



2005 In Review

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Awards & Accolades

Canadian Award for Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Leadership and Innovation Award from the Union of BC Municipalities for Glenmore Landfill Gas Recovery/Microturbine pilot project.

Keeping it Personal Award from the International Cemetery and Funeral Association for Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery's Brevity Memorial.

FortisBC Environmental Award for the City's ongoing commitment to reduce energy use.

Fire Chief Gerry Zimmermann received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Public Safety.

Don Degen, Water and Drainage Manager, won the Warren S. Fuller Award for distinguished service from the American Water Works Association.

The Central Okanagan was #1 in the Commuter Challenge for the fourth year in a row with the most residents using environmentally friendly transportation.

Highlights

The City undertook a record \$27 million in road building projects including the extension of Gordon Drive, the widening of KLO Road and the realignment of Benvoulin Road. This construction value almost triples the \$10.6 million spent on transportation projects in 2004.

Policing and bylaw enforcement were bolstered downtown with an additional \$400,000 in funding.

Kelowna International Airport (Canada's 10th busiest) celebrated a milestone - one million passengers in one year.

The City celebrated the 25th anniversary of its successful sister city relationship with Kasugai, Japan.

The City's website, www.kelowna.ca, was

re-designed and now offers more interactive features.

A new Council was elected in November. Mayor Sharon Shepherd succeeds Walter Gray and leads eight Councillors: Barrie Clark, Colin Day, Carol Gran, Brian Given, Robert Hobson, Norm Letnick and Michele Rule.



Centennial

The City celebrated its 100th anniversary May 5 and centennial events included:

- A world record-breaking tree planting event with School District 23 and the Regional District of Central Okanagan. The May event involved 22,857 students, teachers and adult volunteers planting 134,083 seedlings in 50 sites throughout the Central Okanagan.
- Centennial Week celebrations with an outdoor birthday party at Waterfront Park, a parade, a Centennial Ball, a street dance and fireworks.
- The Marking Our Past project at Memorial Park Cemetery which raised \$34,000 to place 100 granite markers on the unmarked graves of Kelowna pioneers.

- A time capsule, topped by a giant bronze apple created by Kelowna artist Geert Maas, was installed at Orchard Park Mall to be opened in 25 and 100 years.



Kalan Porter, 2005 Canadian Idol, appeared at the centennial tree-planting event.

Works and Utilities

The \$11.2 million Southwest Rutland sewer project began just as the \$20 million North Rutland sewer project wrapped up.

The City adopted a revised water rate to promote lower consumption by reducing the flat rate and increasing the volume charge.

Ultraviolet Light Treatment was installed at all water intakes for the City's water utility. UV Treatment sterilizes harmful organisms and enhances the high quality of the City's drinking water.

The City created a "Green Fleet" with a Smart Car and a Honda Hybrid to help the City meet its commitment to Canada's One Tonne Challenge.

A hybrid bus was put in circulation and free on-street meter parking will be provided to owners of certain environmentally-friendly vehicles through 2006.



Sewer work in Kelowna, 2005.

The City's first roundabout was installed at the newly-aligned intersection of Byrns, Burtch and Guisachan Roads.

New sidewalk standards were approved requiring sidewalks on both sides of minor collector roads and on one side of all local roads.

Video surveillance will be re-instated at the Queensway Transit Station and surveillance cameras installed at the Chapman Parkade.

Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services

Work continues on plans for a \$32.9 million aquatic facility planned to open in 2008 in Mission Recreation Park featuring a 50-metre swimming pool, large leisure water park, fitness centre and related commercial space. A stadium is also planned for the park; Provincial contributions total \$6.5 million.

Two public artworks were installed: an earthwork by Craig Sibley in Ben Lee Park and the sculpture "Go" by ie creative in the newly dedicated Capital News Centre.

Volunteers from Guelph, Ontario planted 24,000 donated seedlings in a show of support for the City's post-fire recovery.

Urban Forestry battled pine beetle infestations threatening local Ponderosa pines. Infested trees often have to be removed and burned.

An interpretive arboretum was constructed behind the Capital News Centre in Mission Recreation Park with 110 trees of many varieties.

Planning and Corporate Services

It was another record-breaking year for planning applications and residential construction with 2,271 building permits issued in 2005 for a total value of \$567 million. In 2004, 2,253 permits were issued for \$377 million. Kelowna, at 105,000, continues to be one of the fastest growing municipalities in B.C.

The City, BC Housing and Interior Health are working to provide a 30-unit apartment complex for residents with mental and drug addiction challenges, to be built in 2007.

In February, City Council endorsed the 2004 Kelowna Strategic Plan that outlines future directions for City policies and services over the next five to ten years.

Airport

- A public/private partnership resulted in construction of a \$6.5 million Boeing 757 hangar and BCIT Aerospace Training Facility which will create up to 100 new jobs and \$20 million a year in economic activity.
- Work began on a \$2 million expansion to the terminal's north end.
- YLW became one of the first airports in Canada to implement 100% hold baggage screening.
- Six self service check-in kiosks and a new Info Centre were established.