



INFORMATION ONLY COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: December 12, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Subject: **2023 Year In Review**

Report Prepared by: Sandy Webster, Director of Corporate Initiatives

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure – We will invest in building, improving and maintaining infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.

Pursue Economic Growth and Prosperity – We will work with stakeholders throughout the region to advocate for and support efforts aimed at helping West Kelowna businesses prosper. With a focus on the future, we will advance opportunities to expand our economy, increase employment, and develop the community in ways that contribute towards prosperity for all.

Strengthen Our Community – We will provide opportunities for the residents of West Kelowna to build connections, celebrate successes, embrace the community's strengths and diversity, address shared needs, and contribute to shaping the community's future.

Foster Safety and Well-Being – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the City began issuing an annual *Year In Review* document as an additional mechanism to highlight major annual accomplishments that Council set out to deliver guided by Council's *Strategic Priorities* and the annual budget process.

To ensure the community remains well informed of our progress, the City provides regular updates, reports and presentations at Regular Council meetings and through Council Highlights, through Quarterly and Annual Reports, through our *Year In Review* document, in-house videos and more. This past year has been exceptional on several fronts, most notably with commencing operation of the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant, and our

community recovering from the devastating impacts from the McDougall Creek Wildfire. As the City and many support organizations came together to help those in need during and after this devastating wildfire, municipal operational business also needed to continue to move our community forward.

The Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant remained at the top of Council's *Strategic Priorities* with the utmost importance to deliver clean, safe and reliable drinking water to the over 19,000 residents, businesses, schools and health facilities in West Kelowna. Despite global setbacks with supply chain issues, labour shortages and other challenges, such as two wildfires and recovery, the taps were turned on in November for the Rose Valley – Lakeview System Users (Phase I). The priority now is to deliver water to the West Kelowna Estates and Sunnyside/Pritchard System Users (Phase II).

Continued significant investments were also made with the City's capital infrastructure design and construction, increased policing and fire-rescue supports, increased active transportation and expanding pathways and park systems. Delivery of other major strategic initiatives in 2023 included completion of the Official Community Plan update and the Housing Strategy, opening Julia's Junction (the City's first fully accessible play space), establishing Council's Accessibility Committee, partnering initiatives with Westbank First Nation, many joint advocacy actions and so much more.

With Council's clear direction and leadership, along with ongoing community input, the City continues to move forward with vibrant and well-balanced community growth. Our *Year In Review* noted in Attachment 1 outlines just some of Council's accomplishments as we look back on a challenging year. It remains staff's honour to work with our West Kelowna Council together as we serve our citizens in the beautiful City of West Kelowna.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications for completing initiatives within Council's *Strategic Priorities*, and for completing administrative and operational initiatives, continue to be reflected in staff's reporting and through the budgeting process.

REVIEWED BY

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No

Attachments:

- 1) 2023 Year In Review