

THE REGIONAL REPORT

ISSUE 15 • FEBRUARY 2016

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 ▲

Heritage Week

Heritage Week takes place February 15 to 21 in B.C. with the theme Distinctive Destinations: Experience Historic Places. The Regional District funds eight cultural sites through its cultural plan, including:

- The Mackenzie Museum
 - The Whistle Stop Gallery
 - Huble Homestead Historic Site
 - Valley Museum and Archives
 - The Exploration Place
 - The Valemount Museum.
 - Two Rivers Gallery
 - The Central BC Railway and Forestry Museum
- All the sites are marketed under the Golden Raven Cultural Attractions brand.

Visit www.goldenraven.ca for more information on special events and hours of operation. ▲



The We Are Winter exhibit is currently on display at The Exploration Place in Prince George.

NDIT Continues its Grant Writer Support

The Regional District would like to thank NDIT for its contribution of \$8,000 through the 2015 Grant Writing Support program. This grant has enabled staff to dedicate additional work hours to researching grants opportunities, preparing Regional District grant applications that have led to successful community projects, assisting local non-profits with grant applications and providing an up-to-date webpage notifying community groups of potential grant opportunities. ▲

To view this page, we invite you to visit:

<http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/services/community/associations-societies/community-connection/comm-external-grant-opps>

Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill – ENTRANCE RELOCATION PROJECT

The Integrated Landfill Management Plan for Foothills Boulevard Regional landfill approved in 2010 proposes relocation of the entrance to facilitate future site efficiencies. The entrance relocation project provides the benefits of replacing aging infrastructure, improved public and commercial access, service and safety, increased efficiency of operations, minimized risk of adverse environmental impacts from leachate migration and future support of landfill gas utilisation. This project is undertaken in two phases: infrastructure upgrades and entrance relocation.

Elements included in Phase 1 of the project are:

- decommissioning of the existing leachate recirculation system and connection of the leachate collection infrastructure at the landfill site to the City of Prince George sanitary line,
- extension of the water line at the landfill facility to proposed operations building and scale facilities, and
- installation of an on-site gravity sewer line, for the purpose of supporting both the phase 2 lateral expansion and relocation of the scales and operations building.

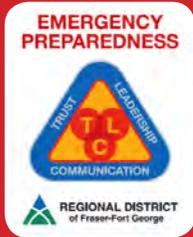


Leachate Connector construction

Upon Board approval, the leachate connector infrastructure to tie into the City of Prince George waste water collection system was installed during the 2015 construction season. The total cost for this project was \$450,000. Pending on approval of the discharge permit from the City of Prince George, the leachate recirculation system at the facility will be decommissioned after 14 years of service.

The installation of onsite water and sewer lines and the actual entrance relocation including scales, scale house, operations building, public tipping area and expansion of compost facility will be undertaken in 2016/2017. ▲

Community Preparedness - EVACUEE SUPPORT PROGRAM



The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George operates its Evacuee Support Program to provide services to meet the immediate needs of those persons impacted by rural residential house fires. These services are

offered to eligible residents when their principal residence has been impacted however is not extended to recreational properties.

Those of our residents that do not receive structural fire protection services may not be aware that they are still eligible to receive the benefit of our evacuee support program. If accessed within the **first 72 hour period** (calculated from the time of the fire) these services can include access to: clothing, food, accommodations and transportation.

Should you become aware of information where a residential fire has occurred in the regional district electoral areas, please contact **(250) 960-4400 day or night** and you will be connected to a member of the Regional District Emergency Management Program. ▲

NEW BUILDING INSPECTOR for Robson Valley

The Regional District of Fraser Fort George has hired a new Building Inspector for the Robson Valley. Dean Schneider assumed the role on January 25. This new role is in addition to his role as the Building Inspector for the Village of Valemount.

As the Regional District also provides a building service to the Village of McBride, now the whole valley will be serviced by one inspector, providing consistent high quality service across the region. Mr. Schneider will be in the McBride office, located

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

REGIONAL DISTRICT SEEKS OPPORTUNITY for electors to decide on Robson Valley Exploration and Learning Service

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is seeking approval by assent of the electors through an assent vote (formerly referred to as referendum) to establish a new service to fund the purchase of a building to be used for the McBride and District Public Library and the Valley Museum and Archives.

The Regional District Board received a feasibility study on the establishment of the service that identified a number of factors including limitations and challenges of the current facilities, current and future needs, options considered to meet the needs of the library and museum, and a recommendation to purchase a building located at 521 Main Street in McBride.

The feasibility study was developed by the Regional District working with a committee comprised of representatives of the library, museum, Village of McBride and Regional District.

The McBride and District Public Library and the Valley Museum and Archives have advocated for bigger premises for several years. The feasibility study assessed that for reasons of limited space and deteriorating building conditions, the library and museum need a different space if they are

expected to continue to serve McBride and area. Three options were explored in the study – renovate the existing library and annex; build a new facility on vacant lots owned by the museum; and purchase the building at 521 Main Street. Based on the information provided in the study, the purchase of 521 Main Street has been identified as the best option. It is the most cost-effective and provides the necessary space for the library and museum to operate and provides improved storage space for museum artifacts. The location is highly visible and considered a major benefit to help attract visitors.

The projected cost for the purchase of the building and related expenses (renovations and repairs, engineering report and contingencies) is \$668,230. The Library and Museum have fundraised and received grants totaling \$47,700 which brings the total to be borrowed down to \$620,530. With an annual operating budget of \$74,550, the taxation impact on residents within the service area would be \$27.47 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. For business properties, the impact per year would be \$67.30 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The proposed service area includes all properties in Area H east of Small River and the Village of McBride. There are an estimated 988 dwellings in the area.

The Board will be forwarding service establishment bylaws to the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. If the Ministry approves the bylaws, the assent vote will be held within 80 days of the Ministry's approval. ▲



at 600 Northwest Frontage Road (the former Ministry of Forests building) on Wednesdays and working out of the Village of Valemount office the rest of the week.

Building permits are required for any building over 10m² (108 sq ft) alterations, additions or repairs to existing buildings and structures, demolitions, manufactured home foundations, decks, plumbing, wood burning appliances and chimneys, enclosing carports or garage conversions or changing the use of a building. All buildings need to conform to land use regulations such as zoning that stipulates permitted land use and lot line setbacks. If there is a potential of a

natural hazard, a geotechnical evaluation may be required.

The Building Inspection service enforces the BC Building Code minimum standards for health, safety, fire and structural protection, accessibility for the disabled and energy efficiency for housing and outbuildings, as well as commercial, industrial and institutional developments. ▲

Building Inspection inquiries for the Robson Valley can be directed to:

Valemount:
250-566-4435
building@valemount.ca

McBride:
250-569-2229
building@rdffg.bc.ca



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. ▲