



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2008

November 20 Board Meeting Highlights

Outgoing Directors Recognized; Election Results Declared; Update on Regional Cultural Plan

Outgoing Directors Recognized

November marked the final meeting for five Regional District Directors. Directors Kinsley (City of Prince George), Zurowski (City of Prince George), Townsend (Village of Valemount), Gendron (Area A) and Clark (Area C) were thanked for their years of service to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. Director Harvey Clark received a standing ovation and was commended for his 25 years of service to local government.

Regional District Chairman Art Kaehn thanked all the outgoing directors for their commitment and dedication over the years. "The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is a much better government as a result of your contributions," Kaehn concluded.

Election Results Declared

On November 15, General Local Elections were held within the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. The Board received reports from the Chief Election officer to declare the following results:

Elected by Acclamation

- Art Kaehn (Area E)
- Kevin Dunphy (Area F)
- Terry Burgess (Area G)
- Ken Starchuk (Area H)

Elected by Voting and Master Ballot Account

- Warren Wilson (Area A)
- Lara Beckett (Area C)
- Bob Headrick (Area D)

Declaration of Voting Results – Proposed Beverly Community Hall

- Defeated (171 votes yes, 245 votes no)

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is filing an application for a judicial recount for the results in the Bear Lake Community Commission elections. Four positions were up for election, and results are currently showing a two-way tie for the fourth and final position at 41 votes for two candidates. Results from the judicial recount are expected by late next week.

Update on Regional Cultural Plan

Peter Thompson from the Two Rivers Art Gallery provided an update to the Board on the impact of the Regional Cultural Plan on cultural facilities within the region. The five year plan was adopted by the Regional District in February 2006, and provided strategies to grow the effectiveness and economic impact of cultural facilities within the region. Thompson cited that site visits have increased from 112,312 in 2005 to 124,856 in 2007. At the Huble Homestead alone, they have doubled in-class education presentation audience and have noted general store sales steadily increasing and increasing visitation.

Thompson says programs like the Golden Raven Cultural Marketing Program have helped give exposure to cultural facilities within the region, and has been particularly useful for smaller facilities that don't have the budget for extensive marketing campaigns. The Regional District recently received an Award of Merit from Heritage BC for the Regional Cultural Plan. Additionally representatives from the Regional District will make a presentation on the Cultural Plan to the BC Museums Association Conference in Victoria tomorrow.

Community Grants in Aid

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

- Shell-Glen Volunteer Fire Dept Association for additions to the driveway
- Shell-Glen Improvement Society for insurance, hall maintenance and event costs
- Willow River Horse Club for arena gates
- Willow River Recreation Association for property improvements
- Nukko Lake Recreation Commission for newsletter expenses
- Ness Lake Recreation Commission for septic field repairs
- Pilot Mountain Recreation Commission for swimming program
- Bear Lake Improvement Society for picnic tables
- Summit Lake Community Association for hall improvements
- Beverly Volunteer Firefighters Association for carbon fibre air bottles
- Beverly Community Association for skating rink project
- Miworth Community Association for playground removal and replacement
- Nadslinich Lake Community Association for Food Safe training
- Nadslinich Lake Community Association for storage area for fitness equipment
- Prince George Community Foundation for Establishment of Endowment Fund

For further information, please contact
Reneé McCloskey
Manager of External Relations
Regional District of Fraser Fort George
(250)960-4453