



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2008

July 17 Board Meeting Highlights

Board Approves Public Consultation of Solid Waste Plan; Beijing Recap; TV Rebroadcasting Survey Extended; Beaverly Hall to be Considered for Referendum

Board Approves Public Consultation of Solid Waste Plan

The Regional District of Fraser Fort George is reviewing the plan that outlines how garbage, recycling and other waste management will be handled in the region for the next five to ten years. This spring, the Regional District surveyed the community to get an idea of what was important in regards to handling solid waste for the future. The input from that survey and along with other stakeholder consultation helped form a first draft of a new Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

The emphasis of the draft plan is to increase recycling levels and yard waste composting, encourage waste reduction and reuse, and promote existing opportunities to properly dispose of household hazardous wastes such as paint, used motor oil and old medication. Another significant focus of this plan is to increase education of and awareness around waste reduction, reuse and recycling opportunities. The new draft plan includes many opportunities to increase the amount we recycle and compost and to minimize the environmental impacts of our waste.

The Board approved moving forward with the consultation process. Over the next three weeks, the public will be invited to give their feedback via an online web survey on the Regional District website, public information sessions and presentations to municipal councils.

Beijing Recap

Last month, Regional District Chairman Art Kaehn and Administrator Jim Martin participated as part of a 30 member Northern BC trade mission to China. Team Northern BC was comprised of government, education, transportation, First Nations and other business representatives from throughout Northern BC. The highlight event was participating in the Pathway to Gold event at the BC Canada Pavilion. A 100 Chinese business officials and investors were in attendance which started with a series of presentations from delegates highlighting the region's growth and future impact as a transportation and logistics corridor linking Asia to eastern Canada and the American Midwest.

At the conclusion of the presentations there was a small trade show type exhibit area for each of the trade mission delegates to promote their organizations and investment and trade opportunities. The Regional District had information available regarding the recently updated Industrial Land Use Profile and the Golden Raven Experience promoting our region as a cultural tourism destination.

TV Rebroadcasting Survey Extended

Property owners in the Valemount area have been given a bit more time to complete surveys regarding the Valemount RV Rebroadcasting Service. Last month, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George mailed out surveys to close to 1000 property owners within the Valemount TV Rebroadcasting service area. The survey, which was developed in cooperation between the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, the Village of Valemount and Valemount Entertainment Society, consists of 25 questions which relate to how services could be improved or modified. There are also questions about whether the service should be continued.

The original deadline has been extended from July 10 to Friday, August 1 to ensure that as many eligible property owners as possible have the chance to provide their feedback.

Copies of the survey are available at the Village of Valemount office for those property owners which may not have received their survey in the mail. Completed copies of the survey can be dropped off at the Village of Valemount office at 735 Cranberry Lake Road, or mailed to Regional District office.

Beverly Hall to be Considered for Referendum

Residents in the Beverly area participated in an informal survey over the spring to garner the amount of interest in building a community hall for the Beverly Area. The Board received a report on the survey results and has approved preparation of the necessary bylaws to consider proceeding to referendum for the establishment of a proposed Beverly Community Hall Service Area. It is expected the Board will review draft bylaws at the August meeting.

Community Grants

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

- Lakes Community Horse Club for storage container, gates and sign
- Ness Lake Recreation Commission for hall painting, recreational programs, and mailing expenses
- Pilot Mountain Recreation Commission for landscaping, parking area improvements, training, and insurance
- Sinclair Mills Education and Recreation Club for insurance and community programs
- Bear Lake Volunteer Fire Department Association for upgrades to the water system and kitchen unit
- Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society for a lawn mower and shed.

For further information, please contact
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