-2-1-0).

Spirit Train travelled though Lytton again this year, giving generously to our local food bank and entertaining us with live music. Unfortunately because of the H1N1 concerns, this year the train travel from Ashcroft to Lytton was cancelled.

The main objectives of the Village Council remain:

The completion of the Water Supply Upgrade Project and the compliance of IHA water regulations.

The strengthening of our fire and emergency response teams; insuring proper equipment, training and operating procedures are in place.

Improving the quality of life within our community through supporting healthy and affordable initiatives wherever possible.

Council and staff are dedicated and are working hard to better our community. With attention to detail and steady progress we will accomplish our goals and wish thank the many volunteers who assist us in these tasks.