



## Greetings from the Grand Forks Volunteer Firefighters

Many of you may have heard the “buzz” that something big is coming to town...

...In fact, on the weekend of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and May 1<sup>st</sup>, you can all look forward to our fine city being “a’buzz” with nearly 400 firefighters from volunteer departments from across BC. Our department, which includes members from all five firehalls, are hosting the Grand Forks Firefighter Spring Training Seminar – a training and education extravaganza!

While the focus is on firefighters, we hope the public will come out to the Arena location where we will have a Saturday morning kick-off demonstration that will “WOW” firefighters and citizens alike. Also, we hope you will come out to root for members and departments competing in two timed events; the “Fire Fit Challenge” and the “Rapid Intervention Team

Challenge”. Finally, the arena will be full of manufacturer booths and a few fire apparatus outside on display. We look forward to you coming out to have a look around and support our province’s volunteer firefighters and your local department.

This is an opportunity for businesses and residents alike to show our civic pride and spread the warmth of our friendly dispositions to the province, to showcase what we have to offer, and to let them know we’d like to see them again. Expect to see members of the Fire Department around town rallying volunteers and seeking the support of merchants. With your help, we hope to make Grand Forks an unforgettable experience.



For more information please visit:  
[www.gffr.ca](http://www.gffr.ca)  
or contact:  
[springtraining@gffr.ca](mailto:springtraining@gffr.ca)

## Paying Your Utility and Property Taxes

As of March 14, 2011 The City of Grand Forks will no longer accept Visa or Master Card as a form of payment for your Utility and Property Tax Account.

- Acceptable forms of payment include Cheque, Cash and Debit Card
- Payments can also be made at most financial institutions using the online services and by adding The City of Grand Forks (UTILITIES) or The City of Grand Forks (TAXES) to your payee list.
- The City also offers a pre-authorized payment plan (please call City Hall for information)
- The City will also accept post-dated cheques.
- The City’s website will no longer be available for Utility and Property Tax payments. You will still be able to view your account through our website and claim your HOG online.

## Notice of Water Main Flushing

The City of Grand Forks Water Department advises residents that water main flushing will commence beginning the third (3) week of March, 2011 and continue throughout the City until the second (2) week of May, 2011. Flushing water mains is carried out as part of an annual scheduled preventative maintenance program to remove sediment that gradually deposits in the pipes and to help maintain

water quality in the water distribution system. The benefits include maintaining and potentially improving the water quality level in the mains. This method will also reduce bacteriological growth, restore disinfection residuals, improve color, control



## Sewer Health!

Non-biodegradable materials flushed into the sewers are very problematic and becoming more of an issue as of late. Anything made of plastic, latex, cloth or cloth like materials should not be flushed down the toilet. These products and packaging do not break down after they enter the sewer, nor when they enter the Treatment Plant. Problems can occur in your own sewer service immediately or later on in the sanitary sewer system including the mains and pumps, affecting you AND your neighbors. Sewer blockages are unpleasant and costly to property owners, taxpayers and City resources.

Our Wastewater Treatment Plant operations and maintenance is greatly affected by the presence of non-biodegradable materials being received from the sewer, as it is a biological system that can’t break down plastic, latex or heavier fiber. These products must be removed and landfilled at a greater cost than if they were not put in the sewer in the first place.

Some examples of products to AVOID flushing down the toilet and into the sewer are:

Paper towels, feminine hygiene products and their applicators, q-tips, cocktail straws, make-up pads, condoms, any cloth materials, plastic bags, teeth whitening strips, hair (human and pet), small toys, etc.

Common sense rules, but the reality is that hundreds of pounds of these and other products/packaging are pulled out of the sewer and handled each year at avoidable cost and manpower. The simple choice of disposing into the wastebasket rather than the toilet can make a great difference in the effectiveness of our Wastewater Collection system and our tax dollars.

*A reminder from the City Wastewater Collection and Treatment Plant Operators*



corrosion and can help restore flow and pressures in the distribution system

Flushing will occur between the hours of 7:00 am and 3:30 pm. As your area is flushed, 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 – approximately 15 minutes.

The City of Grand Forks apologizes for any inconvenience during the flushing program. If you have any questions or if you experience any persistent water quality problems as a result of this maintenance program, please call City Hall, at 250.442.8266 Calls after 3:30 pm or on weekends should be made to the Water Department emergency line, at 250.442.3355.

MARCH /  
APRIL,  
2011

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
CITY OF GRAND FORKS

# CITY HALL TIMES

Phone 250-442-8266 • Fax 250-442-8000 • Email: info@grandforks.ca • Web Site: www.city.grandforks.bc.ca

Connecting with the Community

## Earth Hour

Earth Hour is an annual international lights out campaign. This year Earth Hour will take place on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The goal is to get as many individuals and businesses as possible to turn off their lights for one hour to raise awareness about climate change. Earth Hour is sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund, and has grown from a single event in Sydney, Australia in 2007 to a global phenomenon, reaching over a billion people. Millions of people around the world will take part by turning off non-essential lighting for Earth Hour.

The City of Grand Forks will participate in Earth Hour.



To support this activity, we will turn off lights in City Hall, on all the pathways, and in downtown Grand Forks for one hour, from 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. on Saturday March 26, 2011. Our Staff will monitor the electrical load during Earth Hour to record the energy conservation efforts by the citizens of Grand Forks. A press release will be issued the following week to let the public know how much electricity we conserved. So we invite all residents and businesses to participate with us in Earth Hour.

Let's do our part. Turn off your non-essential lighting during this hour. Together our small actions can make a big difference to help fight climate change.

## Public Washrooms in our City Parks

This season, the City of Grand Forks is planning to have all of our Public Washroom Facilities open and operational by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2011. This would have all facilities open prior to the Easter long weekend.

The only delay to this planned opening could be due to freezing overnight temperatures where the washroom facilities cannot remain operational. This can cause water lines to freeze and fixtures to crack, which would result in costly repairs to reopen the facilities.

Thank you in advance for your patience on this matter.

## 2011 Census

The next census will take place in May 2011.

Starting May 2, 2011, all households in Canada will receive a yellow census package.

The census questionnaire can be completed online or on paper.

To visit Census Canada Website:  
www.census2011.gc.ca

This website will be updated regularly, so check back often for information updates.



## You are Cordially Invited to the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the newly constructed RInC Multi-Use Pathway Project

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 1:00 pm  
at the Trail's Gateway Plaza

(Located at

Kettle River Drive & 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
across from the Black Train Bridge)

The City encourages the public to walk the trails to the Plaza –  
Public parking is available at Perley School, City Park and at the Arena

## Compostable Yard & Garden Waste Collection Dates for 2011

Once a month yard and garden waste will be collected for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and November. This program is only available to City residents receiving curbside garbage collection.

**North Side of Highway 3 between Riverside Drive and North Fork Road**  
(current Wednesday garbage pick up)

Yard & Garden pick up will be Mondays  
March 14, April 25, May 23,  
June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 26,  
Oct. 24, Nov. 21

**Ruckle Addition and Valley Heights**  
(current Tuesday garbage pick up)

Yard & Garden pick up will be Tuesdays  
March 15, April 26, May 24,  
June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 27,  
Oct. 25, Nov. 22

**South Side of Highway 3 between Riverside Drive and Spraggett Road**  
(current Thursday garbage pick up)

Yard & Garden pick up will be Fridays  
March 18, April 29, May 27,  
June 24, July 22, August 19,  
Sept. 30, Oct. 28, Nov. 25

### How Much and Type of Container

Three cans or bags or bundles. Can be any combination as long as it is a volume equal to three cans per month. Cans to be set out without the lid. If plastic bags are used, they must be clear and you must be able to see what is inside the bag. Waste will be picked up if it is in a regular garbage can (no lid), in a clear plastic bag, (or in the case of tree prunings) bundled.

### What You Can Put Out

Grass, leaves, and similar garden materials. Tree prunings must be three inches in diameter or less and three feet long tied in bundles not exceeding the equivalent of a garbage can.

### Acceptable Yard and Garden Waste

Grass, lawn and hedge clippings, grass sod, flowers, weeds, leaves, vegetables, stalks, shrubs and tree branches less than three inches in diameter.