

# THE REGIONAL REPORT

ISSUE 17 • SUMMER 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. ▲**

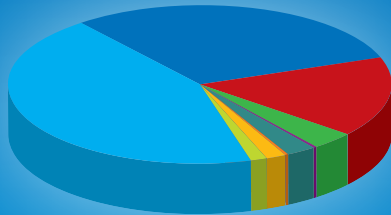
## WELCOME TO THE REGIONAL REPORT,

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](mailto: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 ▲

## 2015 Year End INCOME STATEMENT

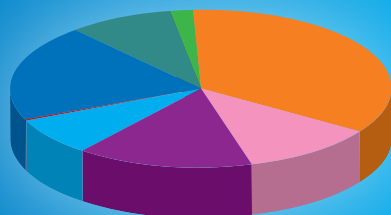
For the year ended Dec. 31, 2015

### Revenue



- \$17.7m Requisitions and Parcel Taxes
- \$12.2m Municipal Debt Recovery
- \$6.5m Sale of Services, Utilities and Rentals
- \$1.4m Government Transfers - Operating
- \$107k Government Transfers - Capital
- \$1.0m Grants-in-Lieu
- \$180k Permit Fees
- \$614k Return on Investments
- \$9k Gain on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets
- \$535k Other Revenue

### Expenses



- \$5.3m General Government Services
- \$2.7m Protective Services
- \$62k Transportation Services
- \$6.9m Environmental Health Services
- \$3.1m Public Health and Welfare Services
- \$656k Environmental Development Services
- \$12.2m Fiscal Services
- \$3.9m Recreation and Cultural Services



## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UPDATE

### – Home Suite Home

In late 2015, the Development Services department held public consultation meetings to get feedback into whether secondary suites should be permitted on more lots within the Regional District.

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

Eight open houses were conducted throughout electoral areas 'A', 'C', 'D', 'F', 'G' and 'H' as well as at the Regional District Office and an online survey was open to the public from September 14, 2015 to October 16, 2015. A public hearing was then held in April, 2016. Following positive

feedback from the public, an amendment to Zoning Bylaw No. 2892 was adopted in June 2016. Secondary suites are now permitted within a residence on many lots larger than 0.8 hectares (2 acres) in size. Secondary suites are not permitted on parcels zoned for seasonal recreation purposes, within 200 metres of a lake, and may not be used for tourist accommodation.

All secondary suites will be subject to a building permit through the Regional District. The building permit process includes a stipulation that an adequate sewage disposal system is in place for any additional dwelling units. The suite must also meet all requirements of the BC Building code, including size limitations.

If you would like more information regarding changes to Secondary Suites regulations, please contact Development Services. ▲

## ACCESS NORTH

Spinal Cord Injury BC's Access North Initiative has Teams that are assessing and promoting accessibility features in over 150 outdoor spaces, trails and parks across Northern BC. Thanks to \$5,000 in funding from the Fraser Fort George Endowment Funds the organization has leveraged that amount to over \$300,000 for resource information of parks, rest stops, and other facilities in northern British Columbia. Videos and virtual tours will be produced to illustrate accessible amenities available to allow people to plan their trips. Is there a level entry to the washroom? Are there grab bars and are they installed correctly? Can everyone use our trail systems? These are the kinds of items that are examined by their participants using universal design principles and a rating



system based of Canadian standards. The results will be shared by Spinal Cord Injury BC later this year on their website and through marketing materials and shared worldwide through many of their supporters. ▲





## Regional Parks UPDATE

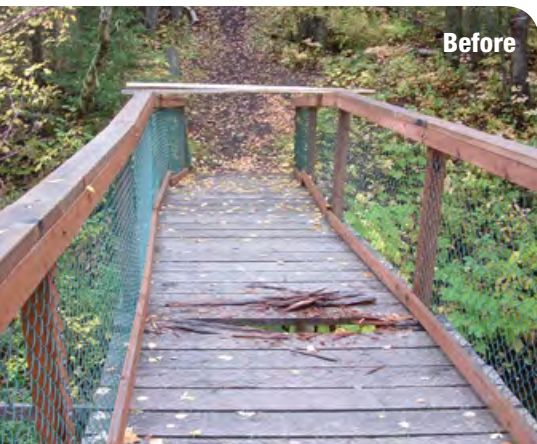
Regional District Parks staff have worked with The Back Country Horsemen Association of B.C., Robson Valley Chapter on improvements for equestrian users at Koeneman Regional Park. The park is located in McBride and occupies 4.5 hectares on the east side of the Fraser River.

Horse trailers can be parked at the rear area of Koeneman Park and horse tie-up posts have been added as well. A new sign showing the trail network in the McBride Peak area will be in place later this summer. ▲

## Berman Lake Regional Park TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The Regional District has replaced the bridge decking on three bridges on trails in Berman Lake Regional Park.

Located 45km west of Prince George via Highway 16 and Norman Lake Road, the 38 hectare park has 3 kilometres of trails. Many of the trails follow the shoreline and naturally formed eskers, which allow users to view a variety of wildlife and their habitat. ▲



## Clearly Displayed House Numbers IMPORTANT

More than a number, it's a lifeline — when you need it most.

Our incident begins with you alone at home, you just reached into your pocket, grabbed your cell phone and dialed 9-1-1.

Dispatcher: '9-1-1, do you require Police, Fire or Ambulance?'

You: 'I fell on a kitchen knife, I'm on the floor bleeding and things are starting to get fuzzy — I'm at 123456 Lakeside Road — please send help!'

You lose consciousness hoping that someone is coming. This story does not end well.

Now the rest of the story; 9-1-1 Operators and First Responders tried their best to locate the civic address identification number (a.k.a. house number) on the driveway leading off Lakeside Road but were unable to find the house or sign in the dark. The Regional District's Development Services staff issue civic addresses for identification of homes and businesses. A house number is issued based on the location of a home on a property. If you do not have a number, or would like us to confirm your number, please contact us. Development Services contacts Canada Post, TELUS, BC Hydro, FortisBC, and BC Assessment with this number and road name so that they are aware of this new information.

Protective Services First-Responders need accurate, clearly displayed civic address signs for efficient 9-1-1 emergency response. Remember, it may be your neighbors well displayed civic address sign that helps Police, Fire and Ambulance services find you faster — when you need help most.

Emergency Preparedness alerting, notification and evacuations teams use your civic address to locate and advise you and your family of imminent public safety threats. Door-to-door evacuation notifications are critical to ensuring you are contacted and accounted for when conditions are unsafe for you.



- Consistent civic address signs displayed along the roadway at the primary driveway.
- Numbers recommended to be 8 to 13 cm (3 to 5 inches) high.
- Dark numbers on a light background.
- Reflective sign materials are highly effective both during the day and at night.
- Civic address signs must be free of vegetation or snow and visible from the road.

**More Information is available at [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca) (click on Emergency Preparedness logo) on how you can benefit from a good civic address sign. ▲**

## 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 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. ▲