



From Council Chambers

BUSINESS OF THE CITY

The City of Grand Forks is governed by an elected council, a mayor and 6 councillors, who are elected for four year terms. Each member of council represents the city at large. Committee of the Whole meetings are scheduled once per month at 9:00am and Regular meetings are scheduled Monday evenings at 7:00pm. Both meetings are held in Council Chambers at City Hall. During July and August these meetings are scheduled once per month. Agendas and minutes of Council meetings are available on the City's website www.GrandForks.ca. The COTW and Regular meetings of Council are open to the public, who are encouraged to attend.

Correspondence

Members of Council receive correspondence from the public on various issues in the community, and regarding a wide variety of topics.

While Council members and the City engage the community in various ways and for a variety of reasons, Corporate Services / Communications also provide a communication link for members of the public to 'Connect with Council' through written correspondence on a daily basis. Depending on the nature of the written correspondence, Council is provided with the information in a timely manner, whether it is received in response to a legislated process, or a matter of individual or community interest.

If you are unable to attend a Council meeting, we encourage you to submit your thoughts in writing to info@grandforks.ca. All written and email correspondence addressed to Mayor and Council become public documents once received by the City.

Individual and/or Group Chats with the Mayor

The Mayor is committed to maintaining an open door policy, extending an invitation to the public to meet or call his office at City Hall during business hours. Pre-arranging an appointment with the front desk, is recommended in order to avoid any disappointment should the Mayor be away from the office. The Mayor is unable to make decisions on Council's behalf, and any requests would need to be presented to Council for consideration as per Council Procedure Bylaw No. 1946, 2013.

Strategic Planning

Council's Strategic Planning Session is scheduled to take place on April 15th, 2015. In preparation for the Strategic Planning session, Council would like to invite the public to an open house to discuss a vision for the future of Grand Forks. Please mark your calendars for March 23, 2015 from 3pm-7pm.

Roles of Mayor and Council

Mayor

The Mayor is the political leader of the Community.

- Under the terms of the Community Charter, the Mayor is designated as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- He chairs all Council meetings and is Council's spokesperson.
- He represents the community at formal meetings, community events, school functions, special occasions, etc.
- The Mayor may also represent the City on external Boards and Committees in the Grand Forks Region or in the Province.
- The City's economic development initiatives require the Mayor to play a key role in discussions and negotiations with prospective developers and business people.
- The Mayor is the primary link on a day-to-day basis through the Chief Administrative Officer - CAO with the City's administration.

Councillors

Councillors on a municipal Council are part of a working team.

- Their input is critical to all policy decisions.
- Councillors must have effective listening skills and the ability to decide what is best for the Community as a whole.
- Councillors bear the responsibility of keeping themselves informed of regional as well as local issues.
- Councillors support the Mayor in official capacities.
- Councillors must remain committed to addressing policy issues and developing the direction of the Community.
- Councillors do not have specific authority given to them under the Community Charter and cannot direct Staff and commit expenditures on behalf of the municipality.

The Powers of Council

All powers of a Council are exercised by bylaws and resolutions. The Community Charter states that these decisions can only be made at regular or specially convened council meeting where there is a quorum, or fixed number of Council members present.

The Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show

The City of Grand Forks is busy promoting the community for upcoming tourism season.

On March 7 & 8, the City and Chamber of Commerce participated in the Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show that was held at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The show was packed with adventurers of all ages and abilities.

The City's booth showcased outdoor recreation activities the area has to offer and promoted the special features of the community and Boundary Country. Staff spoke with over 750 people and handed out over 450 packages containing camping, fishing, biking, hiking, kayaking and other area information. Attendees of the show were also keen to enter a contest for two (separate) free weekends in the community. Each weekend includes one free week at The Pines camp, two golf passes for Christine Lake Golf Club, two meals at local restaurants and two nights at a local B&B.

According to staff who attended the



event, there were lots of questions about road and mountain biking, camping, fishing and driving loops.

Staff intend to review all the information they gathered at the show and provide a report to Council and the public. The City hopes this information will guide the community in determining how to better attract tourists and support them when they visit the community.



NOTICE OF WATER MAIN FLUSHING



The Water Utility Department would like to advise residents that the crew will be flushing water mains throughout the City starting March 16 through to the end of April. Regular annual flushing is an important component of the comprehensive water preventative maintenance program adhered to by the City of Grand Forks. Flushing water mains are done to remove sediment that gradually deposits in the pipes which will help maintain the water quality in our system.

The City of Grand Forks endeavors to emphasize water conservation and sustainability, therefore, the operations department will re-use the flushing water by capturing it and utilizing it as part of the boulevard maintenance program.

Flushing will take place between the hours of 5:00 am and 3:30 pm. As we flush your area, you may experience a temporary reduction in water pressure and/or discoloration of the water. These conditions are normal during flushing activities and are only temporary. Please check your drinking, cooking, and laundry water before using. To clear your water lines, simply turn on your cold water tap or outside hose bib and let it run until the water is clear (approx 15 min. or more).

If you have any questions or if you experience any persistent water quality problems as a result of this maintenance program, please let us know at www.grandforks.ca or call City Works at 250 442 4148.

The City of Grand Forks, would like to thank Wayne Kopan, Manager of Building and Bylaw Services, for his dedication to the organization. The level of service he brings to the position is truly appreciated.

Recently, there were opinions expressed publicly by Council that were never intended to offend Mr. Kopan. Council would like to see him continue to deliver professional services for the organization, as he has for the past 30 years.

We look forward to moving ahead with business in a professional and considerate manner.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

