

THE REGIONAL REPORT

ISSUE 19 • FEBRUARY 2017

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 ▲



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

1967-2017 50 years of building strong communities

50th ANNIVERSARY

This year marks 50 years of building strong communities for the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. A select committee appointed by the board has been making plans to celebrate the occasion. A 50th Anniversary event is planned for March 8th at the office at 155 George Street in downtown Prince George. Residents, former and present staff and directors will be invited. Regional board meetings will be held in several communities outside Prince George later this year. The anniversary will also be celebrated during existing community events throughout the district — watch for more information in the coming months. ▲

CHANGE IN OPERATING HOURS for two transfer stations located within the City of Prince George

On January 2nd of this year the Regional District changed the operating hours for the both the Quinn Street Recycling Depot and the Vanway Regional Transfer Station and Recycling Depot. This change in hours will assist with more efficient operations resulting in cost savings, while maintaining a high level of customer service and providing a variety of waste reduction services.

QUINN STREET RECYCLING DEPOT

Winter (November to March)

Monday: 8am - 6pm
 Tuesday: CLOSED
 Wednesday: CLOSED
 Thursday, Friday: 9am - 6pm
 Saturday: 8am - 6pm
 Sunday: 11am - 6pm

Closed on all holidays during winter

Summer (April to October)

Monday, Tuesday: 8am - 6pm
 Wednesday - Friday: 9am - 6pm
 Saturday: 8am - 6pm
 Sunday: 11am - 6pm
 Holidays: 9am - 4pm

Open Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day. Closed all other holidays.

VANWAY REGIONAL TRANSFER STATION

January to December

Monday, Tuesday: 8am - 6pm
 Wednesday - Friday: 9am - 6pm
 Saturday: 8am - 6pm
 Sunday: 11am - 6pm
 Holidays: 9am - 4pm

Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day ONLY. The facility is CLOSED on all other Holidays ▲

New Municipal Solid Waste TIPPING FEE

At the November meeting of the Regional Board a new bylaw was adopted which applies to all Regional District transfer stations and landfills. This bylaw consolidated multiple solid waste bylaws into one and allowed for a number of updates as well as including new regulations regarding waste diversion.

Several of the old bylaws had been in place for 20 years and a number of the definitions were out of date or obsolete. This new bylaw provided the opportunity to refresh the language and include the relevant changes to the regulations as well as waste diversion initiatives.

The bylaw details which materials are accepted for disposal at the Regional District solid waste facilities, which are controlled



or prohibited as well as which materials are accepted for recycling. The bylaw authorizes the Regional District to collect tipping fees for the disposal of waste as well as impose penalties or additional fees for contravention of the bylaw. ▲

TINY HOUSES and the RDIFFG

In recent years, the concept of Tiny Houses has gained popularity as it offers housing that some deem to be more affordable, mobile and ecologically friendly than traditional housing. While there seems to be no set definition on the size of a tiny house, typically dwellings range from as small as 80 square

feet to about 400 square feet.

While the Regional District is in no way trying to discourage people from building



smaller footprint homes, it is imperative that local zoning and Building Code requirements are met. Zoning requires all dwellings to be serviced by a domestic sewage treatment and disposal system that complies with the Public Health Act and Sewerage System Regulations and often has a minimum floor space on the first floor requirement that is larger than most tiny homes.

Another challenge with Tiny Houses is that most are constructed offsite, on wheels or on steel rails and there can be no confirmation that the structure is built to BC Building Code. Additionally, the structure itself must be on a frost-protected foundation if the home is to be occupied.

Anyone who is considering the Tiny House lifestyle should contact our office first to understand permitting requirements and zoning regulations. ▲



Canoe Valley Recreation Centre UPGRADES

The Canoe Valley Recreation Centre received major upgrades in 2016 including new universal access doors, water heating replacement for ice conditioning and ventilation in the exercise room. The total cost of the improvements was \$123,950, with \$85,516 in various grants helping to pay for the project. The facility is now fully operational and open to the public. Hours of operation and more information is available at: www.rdffg.bc.ca/services/community/community-facilities/recreation-centres/canoe-valley-rec-centre

The Regional District thanks Northern Development Initiative Trust for their support through the Community Halls and Recreation Facilities Fund. A grant of \$25,972 went towards the heating system upgrade at the Canoe Valley Recreation Centre in Valemount. The works, completed in September 2016, replaced aged and deteriorated equipment leading to energy and maintenance savings.

“Northern Development is pleased to have supported the equipment and energy upgrades for the Canoe Valley Recreation Centre. Multi-purpose facilities like this not only help residents enjoy recreational activities, but they also allow the operation of events that attract visitors to the region enhancing our region’s tourism sector.”

- Evan Saugstad, board chair, Northern Development. ▲

NDIT’S GRANT WRITING SUPPORT Helping Community Projects to Flourish

Funding of \$8,000 was received again this year from NDIT’s Grant Writing Support Program for searching, preparing grant applications and assisting community groups through their application processes. The Bear Lake Recreation Association was successful with a grant application for a fencing project at the Bear Lake Community Hall property. Applications were also submitted to the Enabling Accessibility program for the Robson Valley Exploration and Learning Centre and to Canada’s 150 program for the Robson Valley Recreation Centre. ▲



EXPECTATIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Will be:

- Aware of the specific hazards around them.
- Willing to accept their strengths and vulnerabilities to respond and recover.
- Capable of taking self-protective action.
- Willing to offer or receive support.

THE COMMUNITY



Emergency Plan and Contacts

Emergencies: DIAL 911 Remain calm, describe the situation, stay on the phone. ▲

EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

Will be:

- Aware of the general hazards that are in or near their community.
- Willing to communicate with their community members and take action.
- Willing to offer or receive support.
- Capable of taking communal actions to provide for protection or transportation of vulnerable community members.

THIS EMERGENCY PLAN & CONTACTS

development project was initiated at a meeting of the Nadsilnich (West) Lake Community Association. They wanted to revive a form of community emergency planning that would be simple and effective for rural communities.

If you or your community would like to learn more, please contact the Regional District Emergency Services Coordinator at 250-960-4443.



COMING - Spring of 2017



Be notified about emergency events by signing up to the Emergency Alerting and Notification Program on the Regional District’s website.

This system will enable you to be connected and informed with critical information quickly during an emergency situation, such as a forest fire.

Follow us on Facebook to know when the Regional District will be launching the self-registration page. Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is committed to safeguarding our communities through the provision of emergency management and preparedness. ▲

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 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 2015 were \$36.3 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. ▲