

What's on today – Nelson and Area

I am a passionate community advocate fortunate enough to have called Nelson “home” for nearly 30 years. My ties to Nelson run deep with family living here since the 1920's. My partner, Mike Bonderoff, was born in Nelson and together we own Kastlerock Bed and Breakfast.

I am a physiotherapist at our local Kootenay Lake Hospital. I have had the honour and pleasure during my career of caring for and helping many Nelson families in their times of illness and injury.

As an engaged community advocate I have had exposure to many different facets of our diverse community that allows me to represent a broad cross section of Nelsonites. I have now served two previous terms as a city councillor and 4 years as director of the RDCK recreation commission. My community involvements outside of my terms on city council have included: the Nelson Municipal Library board, Nelson Maple Leafs Hockey club director, Chair of the KLH Foundation and President of the Nelson and Area Chamber of Commerce. I have been a member of the Rotary Club of Nelson for 27 years. I am the Vice President of the Health Sciences Association of BC, representing 18,000 members in the health and social services.

I am seeking re- election because Nelson is my home: I want to facilitate healthy, positive and sustainable growth. We live in a beautiful city with a rich heritage and international reputation as a great place to live, work and recreate. As a civic leader I believe we have a responsibility to protect and enhance these assets for future generations. Supporting current business and attracting new employers

will expand the tax base and improve employment opportunities. Cultural, leisure and sport resources need to be further developed as a means of ensuring Nelson becomes a destination for all people and a healthy place to live. We need to maintain a collaborative working relationship with the RDCK.

Some of the noteworthy achievements of this current council have been the rescinding of the no dogs in the downtown bylaw. This request was initiated by the downtown businesses. They were citing that not allowing dogs in the downtown was adversely affecting their revenues. This council, in facing the local housing crisis, has improve the laneway housing policy, put in policy regarding short term rentals and reduced water and sewer fees for secondary suites that are being uses as long term rentals. We have supported the Street outreach collaborative and improved the Pedestrian bylaw to ensure are streets are safe for all Nelsonites. We have excellent plans that have been created by the city with significant input from stakeholders and the community at large which will help guide future development in the downtown – the Railtown – Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), Downtown Urban Design Strategy and the Parking Strategy (currently in draft).

Nelson is a cosmopolitan community filled with cultural, political and lifestyle diversity. It is this diversity that is the fabric of Nelson and will lead to sustainable economic growth for the region. Our goal should not be to fragment and compartmentalize who we are, but to develop our commonalities to ensure the long-term resilience and sustainability of Nelson.

