

LOOKING FORWARD 2024

Wishing you all the best for the New Year; these are trying times and we would all hope to see positive changes for the future

With that in mind here are a number of projects that I look to push forward in the New Year.

The Hike and Bike river path.

AT UBCM this past year we did get a consideration and a contact to help move this on. The application for the license of Occupation that would allow us to maintain this asset has been in the system for four years now. I will continue to be pushing hard to see it completed. There is absolutely no reason for the Province to not complete this. We will put this contact to good use.

The Transit bus stop for the Gallagher Lake area.

This project is well underway with B.C. Transit agreeing that this is much needed in this area. The Ministry of Highways will be conducting studies and planning for the safe access and egress from Highway 97 for the busses and also for a safe pedestrian crossing system. This will take a considerable amount of planning, engineering and financial commitment but it has started and we will look to move it along.

If you are interested in either of these projects please help by putting pressure on our local MLA Roly Russel and the appropriate ministries. Your input here helps considerably to create and expedite these projects.

The expansion of the Willowbrook Fire Hall is under way and will hopefully be completed in late spring along with the purchase of a new tender truck to increase water transfer capabilities. These two are being done with Community development funding and gas tax grants and are at no load to the taxpayers.

The Willowbrook Fire Department will also be adding a fully outfitted structural protection trailer and command truck to tow it with to their inventory. These and the recently added bush truck and twelve new SCBA breathing apparatus are funded by monies the Willowbrook Fire Department has earned on recent forestry fire deployments. Once again at no burden to the local taxpayers but a great addition to the fire protection abilities for the whole of area "C" and Oliver. The Willowbrook Fire Department while being a very small catchment, has eagerly worked with the B.C. Wildfire service in fighting many of the recent forest fires and has gained much knowledge from working with these experts that will be of service in the future.

I will be funding the building of a public access basketball court. The Town of Oliver was good enough to sell the land needed for this to the RDOS for a dollar. That was necessary so I could use community development grant funding for this project. (No cost to the taxpayer.)

I will be looking to fund a bicycle pump track and hope to start this year. (Gas Tax Grant funding) This will take some help from the town both in the donation of the land and hopefully some financial help.

These two are low maintenance projects so will not add to the Park & Recreation operations budget to any degree.

I hope to work with the Oliver and District Heritage Society (ODHS) on more project this year as they have just complete a “research and documentation” project on the Irrigation Canal affectionately known as “The Ditch”. This facility was built just after WW 1 and is truly an engineering marvel for its time and still functions extremely well. The ODHS has taken over the Fairview Town site Society and has added this to their duties also.

This year we will be starting to advertise and “BRAND” the RDOS and Area “C” much more. This is primarily as an education and information endeavor as many people are not aware of the scope of RDOS obligations and duties. I would like to see more people become involved in the committee’s that formulate our direction. This will start with are signage and advertising or information services and develop from there.

These are the highlights and are just a few of the undertakings that are planned for this year.

I will always be looking to improve our area and hope that if you have any thoughts on potential projects that you will contact either myself or my alternate Irwin Chahal.

May the new year of 2024 represent good health and good fortune to all.

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