



October 21, 2009

Pondering the Parks – Updating the Regional Parks Plan

The Regional District of Fraser Fort-George is launching a review of its Regional Parks Plan – the plan that provides a framework for the operation and management of Regional Parks, as well as guidance for development and land acquisition of future parks. The current plan was developed in 1986.

“Our current plan is well over 20 years old, and since then, the needs of our population have changed and trends in park use have evolved. All of which affect future park projects,” says Petra Wildauer, General Manager of Environmental Services with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

The review is a four staged process. Phase one involved a review of existing parks and their usage, and has been completed already. Phase two is the public consultation component to ensure the public has the opportunity to express their thoughts pertaining to Regional Parks. Phase three takes the feedback from the consultation and forms draft recommendations. Those recommendations are vetted out to the public once more for comment and feedback. The final phase incorporates all the feedback into a plan to be presented to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors next summer for their review and approval.

“Public consultation is a significant part of our review process and we have plenty of opportunities for residents in the region to share with us their views on the Regional Parks,” says Wildauer. A survey has been posted on the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George website at www.rdffg.bc.ca. A series of open houses have been planned for November for Prince George, Mackenzie, McBride and Valemount. Hard copies of the survey are also available at Libraries and municipal offices in the region.

The survey is available online until November 21.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George operates the following parks:

- **Berman Lake** - 45km west of Prince George
- **Cedarside** - 3 km south of Valemount on Little Cranberry Lake
- **George Hicks** - located at Valemount, BC along Swift Creek
- **Giscome Portage (Huble Homestead Historic Site)** - 40 km north of Prince George
- **Harold Mann** - located 50 km northeast of Prince George via Highway 16 East and Upper Fraser Road
- **John Dahl** – located in the District of Mackenzie
- **Koeneman** – located in McBride
- **Kristian Winther** - on the south shore of the Salmon River, 30 km north of Prince George, via the Hart Highway 97
- **McMillan Creek** - accessed via the Hart Highway 97 North off Hoferkamp Road
- **Ness Lake** - 35 km northwest of Prince George via Highway 97 and Chief Lake Road
- **Wilkins** - 15 km west of Prince George via Otway Road.

The Regional Parks provides recreational, educational, heritage and conservation opportunities for all to enjoy. Parks are designed for day use only and offer a variety of amenities which can include picnic areas, fire pits, beaches, restroom facilities, interpretive services, heritage buildings, trail systems and boat launches.

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