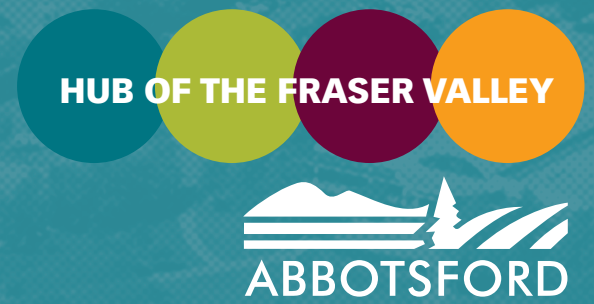


2016 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of Abbotsford City Council, I'm pleased to present this community report highlighting our key accomplishments at the City of Abbotsford for 2016.

Driving the City is the spirit of innovation and collaboration. We are committed to creating practical solutions and working with all of our partners as we build the Hub of the Fraser Valley.

Along with these accomplishments, a sign that change is taking place in our community is a number of the awards and recognition we have received throughout 2016:

- Economic Developers Association of Canada Marketing Award for Economic Development's Year in Review;
- UBCM Green Communities Recognition for efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- UBCM Award for Best Practices Community Connections for the Abbotsford Official Community Plan;

- Fraser Valley Home Builders Association Award to Planning & Development Services for Excellence in Service;
- Provincial Lifeguard Award from BC and Yukon Branch of the Lifesaving Society to a team of our City's Lifeguards;
- Recognition from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, as Abbotsford-Mission moved up to be ranked 9th as one of Canada's most entrepreneurial communities.

Abbotsford is a vibrant, diverse city on the move with an exciting future. In 2017, there will be many opportunities for you to help shape this future, and I encourage you to stay informed about new initiatives.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve you in one of the best cities in BC!

**Mayor
Henry Braun**

ABBOTSFORD FIRE RESCUE SERVICE RESPONDED TO AN INCREASE OF 1175 CALLS & WAS THE 2ND FIRE SERVICE IN BC TO START DELIVERING NALOXONE TO OVERDOSE PATIENTS.



1,831 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 16,262 HOURS TO VARIOUS INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.



THE CITY SUPPORTED OVER 150 COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OVER \$14 MILLION.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **The Official Community Plan** was completed, providing a blueprint for how the city **will grow and develop** from a population of 140,000 to 200,000.
- Construction began on the **Supportive Housing Project** on Gladys Avenue. The project is a partnership between the City, Abbotsford Community Services and BC Housing and will open in 2017, providing a home and support to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Abbotsford hosted a successful BC Summer Games with over **2,400 athletes**, showcasing our great City to all of BC.
- **\$4 Million in funding from the province** was received for shoreline flood mitigation projects, protecting farmland, homes and important regional infrastructure, and strengthening our community structurally.
- **\$28 Million in provincial and federal funding** was received to boost transit infrastructure with a new and expanded Central Fraser Valley Transit operation and maintenance facility, providing more convenience to residents who use public transportation.

Abbotsford At a Glance



Population: 141,759

Location: Fraser Valley, BC

Area: 39,043 Hectares

Building Permit Value 2016: \$252 Million

Average House Price: \$663,300

Key Economic Drivers:

Education, aerospace, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, technology, construction

See more stats at caed.abbotsford.ca



**COUNCILLOR
LES BARKMAN**



**COUNCILLOR
SANDY BLUE**



**COUNCILLOR
KELLY CHAHAL**



**COUNCILLOR
BRENDA FALK**



**COUNCILLOR
MOÉ GILL**



**COUNCILLOR
DAVE LOEWEN**



**COUNCILLOR
PATRICIA ROSS**



**COUNCILLOR
ROSS SIEMENS**

YOUR ABBOTSFORD CITY COUNCIL

BUILDING A VIBRANT ECONOMY

THE CITY OF ABBOTSFORD IS A REGIONAL HUB OF CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION WHERE TALENT, INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS THRIVE.

- The City organized the **second annual Abbotsford Business Walks event**, where over 60 volunteers, including elected officials and representatives from business organizations, **connected with 125 businesses** to discover ways to help them succeed.

THE BUILDING PERMIT WAIT TIME WEBPAGE WENT LIVE, ALLOWING BUILDERS AND RESIDENTS TO SEE WHEN THEIR PERMIT APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED.

- With the coordination of multiple departments, including Economic Development, Abbotsford Police Department, Fire Rescue Service, Engineering, Real Estate Services, Building Permits and Licencing, the City welcomed over 32 film productions, investing **about \$1 Million into our community.**

ABBOTSFORD AIRPORT SECURED ANOTHER NATIONAL AIR CARRIER AND SET A RECORD FOR PASSENGER VOLUME IN 2016, REACHING 530,643 PASSENGERS.

- Elevate Abbotsford, a forum designed to bring a diversity of sectors together to discuss **how to foster innovation in our City**, was hosted in December. Ideas from the forum will help to build the Economic Development Strategic Plan.
- Launched **AgRefresh** with the goal to enhance agricultural integrity in Abbotsford while responding to agricultural trends.

- Released Building Blocks of Marketing Tools to help small businesses build a tailored marketing plan, **increasing their ability to succeed.**
- Received funding through the **Invest Canada Community Initiatives Program** to further support the implementation of our International Marketing Blueprint.

DID YOU KNOW?

ABBOTSFORD IS THE AGRICULTURE CAPITAL OF CANADA, WITH FARM RECEIPTS OF \$20,441/HA.



BUILDING A COMPLETE COMMUNITY

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.

- Nearly **400 residents painted a tile to commemorate Canada's 150th birthday** in Abbotsford's Canada 150 Mural Mosaic Project, creating a lasting legacy for current and future generations to enjoy.
- An **accessible playground** was installed at Abbotsford Exhibition Park with support from the Abbotsford Firefighters Fund, making it possible for **more children to play.**

\$20 MILLION IN FUNDING RECEIVED FOR WIDENING MT. LEHMAN RD TO FOUR LANES, PROVIDING BETTER ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT AND INDUSTRIAL LANDS, AND ALLOWING FOR MORE EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS TO THE CANADA/US BORDER.



- The **MRC Sports Complex** was opened in 2016 with three additional fields, creating an **extra 84 hours of playing time per week** for the community, encouraging health and fitness, sport development and community connections.
- The City embarked on creating an **Age Friendly Strategy** in 2016 to create a higher quality of life for older citizens.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE CITY HAS OVER 900 KMS OF ROADS, MORE THAN 2,584 ACRES OF PARKLAND AND 98 KMS OF TRAILS.

\$1 MILLION IN FUNDING WAS RECEIVED FROM BIKE BC PROGRAM TOWARDS THE SALTON ROAD CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS, CREATING A PEDESTRIAN/CYCLING FRIENDLY LINK FROM THE U-DISTRICT TO AREAS NORTH OF HWY 1.



- Accessibility improvements to Centennial Pool, MRC weightroom, and the ARC parking lot made it **easier for patrons with strollers, wheelchairs and other mobility challenges** to use our facilities.
- The **\$355,000 Mt. Lehman Cemetery upgrades project** is underway with goals to: preserve, restore and protect

the heritage aspects of the cemetery, to provide an array of memorialization options, to diversify the cemetery landscapes to include contemplative spaces, and attract and support broader community uses such as walking, cycling, historical tours and interpretation/special events.

1,421 TREES

WERE PLANTED AND MUCH OF THIS WAS WITH THE HELP OF VOLUNTEERS, FOSTERING THE BEAUTY OF OUR CITY AND ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT.



MAINTAINING ORGANIZATIONAL ALIGNMENT

THE CITY OF ABBOTSFORD HAS STRONG, CONSISTENT GOVERNANCE AND ALIGNED OPERATIONS.

- Introduced **new features** for our online mapping 'webmap', for easier use by residents and businesses.
- Updates to the Abbotsford Recreation Centre front counters increased **customer service satisfaction** and streamlined processes.

DID YOU KNOW?

BYLAW SERVICES RESPONDED TO 3,627 CALLS FOR SERVICE WHICH PROVIDED MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ON CITY BYLAWS.

- The City set new goals and initiatives for safety, and saw a **10% reduction in first aid incidents and a 20% reduction** in lost time injuries/ medication aid injuries – all signs we're heading in the right direction to a safe and efficient organization.
- The Engineering department was reorganized to enhance customer service.
- A new training and development program for employees was launched to ensure staff can grow their skills, and consequently, **serve our community better.**
- Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service and the Abbotsford Police Department

worked to together to create a new **Motor Vehicle Incident** procedure that has increased the efficiency of the **emergency service response.**

WE'VE INCREASED OUR RESIDENTS' ABILITY TO BE ENGAGED AND INFORMED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, ONLINE SURVEYS, APPS, AND MAKING COUNCIL MEETINGS AVAILABLE LIVE-STREAM ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS.



- We've **modernized the City's AMANDA software**, which supports the everyday work being completed by staff and helps serve residents efficiently.

THE CITY LAUNCHED AN ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, BRINGING GREATER EASE TO FILING AND FINDING DOCUMENTS AND COLLABORATING ON DRAFTING DOCUMENTS, CREATING A MORE PRODUCTIVE AND EFFICIENT WORK ENVIRONMENT.





ACHIEVING FISCAL DISCIPLINE



THE CITY OF ABBOTSFORD IS TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE TO CITIZENS, INFORMATION IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND RESIDENTS ARE WELL INFORMED ON COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES.

- The bi-annual gymnasium and pool maintenance shutdown at the Abbotsford Recreation Centre ensured **facility safety and asset protection** with the addition of a family change room, projector, and a UV filter for enhanced air and water quality.
- Abbotsford received **approximately \$4.3 Million in funding** for upgrades to the JAMES Waste Water Treatment Plant, and we completed upgrades to the Cannell Lake Water Treatment Plant.
- Extensive **asset maintenance upgrades** took place to parks,

including shelters, washrooms and the gallery at Abbotsford Exhibition Park, helping to maintain the quality and longevity of our facilities.

DID YOU KNOW?

WE ASSESSED 37 CITY FACILITIES AND HAVE AN ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN TO SAVE 1.5M KWH OF ENERGY OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS!

plan FOR 200K

BUILDING THE HUB OF THE FRASER VALLEY



Building a City requires good planning and we are laying down the foundations for a walkable, transit friendly, forward thinking, dynamic city of the future, as envisioned in our Official Community Plan.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR ABBOTSFORD

Visit www.abbotsford.ca/plan200K to sign up for updates on project events and open houses.

STAY CONNECTED



CITY PAGE

Stay connected with what's happening in Abbotsford by viewing the City Page online at www.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!
www.abbotsford.ca/feedback
communications-info@abbotsford.ca
604-864-5564

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