

THE REGIONAL REPORT

ISSUE 14 • NOVEMBER 2015

IN THIS EDITION, WE WILL RECAP SOME OF THE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON WITHIN THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE. ▲

WELCOME TO THE REGIONAL REPORT,

a regular newsletter designed to keep residents aware of programs, initiatives and events underway in the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. If you have comments, feedback or ideas for articles to be featured in future editions of Regional Report, please email us at district@rdffg.bc.ca, call 1-800-667-1959 or write to us at: Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, 155 George St., Prince George, B.C., V2L 1P8 ▲

Compost Give Away Event – SEPTEMBER

The Regional District staged another NorGrow compost give away event in September. Over 80 people brought in non-perishable food donations for St. Vincent de Paul and in return received a truck load of NorGrow compost.



Many people taking advantage of the giveaway did not realize that compost was available at the Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill and they said would be back in the spring for more.

The Regional District will hold another free compost event in the spring, with food donations once again collected for St. Vincent de Paul. ▲

HOLIDAY HOURS

Following are the holiday hours for the Regional District office at 155 George Street:

Dec. 24: closed at noon
Dec. 25: closed
Dec. 28: closed
Dec. 31: closed at noon
Jan. 1: closed

Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill WINTER HOURS:

Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill
Winter Hours:
November 1 – March 31
Monday to Friday 7 am – 5 pm
Saturday 7 am – 4 pm
Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

Statutory Holiday Operating Hours:
9 am – 5 pm
The facility is **CLOSED** on **Christmas Day** and **New Years Day**

Residents invited to share thoughts on proposed SOLID WASTE RECOMMENDATIONS IMPROVEMENTS

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is updating its Solid Waste Management Plan, an action list that describes how we will reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and dispose of our garbage for the next 5 – 10 years.

Earlier this year, the Regional District surveyed the community to get an idea of what was important in regards to handling our solid waste for the future. The Regional District has taken the input from that survey, along with input from stakeholders, and drafted recommendations for improvements to programs and new services.



These recommendations were developed over the past year with input from a broad range of government, First Nation and business stakeholders. The next step is to get public feedback on the recommendations. The Regional District is asking residents to complete a survey available on-line at

<http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/services/environment/solid-waste-management/RSWMP>

Hard copies are also available at local transfer stations and landfills until November 30. The Regional District will be meeting with each municipal council to get their feedback before finalizing the Plan. Presentations to business associations and community organizations are also being offered during the month of November. ▲

THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

- ▲ That the RDIFFG maintain their target to reduce the amount of garbage landfilled from 840 kg/capita/year down to 570 kg/capita/year. This includes all types of waste; from homes, businesses, and building and renovation projects
- ▲ Holding reuse events across the region, like community garage sales
- ▲ Establishing campaigns to encourage waste reduction behaviours, like using cloth shopping bags, refillable mugs, and reducing the amount of food waste we throw out
- ▲ Setting residential garbage can limits and garbage cart fees at levels that encourage residents to use local recycling and composting opportunities
- ▲ Implementing residential curbside recycling collection in Mackenzie, Valemount and McBride if/when funding for this service becomes available from organizations like Multi-Material BC
- ▲ Encouraging more recycling by businesses and multi-family buildings (e.g. apartments and condos), restrict the disposal of recyclable materials in the garbage
- ▲ Assessing the feasibility of reusing and recycling components of the waste generated by construction and demolition activities
- ▲ Developing a region-wide strategy to tackle illegal dumping

TRASH TALKING

- RDIFFG recycles and composts 26% of all waste generated in the region
- The new plan could increase this amount to 50%
- Foothills Landfill receives over 90% of garbage generated in the region
- 58% of landfilled waste comes from businesses, institutions and construction/demolition sites
- 1/3 of the waste landfilled is compostable organic waste

SHELTER in Place

Every day in the Regional District there is the potential for an emergency situation to develop where there will not be adequate time for formal notification. You may need to take self-protective and life-saving actions based on what you are told from:

- ▲ first responders (police, fire or public works)
- ▲ those around you or
- ▲ your own observations

The direction you receive or your decision to not evacuate into a potentially hazardous environment, may dictate that you Shelter-In-Place. This could be taking cover in your home or vehicle due to roads being closed due to storms, power outages or other life-safety threats from animals or hazardous materials that could injure or kill you.

Your Shelter-In-Place Kit will contain supplies to support you taking short term measures to protect yourself, your family and your coworkers.

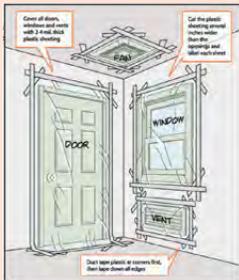
KEY ACTIONS - SHELTER-IN-PLACE

- ▲ Go indoors and stay there.
- ▲ Close all outside doors and every door inside the building.
- ▲ Close all windows.
- ▲ Stay tuned to trusted internet sources and local broadcasters for information.

KEY ITEMS - SHELTER-IN-PLACE KIT

- ▲ A smart phone or AM/FM radio
- ▲ Plastic sheeting (Pre-cut to size to cover any windows & doors and labelled).
- ▲ Duct tape for sealing cracks around doors and windows.
- ▲ Alternate lighting, in the event of a power outage
- ▲ Bottled water and snack foods.
- ▲ First-aid kit.

Remember – your ‘gut’ reaction to stay indoors and shelter in place, may be the decision that saves your life and the lives of those around you. Simple preparedness measures taken now will make a difference when you need to take life-saving and immediate ACTION! ▲



WOODSTOVE Exchange Program approved for another year

The Regional District will continue its participation in the Wood Stove Exchange Program for the 2015 fiscal year. As part of the program, the Regional District will waive permit fees for heating unit installation for those homeowners that qualify. The Regional District has partnered in the initiative since 2011. Last year, the PG AIR Wood Stove Exchange Program approved 16 wood stove exchanges including 11 exchanges for residents of the electoral areas of the Regional District. ▲

ABOUT US

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is home to over 93,000 residents and covers 52,000 square kilometers in central British Columbia – an area almost as large as the province of Nova Scotia. It extends from the Pine Pass in the north to Hixon in the south, and from Bednesti Lake west of Prince

Former Regional District Chair REMEMBERED

Robert “Bob” Headrick, former Regional District Director and Chair, passed away on Sunday, November 8th, 2015. Bob was first elected to the Regional Board as a Director for Electoral Area “D” – Tabor Lake – Stone Creek in 1982, a position held until 2011. In 1988 thru to 1991, fellow Directors elected Bob as their Vice-Chairperson and in 1993 they elected Bob as their Chairperson, a position he held for the next 8 years until 2001. He served on the Board of Directors for 30 years, the longest ever serving Director on the Board of Directors. Bob was a fierce supporter of getting things done in the North, for the North. He was a man of principle and often reminded all that as an elected official he served the taxpayers. Bob introduced many of the functions and programs which the Regional District provides today. Bob led the introduction of the first Solid Waste Management Program, he brought on on-site sewage regulation permitting to provide one-stop service of sewage and building permitting out of the RD office and he worked hard for funding many capital improvement projects in Electoral Area D (Tabor Lake-Stone Creek) such as the construction of the new Pineview Hall, Community



Day Care and ball diamonds. He was instrumental in the development of a delegation agreement for the Regional District which would see the Agricultural Land Commission delegate some of its decision-making authority to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors in order to make decisions locally on local ALC applications. During the years Bob Chaired the Regional Board of Directors he could be found either at the office in a suit and tie or in his barber shop keeping up on the news with the patrons. He made many trips to Victoria to meet face to face with Ministers to resolve Northern issues and always stood his ground. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George would not be the local government it is today without Mr. Headrick's leadership and vision. Mr. Headrick, the question has been called and the meeting is adjourned. ▲

FINANCIAL SUPPORT for regional cultural facilities confirmed

The Regional District Board has approved a five year financial plan that outlines the costs of implementing the Regional Cultural Plan. The Cultural Plan lays out the vision, goals and objectives for culture in the region for the next five years. As part of the plan, financial support is provided to eight museums and galleries in the region. The total investment for heritage and culture for the next five years is expected to be \$10.2 million. ▲

Junk in the TRUNK

The Regional District started The Junk in the Trunk event in 2012 and the event has grown every year.



The fall event coincides with Waste Reduction Week in October. This fall there were over 80 participants and over 300 people wandered the stalls at the CN Centre Parking lot.

It is a central location that brings the sellers and buyers together – and neither has to drive all over town. The event encourages reuse of items that would otherwise end up in the landfill.

The idea is to provide a unique opportunity to people who wouldn't normally be able to host their own garage sale or yard sale, those who live in condos, apartments or simply have no yard. But it's not limited. AiMHi also benefits from this event – leftover items are donated at the end of the event, and their Common Goods truck is usually filled to the roof with donations.

The next Junk in the Trunk sale will take place in early May 2016. ▲

Fraser – Fort George ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Fraser-Fort George Endowment Funds are now accepting grant applications from the following:

- ▲ Salmon River-Lakes Endowment Fund
- ▲ Chilako River- Nechako Endowment Fund
- ▲ Hixon-Woodpecker Endowment Fund
- ▲ Willow River-Upper Fraser Endowment Fund
- ▲ Crooked River-Parsnip Endowment Fund

Donations of charitable gifts will be invested in these permanent trust funds. It is the investment income generated from the permanent funds that allow an opportunity for community groups or organizations in the electoral areas to apply for grant funds to support eligible projects.

Grant applications will be accepted for projects that will enhance the quality of life for residents living in Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, and G, within the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. Information on these endowment fund opportunities and grant applications will be available through the Regional District at www.rdffg.bc.ca and through the Prince George Community Foundation www.pgcf.ca websites.

The deadline for receipt of grant applications is February 15, 2016. ▲

George to the Alberta border. As a local government, the Regional District is accountable to the residents of the region. Services provided include fire protection, 9-1-1 emergency services, solid waste management, community sewer and water systems, land use planning, cultural and recreational services and parks. Total operating expenditures in 2014 were \$32.2 million.

The governing board of the Regional District has fourteen directors: four appointed by the City of Prince George from its council, one appointed by each of the councils of the District of Mackenzie, Village of McBride and Village of Valemount, and seven directors elected from within each of the seven electoral areas covering the unincorporated portions of the Regional District. ▲