



2017 was another busy year for the City of Penticton. Below is a summary of 12 areas where City Council, staff and residents took steps to move the business of the City forward, address opportunities and challenges and welcome visitors to our community.

## 1. Shaping Penticton's Future

The City kicked off the development of a new Official Community Plan (OCP) in February asking residents what they love about Penticton. Through 2018, residents will again to play a role in the creation and development of this plan as the city continues to work charts it's direction for the next 25 years.

## 2. Penticton Arenas future

Following a multi-month process involving the community, the City established a vision for the future of our arenas this July. The vision will see a twin-surface, multi-use facility added at the SOEC complex, Memorial Arena converted to a dry-surface facility, and McLaren Arena eventually decommissioned. Staff are now seeking grants to fund the work and developing a business case for a new facility.

## 3. High water crisis

Okanagan Lake reached record levels this spring threatening homes along the Okanagan lakeshore as well as the SS Sicamous and other City assets. Flood management activities helped to minimize the damage in Penticton. When the water resided in June, residents stepped up to help clean the beaches before the arrival of tourists.

## 4. Wildfire preparedness

Penticton's fire department responded to a number of wildfires in the region resulting from the extreme dry conditions in the area. Penticton was fortunate enough to avoid a fire directly due in part

to the efforts of residents to avoid risky activities in natural areas. The City took steps to test our preparedness to respond in the event of an emergency.

## **5. World Triathlon Championships**

Penticton was home to the world championships of triathlon this summer with nearly 3,600 athletes and their families travelling to the city for the International Triathlon Union Multi-Sport event over 10 days in August. Event organizers estimated the event created an \$8 to \$10 million impact on the city's economy.

## **6. Action on homelessness**

The City is taking steps to address homelessness, addictions and mental health issues in the community. A forum involving 80 agencies was held in October to begin the conversation on an integrated strategy. The City also supported the conversion of two motels to temporary shelters and in December a partnership between the Province and the City announced funding for 52 modular housing units for people experiencing homelessness in Penticton.

## **7. Trio Agreement terminated**

The City terminated the agreement with the Trio Marine Group for the marina and restaurant at Skaha Lake as a result of feedback from the community. The termination in September means the end of a proposed 29-year lease to upgrade and operate the marina beyond the 2018 season. Council has initiated the development of a Park Use Policy to ensure use of park land aligns with the expectations of the community.

## **8. Skaha Bluffs Expansion**

Electoral Approval was received for Skaha Bluffs Boundary Expansion application in November. The first annexation application in over 30 years, the proposal will add 300 acres to our City boundaries to support a 180-home development and a 150-acre expansion of the Skaha Bluffs Provincial Park.

## **9. New direction for Economic Development**

The City interviewed 100 businesses to determine the best way to support a vibrant economy. Preliminary results show that most growth comes from supporting existing businesses.

## **10. Record Construction**

For the second consecutive year, the City of Penticton has set a new record for building activity. Staff at City Hall had issued permits for work valued at \$199 million, topping last year's \$196 million. Institutional work, such as the Penticton Regional Hospital expansion, accounted for \$75 million of the total through November, followed by residential single-family construction at \$29 million and residential multi-family developments at \$22 million.

## **11. Greater community involvement**

The creation of a dedicated community engagement resource has allowed the City to significantly increase opportunities for citizens to get involved in the decisions that matter to them. In 2017, the

community was invited to get involved in developing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Official Community Plan, update the parking strategy, determine the future of Penticton's arenas, develop the budget, and provide suggestions for asset management.

## **12. Penticton Creek**

The City finished work on the 10-phase Penticton Creek Master Plan that will restore the creek to a more natural state while maintain the flood management qualities. Council reviewed the plan in December.