

2017 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

HUB of the Fraser Valley



MAYOR HENRY BRAUN
UPDATE

I am pleased to present this community report highlighting our key accomplishments at the City of Abbotsford for 2017.

As we enter the fourth year of this Council's mandate, many people are starting to ask me to remark on what I am most proud of as Mayor. Although there are many highlights I could mention, probably what is most important to me is the solid, unified direction that Council and staff are striving towards.

This direction is based on Council's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, envisioning Abbotsford as the *Hub of the Fraser Valley*. Every decision we make — at the Council level and by our staff — is guided by the four cornerstones of this Plan: vibrant economy, complete community, fiscal discipline and organizational alignment. Sometimes as a Council, we may have healthy debates about the best way to achieve these goals, but we are all driving towards the same end goal.

The following report reflects the progress we are making in realizing Council's Strategic Plan. We have made significant headway over the past three years, but there is still more to be accomplished beyond what we have done so far.

Last year, the City launched our Plan200K project, a comprehensive planning process that includes the updating of 20 different Master Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Studies and Projects, that will help to guide the City as we grow to a community of 200,000 residents. Within

this year, we will see the completion of the plans in the Plan200K project, leaving us in great shape to approach our future.

It's very exciting for me to see our vision progressing. Part of that excitement is sparked by the fact that our plans are the collaborative work of City staff in consultation with you, our businesses and residents. Through online surveys, open houses and public events, you are all continuing to help to shape these important directions.

Building the hub is definitely a community effort. As a Council, we thank you, our residents and businesses, for caring about our city and for being willing to share your dreams and ideas for how our community should continue to grow.

Abbotsford is a vibrant, diverse city on the move with an exciting future. As your City Council, we thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve you in one of the best cities in BC.

DID YOU KNOW in 2017 we...

engaged with **1.4 million** visitors through our website abbotsford.ca

welcomed over **100,000** participants a month to our recreation centres

planted more than **1,600** trees in the community

issued over **1,500** building permits with a record value of **\$480 million**, a **92% increase** over 2016

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched our **Plan200K project**, initiating the update of 20 Master Plans, Strategies and Studies to align with the City's **Official Community Plan**
- Received **\$30 million in federal, provincial and local funding** toward the **Vye Road** widening and Highway 11 overpass projects which will improve access to the **Canada-US border crossing** as well as **YXX**.
- Launched a new **City Services App, @Abbotsford**, which allows residents to **stay connected with the City** and report issues directly through their smart device.
- Received an **Excellence in Policy Planning GOLD Award** from the Planning Institute of BC and a 2017 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for **Planning Excellence** for the Abbotsford Official Community Plan project.
- Attended more than **9,000 fire rescue emergency response incidents in 2017**, which is an increase of **49% over 5 years**.
- Announced the **Salton Road Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge** that will improve mobility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists and **enhance our active transportation systems**.



MAYOR HENRY BRAUN



COUNCILLOR LES BARKMAN



COUNCILLOR SANDY BLUE



COUNCILLOR KELLY CHAHAL



COUNCILLOR BRENDA FALK



COUNCILLOR MOE GILL



COUNCILLOR DAVE LOEWEN



COUNCILLOR PATRICIA ROSS



COUNCILLOR ROSS SIEMENS

YOUR ABBOTSFORD CITY COUNCIL



ORGANIZATIONAL ALIGNMENT

Our Goal

The City of Abbotsford has strong, consistent governance and aligned operations.



COMPLETE COMMUNITY

Our Goal

The City of Abbotsford is a community of inclusive, safe and green neighbourhoods, connected to convenient and affordable transportation and vibrant commercial centres, built on the foundation of our cultural heritage and natural beauty.



FISCAL DISCIPLINE

Our Goal

The City of Abbotsford is transparent and accountable to citizens, information is easily accessible and residents are well informed on Council's priorities.




VIBRANT ECONOMY

Our Goal

The City of Abbotsford is a regional hub of creativity and innovation where talent, investment and business thrive.



Received **\$10 million** in provincial funding to address bank stabilization and erosion issues along Fraser River. 

Launched a new **online special event application** to improve special event permitting process. 


Maintained **188 municipal buildings** and structures to preserve the value of City assets. 

Distributed a total of **\$12,900 in Neighbourhood Spirit Grants** to 13 neighbourhoods for a diversity of projects which build social connections, beautify the streets and ignite pride in public spaces. 



Achieved a record number of passengers at the **Abbotsford International Airport** with more than **650,000 people** travelling via YXX. 


Implemented **new mobile technologies** for Bylaw and Fire Rescue Services to streamline work procedures in the field. 


Implemented an internal emergency notification system **"Abbotsford Alerts,"** ensuring that staff are communicated with in the event of an emergency. 



Engaged with **over 600 residents** at open houses, over **3,100 with surveys**, over **1,300 at events**, over **400 at workshops**, over **56,000 reached in social media**, and over **1,500 residents through e-blasts** about Plan200K Master Plans, studies and projects. 


Issued over **5,100 business licences** to local businesses, who are helping build Abbotsford as the **Hub of the Fraser Valley**. 

APD reached out to families with at risk youth with their **Gang Enforcement Team Strategies**. 

Initiated a **Mobile Inspections Pilot Project** in Bylaws. 



Hosted **160 outdoor community events** with an estimated total attendance of **505,075**.  The total economic impact of City events was over **\$17 million**. 

Adopted a new Building Bylaw, and **streamlined the building permit process** with better forms and checklists to provide better customer service and decreased wait times. 



Secured **\$57,600 grant** from FCM and **\$12,000 grant** from the FVRD for our **Municipal Green Fleet Management Plan**, moving us towards a greener transportation infrastructure and reducing our GHG emissions. 

Launched our **Quality of Life program** to help understand what factors contribute to citizens' overall quality of life to assist with the development of **new programs, services and amenities**. 

Earned a **Certificate of Recognition (COR)** for workplace safety. 

Received **\$200K** in provincial/federal funding for geotechnical (seismic) assessment to the dykes. 

Implemented a crosswalk and stop bar marking program, which will see **560 locations marked**, 140 annually, to increase safety in the community. 


Provided Information Technology Security Awareness training to City staff to ensure our organization remains safe from **cyber threats** and **vigilant against cyber crimes**. 

Participated in the **Communities in Bloom Competition**, and was awarded a 4 out of 5 bloom rating. 



Partnered with ICBC on **6 traffic signal improvements** and **4 sidewalk construction projects** to improve public safety. 



Joined the provincial **Recycle BC program**, which is funded by the producers that supply packaging and printed paper instead of through **resident user fees**. 

Launched the **Abbotsford Walks** program in the fall; a free, fun program for local neighbourhood walks, contributing to **vibrant and healthy communities**. 



Announced, in partnership with the provincial government, a **\$150 million** new Provincial and Supreme courthouse project. 

Adopted new **Sound Regulation Bylaw** increasing livability for all residents. 



Supported **fighting BC's wildfires**, in one of the worst fire seasons on record. 

Council's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan envisions Abbotsford as the Hub of the Fraser Valley. Everything the City does is guided by the four cornerstones of this Plan: vibrant economy, complete community, fiscal discipline and organizational alignment. Here are some of our achievements in 2017.

Conducted **12,085** building and plumbing inspections, ensuring businesses and households meet **safety and building codes**.



Hosted the **7th annual Abbotsford Police Department City Basketball Tournament** with **60 teams** and over **900 athletes** competing.

Migrated 527,895 documents into the new electronic document file management system, **CEDAR**, bringing greater ease to filing and finding documents and collaborating on drafting documents, creating a more **productive and efficient work** environment.

Educated residents about water conservation at **130 events**, including schools and other public events.

Welcomed **44 film productions** to the City, breaking last year's record.



Planned and hosted multiple successful **Canada150 community events** including the **Roving Canada150 Exhibit, Canada Day, and Red White and You** initiatives in celebration of Canada's 150th birthday.



Reviewed, accepted and inspected over **600 Telus fiber optic cabinet and underground service locations** as part of "fiber to the premises" **FTTP** network expansion.



Created **'The Case for Prevention'** in response to the opioid crisis. From this, a resolution was passed at UBCM to encourage the province to develop a comprehensive program for drug prevention and early intervention.

Saved approximately **605,000 Kwh of annual electricity consumption** as part of our 2017 municipal building energy projects.

Responded to over **4,300** calls for Bylaw Service which provided many **opportunities to educate** residents and businesses on City bylaws.



Conducted **441 Development Inquiry Meetings**, allowing for better collaboration and efficiencies between developers and the City.



Maintained **192 parks** in the community, covering **841.5 hectares** supporting sport, play and recreation for the community.

Implemented **new remote call-out process for Fire Rescue Services** for their paid on-call in-vehicle communications, and improved functionality at a reduced cost.



Opened **Shadbolt Park** as well as a **new fire fighter themed playground** at Exhibition park, in **partnership** with the Firefighters Association.

STAY CONNECTED

CITY PAGE

Stay connected with what's happening in Abbotsford by viewing the City Page online at abbotsford.ca/citypage.

The City Page can also be viewed in the Friday edition of the Abbotsford News.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are broadcast live on the City website every second Monday and can be viewed online at abbotsford.ca/livecouncil.

FEEDBACK

Concerns, comments or questions? We're listening!
abbotsford.ca/feedback



Or download our **NEW city services app**, @Abbotsford!

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