



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 17, 2009**

### **April 16 Board Meeting Highlights**

#### **Tabor Mountain Recreation Society Looks for Board Support; Improvements for Robson Valley Recreation and Community Centres; Board Revisits Select Committee on Rural Schools**

##### **Tabor Mountain Recreation Society Looks for Board Support**

Members of the Tabor Mountain Recreation Society made a presentation to the Regional District Board regarding their activities and plans for the future. The group highlighted how Tabor Mountain is becoming a favourite spot for hikers, horse riders, skiers, snow mobile riders, and ATV riders. They discussed the site's potential for cultural and historical studies, First Nations heritage, education, tourism and as a living forest model. The group has formed a society to lobby for this area to be set aside and managed by the society for reasons other than industrial development and to manage recreational use and opportunities while minimizing environmental impacts. The Regional District directors agreed to provide a letter of support to the society to assist them in their activities as they continue to establish their goals and seek funding sources to support their work.

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##### **Improvements for Robson Valley Recreation and Community Centres**

The Board approved the awarding of two different contracts that would see safety and accessibility improvements to the facilities at the Robson Valley Recreation Centre and the Robson Valley Community Centre in McBride. The Board approved an inclined lift for wheelchairs for the Robson Valley Recreation Centre Fit Pit and a vertical lift for wheelchairs for the Robson Valley Community Centre. The value of these two lifts is just over \$40,000, with nearly all the funding coming from an Accessibility Grant.

The Board also approved the purchase of plexi-glass and safety netting at the Robson Valley Recreation Centre to improve the safety of that facility for spectators of hockey games and other events. The value of that contract is just under \$40,000.

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##### **Board Revisits Select Committee on Rural Schools**

The Board has agreed to revisit the idea of establishing a Select Committee on Rural Schools. The committee was originally established in 2005 to provide advice on the proposal to close rural schools in the electoral areas. A motion was passed to re-activate the committee when it was announced that Giscome Elementary School was being considered for closure. The Select Committee on Rural Schools would be comprised of Directors representing Electoral Areas A, E, F and H, and would meet with School District 57 officials to explore alternative arrangements for the operation, maintenance and improvement of the facilities for which they are responsible with the objective of achieving greater efficiencies and community sustainability.

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##### **Community & Recreation Grants**

The Board approved the following requests for Community and Recreation Grants:

- \$1500 to the Nukko Lake PAC for swimming lesson expenses
- \$2876 to the Beverly Community Association for insurance, swimming costs and park maintenance
- \$19,000 to the Cariboo-Ferndale Community Association for skating rink and tennis court costs
- \$9500 to the Shell-glen Volunteer Firefighters for hall expansion and improvements
- \$15,000 to the Willow River Volunteer Fire Department for operating costs
- \$2500 to the Bear Lake Recreation Association for hall insurance
- \$5000 to the Summit Lake Community Association for hall insurance
- \$650 to the McBride Farmers Institute for liability insurance
- \$800 to the Robson Valley Home Support for a Women's Opportunity Fair

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