



As we look back on 2018, Rutland has a lot to celebrate and be excited about. We all know that change is inevitable, but it's how we embrace it that makes a community grow and prosper. I was speaking to one of our members the other day and he was chatting with a couple who recently relocated back to Rutland and they were amazed with all the changes. Here are my top 5 picks for 2018, some are great, and some are a work in progress and it's up to the residents and businesses in this area to keep lobbying for change.

**5 Student Housing on the rise**

Students need a place to live, they want to feel that they belong, and they want to support local business and stimulate our economy. Dougall Rd N, Dundas Rd, Hollywood Rd, Rutland Rd S just to name a few. We are so multicultural in Rutland and they love that!

**4 Mixed Use Developments**

We are excited to combine different uses within the same building. They provide for more public uses on the lower floor such as retail shops, restaurants, or commercial businesses and private uses on the upper floors such as residential units, or office space. New development means new businesses, but these new businesses need people to support them, hence mix use space. Give people a place to live and they will support the businesses around them. Dougall Rd, McIntosh Rd, Rutland Rd S, if you want to see all the development in our area just check out the prospectus map on our website.

<https://www.ourrutland.ca/map/>

**3 Rutland Centennial Park**

Over the past several years we have seen the park transition from a place with no irrigation, we watched the hardworking caretaker move the sprinklers and maintain the grass, we saw the odd person throwing a ball for their dog and a ball field that no one used for tournaments or league games in a very long time. During May Days the field was always filled with activity and fun, but that was only one long weekend a year. Today it's a place where there is laughter at the new playground, we have trees and soccer on the weekends and in 2019 we will see the addition of Phase 3, a multi-cultural garden area, entry plaza, additional paths and furnishings. That is not all that will happen for Centennial Park, we are still expecting Phase 4 where we will see the addition of an open play area, an outdoor stage, washrooms and a basketball court. URBA along with the rest of the community will keep the dialogue open with City Staff and Council to have this project completed sooner than later. Perhaps we can find

some grants to help complete our park as well. No matter what area of town people reside in, we all deserve some greenspace to enjoy on our lunch hour or to take our kids and grandkids.

## **2 New Rutland Transit Exchange opened**

Located on Shepherd Road between Dougall Road North and Roxby Rd, this \$2.1-million project will improve street connectivity and increase access for pedestrians, cyclists and transit users. URBA will continue to lobby and work with the City of Kelowna for a defined Rutland Town Centre revitalization plan so we can enjoy a vibrant urban centre that is long overdue.

## **1 Cannabis**

Now that it's legal what does that mean for our business area? All 3 levels of government have been spending a lot of time and resources putting it all together. These businesses might be on your street, in your area and will be contributing to the tax base just like the rest of us. There are some incredible dispensaries throughout North America and like any business they want people to be happy with their storefront, customer service and product satisfaction. This is a work in progress and we will do all that we can to stay informed and keep the lines of communication open with all our members. The city accepted applications for dispensaries from Oct. 1 until the end of November. Council will have the final 'say' and don't expect to see a legitimate dispensary opening until at least next summer. Stay tuned...

- **Honourable mention \*\*\*Kelowna Chiefs\*\*\*Alex Draper comes home**

He is a posterchild when it comes to being "Straight Outta Rutland" and his commitment to the Kelowna Chiefs is infectious. He has increased their visibility and the players have such a sense of pride, not to mention what a great season this has been for them, just go to a game and see what I mean.

All the items above are part of what helps make our businesses thrive. We have seen new business come to our area and that is exciting for all of us. New business, new people moving to our area, will see your business as well.

As we look forward to 2019 what would you like to see for Rutland? Just like everyone else my job has been filled with peaks and valleys. I love what I do because the businesses and residents here in Rutland have such pride, despite the comments from people who don't really know what it's like to live, work and play here. Rutland is a community filled with hard working individuals, businesses with longevity, stakeholders who consistently support local businesses and charity. We don't always see things the same way, but we all believe in Rutland. I hope your holiday season is filled with people supporting your businesses, some down time, laughter and most of all hope for a prosperous 2019.

Laurel D'Andrea  
Executive Director  
URBA