

### Canal Flats – A Pep Talk Amidst a Challenging 2020

We know 2020 has been a struggle for so many. We have been working hard on many initiatives that look forward to brighter days in 2021.

After much award-winning planning post mill closure, the ambition of imagination in Canal Flats is becoming a more visible reality.

A new daycare building is under construction. The first examples of housing innovation that offer deeper affordability - including a mixed-use residential dwelling and a small form house and accessory dwelling unit – have been built. The first houses in the long-planned Painted Ridge development are under construction.

“Village beautiful” creates resident pride and attracts investment. Substantial progress has included commissioning of a significant public art installation, two best yard competitions, and completion of a downtown streetscape beautification plan that will see unique furniture and lighting design amidst colourful landscaping in the village centre. A new pavilion represents first implementation of a master plan for redevelopment of our central park.

In the spirit of William Baillie-Grohman whose canal gave us our name, a “big idea” is coming to life via the 3.7 km Shore to Shore Trail that will connect the Kootenay River to Columbia Lake. We built the first 1.2 km this year.

Jobs are a heartbeat for us as home of the largest holding of employment centre lands in Columbia Valley. Australia-based Iris Energy constructed two new pods (6MW) to add to its digital currency operation. Renovation of Ponderosa Place (the old school) into commercial and residential spaces is complete. Based on ongoing discussions, we are optimistic about further jobs news in 2021.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Solar panels and replacement windows were installed at the Columbia Discovery Centre through the Columbia Basin Trust Energy Sustainability Program.
- Maintained levels of service amid the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- An outdoor washroom and pavilion were constructed at the Lion’s Park.
- The Village continued to work with Bid Group in development of their lands and future projects in Canal Flats.
- The following reports and plans were adopted by Council:
  - Canal Flats Kootenay River Flood Risk Assessment
  - Child Care Planning Report
  - Parks, Recreation and Trails Strategy
  - Civic Park Conceptual Design Plan
- Willow Avenue was paved and pavement dips on Grainger Road in the Columbia Springs Drive area were repaired.
- Construction began on the child care facility.
- Community Readiness Initiative for forest fuel reduction and FireSmart Awareness program began.
- The Village issued 32 building permits (4 single family dwellings, 2 modular home placements).
- Canal Flats Fire Rescue had 90 responses and 42 incidents.
- Three subdivisions were completed: 1 residential and 2 commercial/industrial.

