

THE REGIONAL REPORT

ISSUE 16 • MAY 2016

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 ▲

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

Regional District encourages insurance checkup as part of EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Regional District suggests you get to know your coverage so you're prepared for emergencies. Homeowners are encouraged to take a look at their policies now, so that when an emergency or disaster strikes they are familiar with the provisions in their coverage.

WHEN LOOKING AT YOUR INSURANCE DOCUMENTS IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

- ▲ What does my policy cover?
- ▲ Is there a specific kind of insurance for the type of home I have (house, condo, apartment, farm)
- ▲ Are there risks I can't buy coverage for (i.e. fire, flood)
- ▲ Is optional coverage available for risks not normally covered?
- ▲ How do I make a claim?
- ▲ Should I make a claim for every loss?

When disaster such as fire or flood strike, your insurance coverage can be a key piece of your recovery plan and provide piece of mind knowing you and your family are protected.

For more tips about emergency preparedness, including how to prepare your own emergency plan and kit, visit the Regional District website at www.rdffg.bc.ca

New building for McBride LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

In an Assent Vote held on April 30, voters in McBride and Area voted in favor of establishing a new service to fund the purchase of a building to be used for the McBride and District Public Library and the Valley Museum and Archives.

The McBride and District Public Library and the Valley Museum and Archives have advocated for bigger premises for several years. A feasibility study completed last year assessed that for reasons of limited space and deteriorating building conditions, the library and museum need a different space if they are expected to continue to serve McBride and area.

The projected cost for the purchase of the building and related expenses (renovations and

repairs, engineering report and contingencies) is \$668,230. The Library and Museum have fundraised and received grants totaling \$47,700 which brings the total to be borrowed down to \$620,530. With an annual operating budget of \$74,550, the taxation impact on residents within the service area will be \$27.47 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. For business properties, the impact per year will be \$67.30 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The official results show that there were 335 votes in support, and 286 opposed. ▲

In MEMORIAM

Marilyn Wheeler

Former Regional District Director for Area 'H' Robson Valley Canoe Marilyn Wheeler passed away recently. She served on the Regional District Board from 1981 to 1993. In addition to raising sheep on her family farm Marilyn was the author of *The Robson Valley Story: A Century of Dreams* and the long-time Chair of the Valley Museum and Archives. She will be missed by all her museum colleagues and friends. Marilyn was an amazing woman with strength and character and a passion for local history. ▲



Golden Raven DISCOVERY PASS



Residents in the Regional District can now borrow a Golden Raven Discovery Pass from their local library which offers free admission to the 10 Golden Raven Cultural Attractions. The passes provide free general admission for up to four people, for a two-week period, and can be reserved. A limited number of the passes are available at public libraries in Mackenzie, Prince George, McBride and Valemount.

For more information visit your local library or www.goldenraven.ca ▲



Ken and Val Merrit of the Hixon Bluegrass & Country Jamboree, with Meredith Burmaster (centre), Community Services Leader with the Regional District.

2016 Fraser-Fort George ENDOWMENT FUND AWARD RECEPTION

Grants totaling \$30,434 from the Fraser-Fort George Endowment Funds were given out April 7 to the following groups:

- ▲ Nukko Lake Recreation Commission
- ▲ Beverly 4-H Club
- ▲ Bednesti/Berman Community Association
- ▲ Nadsilnich Lake Community Association
- ▲ Hixon 4-H Club
- ▲ Hixon Bluegrass & Country Jamboree
- ▲ Cariboo-Ferndale Community Association
- ▲ Eaglet Lake Farmers' Institute
- ▲ Longworth Recreation Commission
- ▲ Shell-Glen Improvement Society
- ▲ Sinclair Mill Education & Recreational Club
- ▲ Bear Lake Recreation Association
- ▲ Huble Homestead/Giscome Portage Heritage Society

The Fraser-Fort George Endowment Funds consist of five endowment funds that are accepting donations of charitable gifts that will be invested in these permanent trust funds. The funds include:

- ▲ Salmon River-Lakes Endowment Fund
- ▲ Chilako River-Nechako Endowment Fund
- ▲ Hixon-Woodpecker Endowment Fund
- ▲ Willow River-Upper Fraser Endowment Fund
- ▲ Crooked River-Parsnip Endowment Fund

Applications for the next round of funding will be available in November. Fraser-Fort George Endowment Fund information is available on the Regional District website www.rdffg.bc.ca

For information on how to donate to the FraserFort George Endowment Fund, visit the Prince George Community Foundation website at www.pgcf.ca

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

NESST Weekend of Training

The annual Northern Emergency Social Services Training (NESST) weekend was held April 15th to 17th in Prince George.

Volunteers attended from Prince George, Dome Creek, Smithers, Fort St. James, Terrace, Kitimat, Taylor, Telkwa. The group learned about reception centres, registration and referrals, and documentation in preparing for emergency events such as wildfires and flooding that lead to evacuations. An exercise was held on Sunday morning to put into practice lessons learned which was followed by a de-brief to document areas of improvement and what worked well. This weekend also brought an opportunity to connect volunteers of neighbouring communities who may need to call on each other in times of disaster. ▲

John Dahl Regional Park, Mackenzie



Regional Parks OPEN FOR THE SEASON

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George operates eleven Regional Parks.

- ▲ Berman Lake
- ▲ Cedarside
- ▲ George Hicks
- ▲ Giscome Portage (Huble Homestead Historic Site)
- ▲ Harold Mann
- ▲ John Dahl
- ▲ Koeneman
- ▲ Kristian Winther
- ▲ McMillan Creek
- ▲ Ness Lake
- ▲ Wilkins

The 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. Parks may be booked for special events such as weddings, family reunions and company picnic gatherings.

Book online at: www.rdffg.bc.ca/Services/Environment/Regional_parks/Application.html or call 250-960-4400 for more information. ▲



2016 Community Organization WORKSHOP

Community groups gathered on April 30th for the annual Community Organization Workshop at the Regional District office for presentations on Emergency Preparedness and changes to the Societies Act. The Heart & Stroke Foundation together with BC Emergency Services personnel gave a presentation on the PAD (Public Access to Defibrillation) program and how to apply to have Automated External Defibrillators installed in local community buildings. Attendees also enjoyed a session from Prince George Public Library staff on the library services available to rural communities. The annual workshop is an opportunity for community organizations within the Regional District to network and to gain education and information to support their activities. ▲



Mackenzie's 50th ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to the District of Mackenzie, which is celebrating its 50th birthday! The festivities run from May 19 to 22.

For more information on events and accommodations go to CelebrateMack50 on Facebook. ▲

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 2015 were \$36.3 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. ▲