



THE REGIONAL REPORT

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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 ▲



Regional District Supports 2015 Canada WINTER GAMES

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is an Official Funding Party of the 2015 Canada Winter Games. "The Games will bring tremendous benefits to our entire region and we are very excited to be an Official Funding Partner," said Regional District Chair Art Kaehn. The Regional District has committed \$1.5 million to help fund the two week national multi-sport event. The funding will be used to support sustainability initiatives such as solid waste and carbon emission tracking and reductions, the Northern BC regional engagement program and the post-Games legacy program.

"The 2015 Canada Winter Games initiatives and legacies will enhance the Regional District's primary objective to contribute to vibrant, desirable and sustainable communities," said Regional District Vice Chair Dave Wilbur.

"We are extremely grateful for this partnership and contribution from the Regional District of Fraser Fort George," said Stuart Ballantyne, CEO of the 2015 Canada Winter Games. "The 2015 Canada Winter Games is an event that brings the nation together and extends well beyond the boundaries of the City of Prince George, and this partnership with the Regional District is a great example of how northern British Columbia is taking part." ▲

Transfer of 9-1-1 CALL ANSWER SERVICE Successful

9-1-1 calls from the Regional Districts of Bulkley-Nechako, Cariboo, Kitimat-Stikine and Fraser-Fort George are now answered from the E-Comm centre in Vancouver. There are no changes to how or where calls are dispatched to. 9-1-1 Standing Committee Chair Kevin Dunphy thanked everyone involved in the smooth transfer of the 9-1-1 call answer service. Director Dunphy reported that since Oct 7, there have been a total of 1631 9-1-1 calls into E-Comm from the four Regional Districts. 98 per cent of those calls were answered in five seconds or less.

After seven months of collaborative technical and operational planning, including the engineering, design and installation of new 9-1-1 infrastructure, the changeover was successfully completed on October 7. This followed more than 160 test calls across all regional districts as representatives of the Fraser-Fort George Regional District looked on.

"This is an important day for all residents of the regional districts of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG), Cariboo, Kitimat-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako, who are accustomed to high-quality 9-1-1 service," said Art Kaehn, RDFFG Board Chair, who was in the emergency communication centre for the official changeover.



"We chose to relocate our service to E-Comm because it is able to deliver increased staffing during sudden influxes of high 9-1-1 call-volume, provide a robust infrastructure with many layers of redundancy for our residents, and provide the necessary expertise to satisfy current and future technical 9-1-1 requirements—all at a significant cost savings," added Director Dunphy.

The approximately 71,000 emergency calls placed each year from the four regional districts will now be routed to E-Comm, where a team of trained 9-1-1 call-takers will quickly confirm which agency the caller requires and in which location. Calls will then be transferred to the same dispatchers in Prince George and Kamloops who currently dispatch police officers, firefighters and paramedics to emergency situations.

Part of the robust planning prior to transition also included more than 540 hours of training to familiarize E-Comm staff with the many geographical and other special attributes of the regional districts, even though dispatching will continue to be managed locally. The switch will be transparent and seamless for callers and anyone in need of emergency services should dial 9-1-1 as usual. ▲

Otway Nordic Ski Centre UPGRADES

The Otway Nordic Ski Centre near Prince George has been upgraded in preparation for hosting Cross Country Skiing, Para Nordic skiing, and Biathlon events for the 2015 Canada Winter Games. The project will leave a legacy of sports infrastructure that will promote the growth and development of competitive athletes and recreational users. Capital improvements include:

The new facilities will serve athletes from throughout BC, as well as Canadian and international tourists. Ongoing competitive events will be possible which will bring exposure and economic benefits to the area. It is hoped that in the future, these events may be international in scope. The project was made possible with funding from the Provincial Community Recreation Program. ▲

- A cross-country skiing event stadium.
- Modification of the trail system to Canada Games standards.
- A biathlon event stadium, constructed to Canada Games Standards.
- A penalty loop and glide wax test area.

SPOTLIGHT ON ELECTORAL AREA G, Crooked River-Parsnip



McLeod Lake

Electoral Area G occupies over 18,000 square kilometers stretching north of Prince George to the Pine Pass. Communities include Summit Lake, Bear Lake, McLeod Lake and Mackenzie. There are 317 residents in the rural areas who are represented by Director Terry Burgess. Region-wide services provided include solid waste management, 9-1-1 emergency response, fire services coordination, regional parks, land use planning, building inspection and heritage conservation. Other Regional District Services are provided in communities where residents have opted to pay for them, including street lighting, the Azu Water System, the Bear Lake Cemetery, Ambulance Station, Water System and Recreation Facilities. The Community Hall in Bear Lake is owned and operated by the Regional District.

Regional Parks in Area G include John Dahl, located within the District of Mackenzie and Giscome Portage north of Prince George, site of the historic Huble Homestead. ▲

VOLUNTEER Fire Departments



Over the years there has been wonderful support for the volunteer fire departments from community residents in the various fire service areas. Support in the form of donated labor, donated supplies, donated machinery work and donated access to properties for projects such as water storage. The Regional District would like to acknowledge all of the community residents who go above and beyond to help build stronger fire protection services by offering support in such amazing ways. ▲

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. In 2013 total operating expenditures 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. ▲

Drop Depot Recycling BIN CHANGES

The Regional District has revised the locations of a number of the bins throughout the region in order to improve access to recycling collection for those residents not serviced by the curbside program offered by Multi-Material BC.

NEW SITES:

- Bear Lake Transfer Station (Marshalling Area)
- Chief Lake Transfer Station
- West Lake Transfer Station
- Buckhorn Transfer Station
- Hixon Transfer Station (Marshalling area)
- Willow River Transfer Station

EXISTING SITES THAT WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE DROP DEPOT BINS:

- Foothills Blvd. Regional Landfill
- Quinn Street Recycling Depot
- Vanway Transfer Station
- Cumming Rd. Transfer Station
- Shelley Transfer Station
- McBride Transfer Station
- Valemount Transfer Station
- Mackenzie

BINS WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING SITES:

- Bon Voyage Plaza
- Ferndale Fire Hall
- Hart Mall
- Nechako Bottle Depot
- Our Saviours Lutheran Church (Prince George)
- Lakewood Alliance Church (Prince George)

In addition to the revised locations, the Regional District is expanding the materials accepted at the drop depot recycling bins. Currently materials accepted in the Regional District bins are limited to newspaper, mixed paper, plastic milk jugs and tin cans. Effective October 1, the list of materials accepted has been expanded to include materials accepted in the curbside Blue Box program.

Residents are reminded to flatten all boxes and rinse all containers. Glass, styrofoam, and plastic bags are not accepted in the bins but can be taken to MMBC Drop off Depots located at 6665 Hart Highway (Hart Return-It Centre) or 2614 Petersen Road (Prince George Recycling and Return-It Centre). ▲



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TRANSFER STATION WINTER HOURS

The following facilities are now on winter hours until March 31. All the facilities are CLOSED on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

FOOTHILLS BOULEVARD REGIONAL LANDFILL

- Monday to Friday 7 am – 5 pm
- Saturday 7 am – 4 pm
- Sunday 10 am – 4
- Statutory Holiday Operating Hours: 9 am – 5 pm

VALEMOUNT REGIONAL TRANSFER STATION

- Monday, Thursday, Friday 9 am – 4 pm
- Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 4 pm
- Closed Tuesday and Wednesday
- Statutory Holiday Operating Hours: 10 am - 2 pm

MCBRIDE REGIONAL TRANSFER STATION

- Monday, Thursday, Friday 9 am – 4 pm
- Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 4 pm
- Closed Tuesday and Wednesday
- Statutory Holiday Operating Hours: 10 am - 2 pm

QUINN STREET RECYCLE DEPOT AND TRANSFER STATION

- Mon – Friday 7 am - 5 pm
- Sat 7 am - 4 pm
- Sun 10 am - 4 pm
- Statutory Holiday Operating Hours: 9 am – 5 pm

VANWAY RECYCLE DEPOT AND TRANSFER STATION

- Mon - Fri 7 am - 5 pm
- Sat 7 am - 4 pm
- Sun 10 am - 4 pm
- Statutory Holiday Operating Hours: 9 am – 5 pm

Fraser-Fort George ENDOWMENT FUNDS

In mid-November, the newly established Fraser-Fort George Endowment Funds will be accepting grant applications from the following:

- 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

Donations of charitable gifts will be invested in these permanent trust funds. It is the investment income generated from the permanent funds that allow an opportunity

for community groups or organizations in the electoral areas to apply for grant funds to support eligible projects.

Grant applications will be accepted for projects that will enhance the quality of life for residents living in Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, and G, within the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. Information on these endowment fund opportunities and grant applications will be available through the Regional District (www.rdffg.bc.ca) and Prince George Community Foundation (www.pgcf.ca) websites. The deadline for receipt of grant applications is January 31, 2015.