



THE REGIONAL REPORT

ISSUE 13 • SUMMER 2015

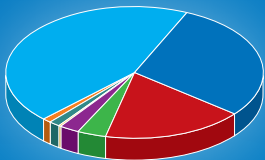
IN THIS EDITION, WE WILL RECAP SOME OF THE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON WITHIN THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE. ▲

WELCOME TO THE REGIONAL REPORT,

a regular newsletter designed to keep residents aware of programs, initiatives and events underway in the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. If you have comments, feedback or ideas for articles to be featured in future editions of Regional Report, please email us at district@rdffg.bc.ca, call 1-800-667-1959 or write to us at: Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, 155 George St., Prince George, B.C., V2L 1P8 ▲

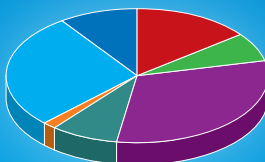
2014 FINANCIAL Summary

Revenue Funds By Type



- \$17.8m Requisitions and Parcel Taxes
- \$11.5m Municipal Debt Recovery
- \$7m Sale of Services, Utilities and Rentals
- \$1.4m Government Transfers - Operating
- \$1m Grants-in-Lieu
- \$499k Return on Investment
- \$393k Other Revenue
- \$180k Permit Fees
- \$2k Gain on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets

Expenditure By Service



- \$12.8 Environmental Health Services
- \$11.5 Fiscal Services
- \$6m General Government Services
- \$3.9m Recreation, Cultural, and Other Services
- \$3.5m Public Health and Welfare Services
- \$2.8m Protective services
- \$615k Environmental Development Services
- \$66k Transportation Services

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UPDATE – Home Suite Home?

The Regional District's Development Services department is undertaking a public consultation process to receive input from residents regarding a possible zoning bylaw amendment. The proposal looks to allow secondary suites on parcels of land 0.8 ha (2 ac) or larger, not including Residential/Seasonal and Seasonal Recreation properties. Development services is also looking for feedback on whether or not secondary suites should be allowed on lakeshore properties.

A secondary suite is a residence with its own living area, bathroom, and kitchen that is attached to or part of a primary residence. A trend within urban and rural areas is to permit secondary suites to provide benefits such as an opportunity for rental income, accomodating family members, modest rural population increase, and utilization of existing infrastructure, to name a few.

Development Services will be hosting several open houses in September throughout the Regional District to allow the public a chance to review and provide feedback for the possible changes. An online survey will also be available. Check the RDFFG website for updates on dates and times of the open houses and to complete the survey. Help us spread the word! ▲

BEAR LAKE water system upgrades

The Board has approved upgrades to the Bear Lake Community Water System. The system was constructed between 1977 and 1979 to provide drinking water to residential, commercial and industrial operations in the Bear Lake community. Water is supplied by a ground water well located south of the settlement area. The distribution system is comprised of a water reservoir and sub-surface distribution system.

improvements, including dial-out of system alarms, located at the water supply pump station and existing surge tank replacement with a new bladder style tank at the water supply pump station.

The Regional District is responsible to ensure the drinking water is supplied in compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act. The upgrades include watermain installation to upgrade system looping and improve water delivery under fire flow conditions, pressure sustaining valve station to prevent negative pressure in the transmission main under fire flow conditions, disinfection system and eye-wash station in the water supply pumping station, system control and communication

The upgrades will improve per capita water demands and service pressure at all points of the system under all conditions of flow. In addition, the upgrades will extend the useful life of the current water storage and distribution system. The introduction of the remote monitoring technology allows for more efficient allocation of staffing resources. With the installation of optional drinking water disinfection the protection of public health will be improved. All proposed upgrades will improve system reliability and provide more efficient use of the water well.

The project cost is estimated at \$454,000, with the work to be completed in the fall. ▲

INVASIVE Species

There is an invasion happening! It disguises itself well and WE are the primary reason for its success throughout the region.

Who are the invaders?

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ...

Invasive species are plants, animals or other organisms that are not native to BC. They threaten the province's biodiversity by overwhelming native species, damaging habitat, disrupting food sources and introducing parasites and disease. Invasive species also affect the economy by reducing grazing land and crop yields as well as limiting access to recreational areas.

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC), a non-profit organization, has a mandate to provide coordinated support, education, inventory tools, assessments and treatments for various aspects of invasive plant management. The NWIPC's area covers northwest BC – south to Hixon, north to the Yukon border and west to Haida Gwaii.

Through a grant provided by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG), the NWIPC is able to be responsive to the needs of private landowners, associations/organizations and communities in the region. There are significant costs to government and private landowners to repair damage done by invasive species.

Most invasive species are unintentionally introduced by human activities. That's why each of us has a part to play in preventing and controlling their spread. Understanding the widespread impacts of invasive species is one of the first steps to making a difference in stopping their spread.

The NWIPC is inviting community councils, organizations, recreation groups, agricultural societies, etc. to contact the organization to schedule an information session. The organization will also set up an information booth at events or farmers' markets. For more information:

www.nwipc.org
info@nwipc.org
250.649.0151
or toll free at **1-866-44WEEDS (93337)**

Got weeds? Download the free Report-a-Weed app www.reportaweedbc.ca/ for iPhone or Android. ▲

ABOUT US

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is home to over 93,000 residents and covers 52,000 square kilometers in central British Columbia – an area almost as large as the province of Nova Scotia. It extends from the Pine Pass in the north to Hixon in the south, and from Bednesti Lake west of Prince

Preparing for EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS

The Regional District's emergency services coordinator encourages the public to make plans to be self-sufficient during ordered evacuations. Emergency Management BC's Evacuee Living Assistance Policy states that evacuees who have more than two hours' notice of evacuation may receive:

- accommodation in commercial accommodation, private lodging or group lodging authorized by Emergency Social Services;
- meals in group lodging or commercial facility; and
- transportation as required to meet immediate requirements.

Evacuees with greater than two hours' notice are not eligible for clothing nor incidentals so it is important that they plan ahead, contact their homeowner

or tenant insurance provider to ensure they have adequate coverage, have essential items packed and find alternate accommodations for the duration of the evacuation.

For more information visit: www.ess.bc.ca ▲



Example of group lodging

REGIONAL Parks



Regional parks provide recreational, educational, heritage and conservation opportunities for everyone to enjoy. They 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. Parks may be booked for special events such as weddings, family reunions and company picnic gatherings. Contact the Regional District at 250 960-4400 or visit: <http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/> for more information.

Ness Lake Regional Park

Parks staff have continued work at Ness Lake Park to reduce erosion due to the sandy soil. Last year a sandbox was installed for kids, and this year a new path was put in place.

All regional parks will now have recycling bins for bottles and cans with deposit, after a successful pilot projects which began at George Hicks and Wilkins Regional Parks. (pic of blue bin)

George Hicks Regional Park in Valemount has new interpretive signs, an information kiosk and other improvements. The work was funded by grants secured by Bruce Wilkinson, President of the Swift Creek Watershed Society. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George supplied labour and equipment for the project. The main goals of the project were to reduce erosion of the creek bank and to help educate the public on the importance of protecting the salmon-bearing creek. The park is named after George Hicks, a long time resident of Valemount, who served on the regional district board from 1968 to 1969. ▲



George to the Alberta border. As a local government, the Regional District is accountable to the residents of the region. Services provided include fire protection, 9-1-1 emergency services, solid waste management, community sewer and water systems, land use planning, cultural and recreational services and parks. Total operating expenditures in 2014 were \$32.2 million.

The governing board of the Regional District has fourteen directors: four appointed by the City of Prince George from its council, one appointed by each of the councils of the District of Mackenzie, Village of McBride and Village of Valemount, and seven directors elected from within each of the seven electoral areas covering the unincorporated portions of the Regional District. ▲