



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2008

August 21 Board Meeting Highlights

Beverly Hall goes to referendum; Regional District partners with Initiatives Prince George; Flood protection funding application endorsed; Regional District concerned about spotty cell coverage; Steering Committee to review Valemount TV and Rebroadcasting Service

Beverly Hall goes to referendum

Residents in the Beverly area will be going to the polls this fall to determine whether or not a community hall for the area will be going forward. A Steering Committee was formed comprised of interested community representatives who worked with Regional District staff to determine the need and type of hall as well as to estimate capital and operating costs. An initial proposal was put forward earlier this year and residents were asked to comment through a survey process. Responses indicated there was general support for the concept, but there were a number of concerns about the cost and scope of the initial design. Based on that feedback, the design has been re-worked. A referendum will be held in November 2008 to ask residents in the Beverly area if they support funding the construction of a community hall through taxation.

Regional District partners with Initiatives Prince George

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has signed a one year service agreement with Initiatives Prince George (IPG) for the provision of regional economic development services. The contract calls for IPG to carry out a number of activities that have broad benefits to our region as a whole. As part of the contract, IPG will:

- Promote the region as the integrated, sustainable, manufacturing, transportation, supply service centre and the inland gateway to Asia and North America.
- Market and promote the industrial land base of the Regional District in activities engaged in by IPG. This will include trade shows, sales trips and meetings, trade missions, special events, and presentations. IPG will also service leads for industrial land that are generated in cooperation with Regional District staff.
- Act as the region's first point of contact for economic development inquiries and provide relevant statistical data, annual economic profiles and industry expertise as required.
- Play a significant role in developing a network of economic development officers in the Fraser Fort George region.

Flood protection application endorsed

The Board of Directors of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has endorsed three applications for the 2008 Flood Protection Program. In the Shelley area, the Regional District has applied for rip rap bank protection on the left bank of the Fraser River. Close to 30 residences will benefit from the project. In Miworth, the Regional District has two applications for rip rap along the Nechako on the Island Park and Bergman Road areas. 14 residences will benefit from this project. The total amount requested for all three applications is nearly \$4.5 million

Regional District concerned about spotty cell coverage

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will be sending a letter to Telus to voice concerns about inconsistent cellular phone service throughout the region. Traveling Highway 16 between the Robson Valley and Purden Lake, there a number of dead spots. The same concern was expressed about cellular phone service and reception traveling on Highway 97 north to Mackenzie. Additionally, residents have expressed concern about Telus' decision to discontinue analog service.

Steering Committee to review Valemount TV and Rebroadcasting Service

Following the extension of the deadline for submission of completed Valemount TV and Radio Rebroadcasting Service Review Surveys, the Board received an updated summary of the survey results. The Regional District will continue with its review of the rebroadcasting service, including analysis of the survey results and appointing a local steering committee to guide the process.

Community Grants in Aid

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

- Lakes Cemetery Society for site cleaning and insurance costs
- Ness Lake Firefighters Society for the concrete floor in the firehall addition
- Reid Lake Community Association for sign installation, sheds, and hall maintenance
- Summit Lake Community Association for volunteer appreciation expenses, and
- McBride Secondary School for a Girl's Conference
- 2009 Northern BC Winter Games, Mackenzie – sponsorship
- West of the Rockies Pro Rodeo Championships
- Children First Aboriginal Literacy Program

For further information, please contact
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