

Village of Lytton
Annual Report
June 25, 2012

MAYORS MESSAGE

This annual report outlines the finances and activities of the year 2011, 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 audited financial statements; activities and operations are outlined and objectives for the 11/12 year detailed.

For a second consecutive year we experienced a good snowpack, a relatively cool spring and Lytton Creek flowed to the Fraser River till mid August. As a result there were no water restrictions and we did not require the downtown well to be brought on line.

Project management team, Focus, tendered the construction and interconnection of two new reservoirs. The contract was awarded to BA Site services and construction was started in the summer. Work continued into 2012 to complete this portion of the water improvement project. The Green Municipal Fund reviewed its commitment to the project and when presented with a slow sand filtration option to improve water quality, confirmed its funding in early 2012. We continue to work with Lytton First Nations on this endeavour. The next phase of this project should be ready for tender by late 2012.

Increased costs since the water project proposal was first developed have necessitated that we break the project down into several phases. We will continue to seek funding for the development of the downtown wells and watershed protection and collection improvements.

Over the last three years we have been fortunate to receive funding for fuel management. Employing local workers and reducing the risk of fire fuel, this has been of great benefit to our community. In 2010, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan was completed and work was begun. That program showed great success and we were awarded additional funds that took us into the spring of 2011. Once again we applied for and were awarded monies for further work that took place in the fall of 2011 and into the early part of 2012. An application for funding has been submitted for future work.

At the end of 2010, we applied to Towns for Tomorrow for a grant to build a new firehall. Unfortunately we received notice in 2011, that we were unsuccessful. We will continue to pursue this goal in the future. A select committee has been formed and options will be developed for consideration.

The Volunteer Fire Department membership size, training costs and in particular, First Responder equipment, jurisdiction and operational costs continue to be a concern. Agency partnerships will be pursued to better support ongoing operations.

The Caboose and Village complex were painted in 2011. A reserve fund was established for caboose maintenance and improvements. As well, we completed our Trees for Tomorrow plantings. Citizens supported this endeavour by donating their time and energy to assist in the plantings and care. Trees were planted in the downtown core as well as at the south entrance sign on Highway # 1.

Many of the services our citizens enjoy are kept operational through the efforts of community volunteers. The Museum, Info Centre, Recreation Commission, gardens and planters, seasonal events and our community pool are supported by these valuable members. We will continue to support their efforts wherever possible. As a small token of our appreciation, council holds a Volunteer Dinner each April

Our community continues to struggle to find a major industry that will provide jobs for our citizens. We advertised for and hired an EDO (Economic Development Officer) with funds from NDIIT (Northern Development Initiative Trust), in late October. The focus of this worker; to continue supporting existing businesses, to facilitate discussions with our First Nation's neighbours and to actively promote our community to outside investors. This contract was completed at the end of April 2012.

Municipal elections were held in the fall and in our Village, the Mayor and council were all acclaimed, and sworn in, in early December. The TNRD organized a George Cuff workshop on governance, for all the members in the region, and council and some staff attended.

The new council held a strategic planning session in January to review past works and to set goals for their term. A mission statement and action plan was developed.

"The Village of Lytton Council's Mission is to encourage and support a healthy and vibrant rural community based on sound fiscal management, with respect for the environment and in collaboration with our surrounding communities"

In February 2012, two of us attended the third Bright New Days conference at LFN.

The notice of retirement from our CAO in fall 2011, required posting and hiring of a new CAO. Mr. Bob Lafleur started with the Village as Chief Administrative and Corporate Officer in April 2012. A Council planning session produced a priority list for the next three years.

The area association, SILGA (Southern Interior Local Government Association) was held in Revelstoke at the end of April and most of council attended.

In 2011, Capital Asset Management became a part of municipal financial reporting. The creation of reserves for capital replacement will be required and this will increase the need for additional taxation.

The WWTP continues to provide challenges in its operations. The capacity has not met expectations and structural concerns indicate that future expenses should be anticipated.

The Village Council signed the Climate Charter in 2009 and the commitment to reduce our carbon footprint will be part of the consideration in any capital improvements that are made. As power costs continue to rise, we will need to be innovative in finding ways to reduce our energy demands.

Our one doctor continues to provide care to the community with the help of several locums who visit when he is unavailable and a dedicated staff who avidly search for doctors. We need to continue our search for an additional permanent doctor to locate in our Village.

For the second year in a row we received a cheque from the RCMP Foundation in the amount of \$4,000 for the *Botanie Lake Youth Summer Camp* in Lytton, BC. This project was a cooperative effort between Lytton First Nation, the Village of Lytton, Kumsheen Raft and the Lytton RCMP Detachment. Pre-teens spent a day at Pasulko Lake exploring nature and enjoying outdoor activities. Young teens experienced three days of exciting outdoor adventure and skills development, rafting, biking, climbing and camping.

An important objective of the Council is to improve and promote healthy living and quality of life for citizens of all ages. Interest has been expressed in developing Hobo Hollow for a bike park and if resources can be found, this project will proceed. The community pool is assisted in its operation through community fund raising and provides instructional and recreational activities throughout the summer.

Thank you to all for assisting us in our efforts to build a better community.