

The Corporation of the
Village of Ashcroft

Wellness Awaits You



Annual Report

2015

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Mayor's Message

Once again it is that time of year when we present our Annual Report and Financial Statements. As you review this document you will see that the Village continues to maintain a strong financial position and has no long term debt.



2015 had many highlights for the Village. We successfully held an Alternative Approval Process for a new fire truck and as a result a new truck will be delivered prior to the end of 2016. In addition we received \$5.8 million in grants under the New Building Canada Fund—Small Communities Fund for the construction of a new water treatment plant. When completed this plant will provide safe water to all of our users 24/7 365 days of the year. We will no longer have to issue Water Quality Advisories or Boil Water Notices. For a reasonable contribution of \$4.1 million the Village will have a \$10 million state of the art water treatment plant.

Health care continues to be a challenge however by early 2016 we will have three full time physicians in Ashcroft which will provide some stability for our residents. We commend our local action group for providing innovative solutions to health care during the past year.

Economic development continues to be our number one priority and Council developed a strategic plan as a guideline for our 4 year term. By working closely with our federal and provincial partners as well as many local groups we are confident that we will continue to see progress within our community.

On behalf of council, I would like to thank you for placing your faith in us and we will endeavour to meet your expectations over the next three years. By working together we can ensure that our community is one we are proud to call home and where "Wellness Awaits You".

Sincerely,

Jack Jeyes



John C. (Jack) Jeyes,
Mayor

Mayor & Council

2015



*Left to Right:
Councillor Alain Mertens, Councillor Doreen Lambert
Mayor Jack Jeyes,
Councillor Barbara Roden and Councillor Alf Trill*

The Village of Ashcroft Mission Statement:

The Village of Ashcroft is a welcoming, safe and attractive community characterized by an exceptional climate and a strong sense of history and opportunity.

As stewards of the community, Village Council is committed to providing accountable leadership by addressing our fiscal reality through strategic planning and building effective relationships.

The Village of Ashcroft Vision Statement:

“The Village of Ashcroft is a welcoming, safe and attractive community where citizens have a strong sense of wellbeing, embrace their history, and believe in their future.”

The Village of Ashcroft Mission:

“To Increase our Potential.”

The Village of Ashcroft Guiding Principles:

“As Stewards of the Public Trust, we serve All Citizens in a fair and transparent manner through:

- ◆ Accountable Leadership*
- ◆ Financial Sustainability*
- ◆ Social Responsibility*
- ◆ Balanced Decision Making.”*

“We will act with Integrity, Fairness and Compassion.”

COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance Committee

Mayor Jeyes
Councillor Mertens & Councillor Roden

School District Liaison

Councillor Lambert

Wellness & Music Festival Committee

Councillor Trill

Tourism Committee

Councillor Roden

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Councillor Trill

Gold Country Communities Society

Councillor Trill

Thompson Nicola Regional District

Mayor Jeyes

Historic Hat Creek Ranch

Mayor Jeyes

Heritage Committee

Councillor Roden

Transit Committee

Councillor Mertens

Communities in Bloom

Councillor Lambert

Seniors' Liaison

Councillor Lambert

Health Care

Mayor Jeyes

Bifuka Sister City Relationship

Mayor Jeyes

Economic Development & Chamber of Commerce Committee

Councillor Mertens

Cache Creek Environmental Assessment Committee

Councillor Mertens

OPERATION DEPARTMENTS

Administration

Michelle Allen, Chief Administrative Officer
Yoginder Bhalla, Chief Financial Officer
Ethan Anderson, Deputy Corporate Officer

Public Works/Recreation

Brian Bennewith, Foreman
Ed Aie, Charge Hand

Review for 2015

A number of priorities were identified for 2015 and the status of their development is outlined below:

Infrastructure

1. Long Term Planning

We were successful in our grant application for a water treatment plant. The Village continues to work on identifying all of our infrastructure and establishing an asset management plan.



2. Sustainability

A review of the fees and charges rates will be completed in 2016.



Economic Development

1. **Arts**

The Village is supporting a community arts project that will create mosaic glass art pictures. These pictures will be displayed outside for the public to enjoy.

There are many other mosaics being developed including projects for the Chinese Cemetery and Communities in Bloom. This initiative will produce a variety of artwork to be displayed throughout the entire community.



2. **Property Development**

The Village has commenced a review of all vacant land within the community. Once completed all land owners will be contacted to obtain permission to show their contact information on the vacant land register.

Council is reviewing the process of subdividing lands on the Mesa Vista into residential lots.

3. **Economic Development Strategy**

The Economic Development Strategy has been completed and will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine yearly projects.



Health Care

1. **Rural Health Care Model**

The community based Wellness and Health Action Coalition (WHAC) worked with Interior Health to provide a transit service from Ashcroft to Lillooet to access physicians who were available. By March 2016 two of the Lillooet physicians will be relocating to Ashcroft and establishing practices, giving the community three full time doctors.

The WHAC continues to work with Interior Health to develop strategies for recruiting and retaining doctors in our community for the long term.

Departmental Reviews for 2015

1. **Council**

Council has been working closely with Urban Systems as well as with Interior Health regarding the new water treatment plant. Council toured two new treatment plants each with a different treatment method.

Council undertook complete review of our Economic Development Strategy as the last one had been done in 2002.

Council spent a weekend developing a Strategic Plan outlining their goals and objectives for the 4 year term.



2. **Administration**

There have been no changes within the office structure of the Village Office. We upgraded computer systems and programming for more efficient processing of payments. We continue to produce monthly newsletters, maintain the website as well as routine correspondence.

3. **Public Works**

There have been no changes to the Public Works personnel during 2015. The village continues to offer ongoing training in water and sewer systems. We provide annual safety training and invite neighbouring communities to participate in these sessions.



The waste water plant is operating very efficiently since the upgrades however there are still some operational anomalies that need to be worked through.

The water system continues to operate efficiently however per capita the Village uses far more water than most other communities. Watering restrictions will come into effect in 2016 to reduce water consumption prior to the final design of the new water treatment plant.

The Village has been approached by Ashcroft Indian Band to supply water to their land and discussions are ongoing.

Solid waste collection is working well with our new truck. Rates for commercial customers will be reviewed in 2016 with the option to go to once per week pickup.



The Village carried out some significant road repairs along Elm Street, eliminating sizeable dips in the road. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure repaved all of Evans Road during 2015 as they had transported many loads of gravel over the road damaging the surface.

4. **Recreation**

The arena has seen a steady increase in the number of users especially with minor hockey teams. The local minor hockey organization was successful in bringing in the First Shift program which saw a large number of children introduced to the sport at a minimal cost.

The swimming pool continues to be well used during the short but busy season. The Village runs a Junior Lifeguard program to encourage our patrons to become lifeguards. We are experiencing success in this as we have more locally trained lifeguards and do not need to advertise out of the community.



The Village continues to work with Communities in Bloom by addressing one area of the Heritage Place Park each year. The park has become easier to maintain and uses less water as these improvements are completed. The Visitor's Centre was moved to this location in the fall and will provide a welcome stop for travelers.

5. **Fire Department**

The Fire Department has increased their membership during the past year including a roster of 4 junior fire fighters. The department is currently completing the first stage of training under the newly legislated "Playbook" with all members receiving the training in house.

The Fire Department has undertaken a number of community initiatives including checking or changing smoke alarms for seniors. They continue to have the Fire Chief for A Day program and participate in various community events.



6. **Legacy Park Campground**

Legacy Park continues to increase the number of visitors each year. The park offers WIFI to campers. New washrooms will be incorporated into the new water treatment plant building.



2016 Goals and Objectives

The development of a strategic plan identified the following goals and objectives for 2016:

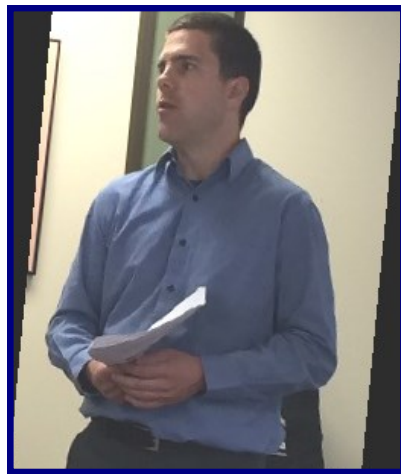
1. Increase & Improve Public Education
2. Manage Economic Development
3. Improve Infrastructure and Services
4. Maintain Financial Sustainability
5. Optimize Community Relations

2016 Major Objectives	2016 Strategies	2016 Measures
1. Increase & Improve Public Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Signage • Increase Voter Turnout • Website Revision • Public Education 	<p>Council will investigate electronic signs and discuss possible locations within the downtown area.</p> <p>Council will follow up with Ministry of Transportation regarding highway signage that promotes Communities in Bloom winners.</p> <p>Council will lobby for new highway directional signage that will draw traffic off the highway and into our downtown.</p> <p>Develop colouring book for distribution to primary grades. Have member(s) of Council present to the classes.</p> <p>Participate in Local Government Awareness Week.</p> <p>Encourage the schools to participate in Public Works Week.</p> <p>Staff will revise current website giving it a fresher more user friendly appearance</p> <p>The Village will continue producing monthly newsletters and holding spring and fall community forums. Information shared during these forums will be brought forward as part of the budget preparation process.</p>

2016 Major Objectives	2016 Strategies	2016 Measures
<p>2. Manage Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate Marketing Plan for Young Families • Initiate Mesa Vista Subdivision Feasibility Study • Highway Signage • Local Para Transit Service 	<p>Council will identify a consultant that can develop a workplan and budget for this project. Staff will apply for grants to cover these costs as funding opportunities become available.</p> <p>Council will identify a consultant that can develop a workplan and budget for this project. Staff will apply for grants when funding opportunities become available.</p> <p>Staff will work with Ministry of Transportation to develop promotional signage for installation on Highway #1. A workplan including sign design, cost and installation will be developed.</p> <p>Approach Village of Cache Creek regarding becoming a partner in the program</p>
<p>3. Improve Infrastructure and Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Treatment Plant 	<p>The Village will conduct an Alternative Approval Process for the Water Treatment Plant.</p> <p>Council will hold public meetings and provide regular updates as major decisions are reached during the development process.</p> <p>Pre-design stage should be completed in 2016.</p> <p>Public works staff will have to be trained as a Water Treatment Plant Operator #1.</p>

2016 Major Objectives	2016 Strategies	2016 Measures
<p>4. Maintain Financial Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Terms of Reference for Finance Committee • Prepare Asset Management Plan 	<p>The Finance Committee and Chief Financial Officer will work together to develop a strategy on financial reporting. In addition they will develop a property tax policy and a reserve account policy.</p> <p>A thorough review of all fees and charges will be completed and new policy developed.</p> <p>If the grant application is successful an RFP for consultants and a workplan will be developed.</p> <p>Asset Management Program will be started prior to the end of 2016.</p>
<p>5. Optimize Community Relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvigorate Chamber of Commerce • Communities in Bloom Program 	<p>Council will investigate funding opportunities to hire an Economic Development Intern through NDIT. Intern could assist business community in establishing a Chamber office and building membership packages and lists.</p> <p>Council will endeavour to meet with members of the business community to discuss the revival of a chamber and the benefits to the community as a whole.</p> <p>Council will meet with the Communities in Bloom committee to discuss annual work plan and budget. Terms of reference for the committee will be developed.</p>

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND GUESTS



2015 Committee of the Whole Presenters

Every month Council has a Committee of the Whole meeting where local citizens or invited guests can provide council with information on a variety of topics. The list of presenters for 2015 included a wide range of topics including the following:

- ◆ Constantia Resources, update on the Maggie Exploration Project at 16 Mile
- ◆ Terri Hadwin, COO, Gold Country Communities Society, update on the goals and objectives of Gold Country as well as upcoming events
- ◆ Sgt. M. Grondin, update on local RCMP detachment activities
- ◆ Deb Arnott, General Manager of CFDC Sun Country, update on programs and services offered through their office
- ◆ Director Willow MacDonald, TNRD, update on the 2015 SILGA Convention and the benefits provided to communities
- ◆ Ashcroft Rodeo Association, proposal to relocate the rodeo grounds onto village lands in the Mesa Vista Subdivision
- ◆ Wayne Little, promotion of children's TRYathlon as part of Wellness Festival
- ◆ Ashcroft's Select Committee on Dog Parks, report on development of a dog park in Ashcroft
- ◆ Phil Doddridge, Interior Roads, semi annual updates on highway maintenance in our area
- ◆ Marina Papais and Daniel Collett, proposal to develop mosaic glass art projects
- ◆ Jenny Green and Claire Audet, Interior Health, update on healthy communities partnerships
- ◆ Chair John Ranta and CAO Sukh Gill, TNRD, update on services and operation of the regional district
- ◆ Mr. Mike Baldwin, concerns regarding the process to rename community school
- ◆ Ashcroft HUB Society, introduction and plans for community centre
- ◆ Communities in Bloom, presentation on Urban Forestry as part of CIB program
- ◆ Dylan Houlihan, Urban Systems Ltd, presented Economic Development Strategy

2015 Community Calendar of Events

January

- Drop In Ice Hockey and Public Skating at Drylands Arena
- Family Literacy Week and Free Family Skate at Drylands Arena
- Seniors and League Curling at Ashcroft Curling Club
- Sticks & Pucks Program launched at Drylands Arena
- Heritage Project presentation on The Cannery, Trucking, Sports, Business and Railways
- Celebration of 100th Anniversary of CN Last Spike at the Basque Ranch

February

- Pee Wee Hockey Tournament at Drylands Arena
- Drop In Hockey and Public Skating at Drylands Arena
- Sticks & Pucks Program
- Heritage Project presentation on First Nations, Ranching & Rodeos, Mining, Sawmills/Logging, Community Events and The Lady Minto Hospital

March

- Heritage Week Celebration—Main Street—Heart of the Community
- Ashcroft Hockey Association Tournament at Drylands Arena
- Zion United Church Annual Bean Supper
- Ashcroft Cache Creek Rotary Citizen of the Year Luncheon
- Ashcroft Cache Creek Rotary Wine Tasting and Art Show

April

- Annual Art Show
- Village of Ashcroft Community Forum
- Museum Opens for Season
- Seniors Annual Strawberry Tea
- Communities in Bloom Annual Plant Swap
- Village provides free spring clean up

2015 Community Calendar of Events (continued)

May

- Mother's Day Fly In at Airport
- Ashcroft Town Hall Meeting
- Ashcroft Elementary School PAC Fun Fair
- Racing at Eagle Motorplex
- Plein Air Paint Out
- Local Transit Service provides weekly trip to Kamloops for residents of Clinton, Ashcroft and Area I

June

- Ashcroft & District Lions Club Annual Skip's Run
- Ashcroft's Weekly Farmer's Market opens
- Ashcroft Parade
- Racing at Eagle Motorplex
- Ashcroft Pool Opens for the Season

July

- Canada Day Celebrations at Ashcroft Pool Park
- Wellness and Music Festival
- Kids of Steel TRYathlon
- Music in the Park begins
- Racing at Eagle Motorplex
- Ashcroft Art Walk
- Communities in Bloom Judges tour our community

August

- Music in the Park
- Racing at Eagle Motorplex
- Village awarded \$5.7 million grant towards water treatment plant project

- Ashcroft Art Walk
- Moonlight Movie Night in Ashcroft Pool Park

September

- Gold Country Geo Caching Event and Movie in the Park
- Ashcroft Pool closes for the season
- Ashcroft & District Fall Fair
- Annual Terry Fox Run
- Car Club Show and Shine
- Ashcroft's Weekly Farmer's Market ends for the season

October

- Drylands Arena opens for the season
- Village provide free fall yard clean up
- Koppers sponsors Halloween Skate at Drylands Arena

November

- Ashcroft Community Forum
- Annual Remembrance Day Service
- WRAPS Production of My Fair Lady
- Village orders a new fire truck for delivery in 2016

December

- CP Holiday Train
- Sage Singers Christmas Concert
- Kinsmen Family Turkey Bingo
- Ashcroft Volunteer Fire Department Skate with Santa
- Ashcroft Christmas Parade
- Dr. Bruce Archibald gave a public presentation on the McAbee Fossil Beds located near Cache Creek

Appendix 1: Permissive Tax Exemptions for 2015

Roll Number	Registered Owner	Legal Description	Assessment Class	2015 Assessed Value	2015 Municipal Rate	2015 Municipal Tax Exemption
00070.001	Ashcroft & District Curling Club	Lot 8, Plan 21058, DL 423	6	213,200	20.4953	\$4,369.59
00077.010	Fraser Basin Property Society (St. Alban's Anglican Church)	Lot 1, Block 10, Plan 189, DL 423	8	146,000	10.2109	\$1,490.80
00095.000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Kamloops	Lot 7, Block 11, Plan 189, DL 423	8	110,500	10.2109	\$1,128.31
00116.010	Trustees of Zion United Church	Lot 1, Block 14, Plan 189, DL 423	8	134,300	10.2109	\$1,371.33
00173.000	Royal Canadian Legion #77 (Cenotaph Site)	Lot 6, Block 19, Plan 189, DL 423	6	38,100	20.4953	\$780.87
00327.000	Interior Health Authority (Ashcroft & District Hospital)	Lot 56 Plan 12400, DL 378 and Lot 1 KAP81072, DL 378 and pt of Lot 56 (B15126), DL378	6	2,404,000	20.4953	\$49,270.66
00327.025	Interior Health Authority (Ashcroft & District Hospital)	Lot 56 (B15126), DL378	6	445,600	20.4953	\$9,132.70
00327.030	Interior Health Authority (Ashcroft & District Hospital)	Lot 1 KAP81072, DL 378	1	1,175,000	5.3533	\$6,290.16
00381.361	Trust of the Congregation of Sage Hills Evangelical Free Church	Lot A, Plan KAP51944, DL 423	8	329,300	10.2109	\$3,362.47
				4,996,000		\$77,196.89

Appendix 2: Declaration of Disqualification of Council Members

No disqualifications during 2015

Appendix 3: 2015 Audited Financial Statements

Consolidated statements attached