



2004 In Review

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AWARDS & ACCOLADES

National Communities in Bloom Environmental Awareness Award.

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

FortisBC Environmental Excellence Award for LED traffic signal lights.

Kelowna International Airport ranked #1 in facilities and services in a 2004 survey of 11 medium-sized Canadian airports for the second year in a row.

94% of respondents in the annual Citizens Survey indicated they were satisfied with the overall level and quality of services in Kelowna, compared to an 82% satisfaction level in a survey conducted for several other BC municipalities.

RECORD BREAKING YEAR

As of the end of November 1,896 residential building permits had been issued, 50 more than were issued during the entire 12 months of 1992, the previous record year. 56% of the units built in 2004 were multi-family, a percentage share increase of 15% over 2003 and marking the first time multi-family housing has outpaced single-family construction since 1996. This trend is in keeping with the City's goal to use land more efficiently through an increase in multiple unit developments.

2004 is also set to be a record year at Kelowna International Airport. As of the end of November 806,253 passengers traveled through the airport, a 3.55% increase over the same time period in 2003.

PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES

The \$16.4 million Capital News Centre opened in Mission Recreation Park with two NHL sized ice arenas, two multi-court sportsfields and a large fitness centre.

Parks reduced its use of pesticides by a further 58%, for a total reduction of 89% over the last 10 years.

Council gave preliminary support to an aquatic facility for Mission Recreation Park, if the tax impact is kept to approximately 4%. Staff continues to research the proposal.



The City provided a wide-range of services and programs with an average municipal tax increase of 1.75%. Growth continues to fuel demand for increased services including roadways and crime prevention, the top two choices for additional funding identified in the 2004 survey.

Increased revenue from traffic fines, gaming and new development, along with a projected average municipal tax increase of 2%, will fund increased services in 2005. 58% of respondents in the 2004 survey preferred a tax increase to service cuts.

The City launched its largest fuel reduction program to date focusing on high risk areas such as Gallagher's Canyon, Dilworth and Knox Mountains.

The Inaugural Life and Arts Festival was launched in May 2004.

The Glenmore Community Policing Office opened bringing the city's total to three.

Memorial Arena received \$800,000 in upgrades.

Ben Lee Park is home to a new playground and plaza.

WORKS AND UTILITIES

Utilities

Participants in the City's Water Smart Soil Amendment program reduced water consumption by an average of 18.5%.

A \$7.3 million contract was awarded for UV disinfection systems at four pump stations in the City's water utility network.

Drainage upgrades: \$2 million spent to minimize the risk of flooding in areas hit hard by the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park fire

North Rutland Sewer: \$18.5 million serving 1,868 properties

Okaview Sewer: \$4 million servicing 252 homes, 109 were destroyed by the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park fire

Environment



A voluntary pesticide notification registry and comprehensive catch basin mosquito control program were implemented.

A wood waste chipping study was completed to determine the feasibility of chipping orchard wood waste as an alternative to burning.

Recyclable papers were banned from the Glenmore Landfill; curbside yard waste increased 58% over 2003.

Transportation

Glenmore Road: \$4.1 million upgrading between Glenmeadows and Dallas Roads

Rutland Road: \$1.2 million upgrading between McCurdy and Cornish Roads

City-wide road improvements:
17.4 kms of road resurfacing
6.6 kms of bike paths
6 kms of sidewalks

A Roads Task Force was created to identify solutions to accommodate traffic flows around the new Okanagan Lake Bridge; recommendations will be presented to City Council in the New Year.

PLANNING

Secondary Suite and Two Dwelling Housing Development Guidelines were implemented to promote sensitive infill.

A Heritage Building Tax Incentive Program was adopted to encourage the preservation and restoration of heritage buildings.

\$30,000 in funding was provided to the Central Okanagan Four Pillars Coalition to address drug abuse and homelessness.

The 1992 Strategic Plan was updated and will be presented to Council early in 2005.

The Cedar Avenue Land Use Review increased designated park space and overall residential density while reducing the amount of commercial designation between West and Meikle Avenues.

