Town of Golden News: November 2019

Arena Closure

On November 25, the Golden & District Recreation Centre (arena) had to be closed due to an ammonia chiller failure. The closure is a precautionary and standard procedure; there is no danger to the general public in the vicinity of the facility.

All programs and activities within the building are cancelled until further notice; the Town of Golden will keep the community informed of progress and timelines for facility repair and re-opening as this information becomes available.

Further updates will be provided through the Town of Golden’s website, social media channels, posted material and Recreation Department staff.

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District and the Town of Golden are investigating the cost and timing options for a new chiller.

Further updates will be provided through the Town of Golden’s website, social media channels, posted material and Recreation Department staff.

Council Briefs

Find out what's new at Town Hall with Council Briefs.

Find out when the next Council meeting is:

Upcoming Council Meetings
Council Strategic Priorities Update

In May 2019 Council and senior staff participated in a workshop to set Council’s Strategic Priorities for 2019-2022.

Administration provided an update to Council on the progress to Q3 2019.

For details on the progress update on Strategic Priorities, click here to view the full Council Agenda.

Short Term Rentals Bylaw

Development Services presented a draft Short Term Rentals bylaw to Council on November 5. Staff was directed to bring the draft bylaw forward for first reading and to start planning public engagement opportunities for residents and stakeholders to provide feedback.

Stay tune in early 2020 for updates and opportunities to provide input.

To view the draft bylaw, check out the the full Council Agenda by clicking here.

Project Updates and News

Town of Golden launches Kicking Horse River Ice Monitoring Program

The Town of Golden received $425 thousand in provincial funding to develop an Ice Monitoring Program for the Kicking Horse River that will start this winter.

Ice jams in mountain watersheds are complex and difficult to predict due to the lack of monitoring programs in other mountain communities like Golden. The Ice Monitoring Program is designed for long-term monitoring of ice jams on the Kicking Horse River and may provide early warning of ice jams through remote monitoring of the river upstream of the town. Long-term data will be used to more accurately understand the frequency and severity of ice jams and track how they are affected by climate change.

“The Kicking Horse River Ice Monitoring Program is one of the most sophisticated ice monitoring programs in North America,” said Mayor Ron Oszust. “We will now be able to see what’s building up in the canyon and whether or not it’s making its way to town. This information will help provide earlier warning and preparation to keep our community safe.”

Nine river cameras, three pressure transducers (a sensor that measures water level and the height of the ice) and one water temperature sensor have been installed along the Kicking Horse River at five monitoring locations in the Town of Golden and one location 10 km east of town as follows:

1. Adjacent to the CP Rail Bridge.
2. Near the intersection of 9th Street North and Kicking Horse Drive.
3. At the Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge.
4. A temporary station on the highway 95 bridge which will be moved to the dike upgrade area between downtown and the Kicking Horse River once construction of the flood wall is completed.
5. Near the east end of 9th Street South.
6. Kicking Horse Rest Stop in the canyon.

The information and data collected at each of the monitoring locations will be transmitted back to a central database and computer at Town Hall where changing river conditions can be monitored in real-time. This information can help with emergency response and be made accessible to specialists in river ice hydrology for analysis and advice.

Prior to this program, the Town of Golden and Matrix Solutions Inc. have manually monitored ice jams through photo documentation, and tracking weather conditions and changes in the river through bi-monthly photo documentation and reporting. The process will now be automated through the new program.

The Kicking Horse River Ice Monitoring Program is one hundred per cent funded through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund administered by the Union of BC Municipalities on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
Improving Traffic Safety

Everyone has a part to play in keeping Golden’s roads safe. The Town of Golden has been working on a number of initiatives to improve traffic safety around town over the last year.

In 2018, the Town of Golden partnered with ICBC to complete a Traffic Control Review for the community. The review examined traffic signs and road markings. Using the results of the report, along with technical knowledge, and feedback from the public, various traffic control initiatives have already taken place and there are more to come.

The Town has also made recent updates to the Traffic, Parking and Streets Regulations Bylaw Number 966 in September to repeal an amendment made in 1996 that allowed oversized vehicles and trucks, recreational vehicles and trailers to be parked on the street.

These changes are being made to help improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists in Golden.

For more information on improving traffic safety, visit golden.ca/improvingtrafficsafety or visit golden.ca/parking for more information about parking in Golden, including a downtown parking map!

Get Ready for Winter

With winter well on its way, it’s the Town's job to clear more than 55km of roadways and over 20km of trails and sidewalks. The Town has a Snow Clearing and Sanding Policy that provides staff with an established, priority-based system for winter maintenance.

Streets are maintained on a priority basis, established by making sure hills, major streets and emergency routes are cleared first to ensure public safety. Once the main routes are taken care of, snow removal continues with remaining Town owned parking areas; remaining residential streets; the Airport; and remaining sidewalks and trails. Driveways of senior citizens or persons with disabilities are plowed as soon as possible after an initial clean-up has been completed. It can take two to three days for an initial clean-up after a large snow event. Once the first-round plowing and sanding has occurred, the crews then start on ice cutting and snow hauling processes, if required. Intersections, pedestrian crossings, hills and sidewalks get sanded first to ensure public safety.

To learn more about winter maintenance, including how businesses and residents can help crew clear snow as safely and effectively as possible, visit golden.ca/snow