



CITY OF GRAND FORKS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

RECENT COUNCIL DECISIONS

Recent Green Initiatives by Council and the Regional District

- Refurbishment of City Hall with inclusion of a heat pump system and elimination of gas heating.
- Irrigation Management System planned for City Park
- Year round washrooms planned for City Park, heated by using a heat exchange system from the sewer lift station.
- Ongoing conversion of City buildings to energy efficient lighting.
- All new City computers will use new technology to reduce computer power consumption by 50%.
- Bicycle Network Plan implemented by the City to encourage cycling and walking to various areas in the community.
- Water metering of all commercial buildings to assist with reducing water consumption.
- Monthly yard and garden waste pickup.
- Air Quality committee initiatives to monitor air quality and have available on City's website.
- Solar panels on the Aquatic Centre.
- Plans to use the heat from Arena compressors to help heat the Aquatic Centre, and proposed Community Centre.
- Energy efficiency initiative for the new Community Centre
- Recycling blue bag program.

- Adoption of Bylaw 1816 - A Bylaw to establish the terms of operation and maintenance and rates for cemeteries in the City of Grand Forks for the next five years. This Bylaw was updated to allow for an "Urn Vault Memorial" where cremation remains of two people can be interred in the same memorial at the same time or at different times.
- Adoption of Bylaw 1821 - A Bylaw to establish the five year financial plan for the years 2007 to 2011.
- Adoption of Bylaw 1822 - A Bylaw to amend the current Water Bylaw to include provision that all commercial, industrial and institutional be required to install water meters. Cost of meters and installation to be paid by the City. Rates will be the same for 2007 as the 2006 rates.
- Adoption of Bylaw 1823 - A Bylaw to amend the current Sewer Bylaw. Rates will be the same for 2007 as the 2006 rates.
- Adoption of Bylaw 1814 - A Bylaw to amend the current Zoning Bylaw to rezone the property at 7711-21st St. from R-1 Single Family and Two Family Residential to R-2 Small Lot Residential.
- Adoption of Bylaw 1817 - A bylaw to establish a cross connection control program and process for the City. Provincial government legislation requires water suppliers to establish regulations to ensure provisions for the elimination and prevention of cross connections between their potable water and any non potable sources.
- Resolution by Council to apply to the Canada BC Infrastructure Program for grant funding for the Community Centre.
- Council recently approved contracts for service of the Visitors Information Centre for 2007 with the Chamber of Commerce and the Boundary Museum with the Boundary Museum's Society. The City does not direct financial assistance to either of these groups, but provides a fee for running these services which are important to the area.

CENTRAL AVENUE—HWY #3



Central Avenue is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation, with Emcon Services as the principal contractor. Council has been having ongoing discussions with the Ministry officials about the deteriorating condition of Central Ave, but as of yet, there is no resolution to the problem of the potholes and no timeline as to when the highway will be fixed. Updates will be provided as discussion continues.

CITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

The City has applied for the following Provincial and Federal Grants recently. All grant applications are subject to approval by senior levels of government and are not guaranteed to be approved.

1. Funding for construction of the Community Centre under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program. This program will fund a portion of the Community Centre to a maximum grant of \$2.0 million with the Federal and Provincial Governments providing \$1.0 million maximum each.
2. Funding for construction of a new Sewer Lift Station at City Park. The construction cost is estimated at \$657,000 and the Federal and Provincial contributions would be \$219,000 each if the grant is approved.
3. Funding for construction of bicycle paths along Central Ave. from Extra Foods to the Recreation Centre, along 75th Ave from North Fork Rd to 19th St., and along 19th St. from 68th Ave. to 75th Ave. This will be the start of the City's Bicycle Network Plan. Copies of the plan are available for viewing at City Hall.
4. Funding for construction of bicycle paths from South Ruckle to the downtown area, along Riverside Dr. south of Central Ave., along 75th Ave. north of Central Ave. and Kettle River Dr. from City Park to 19th St.
5. Funding for improvements to City Park including an outdoor bandshell, all weather washrooms, gazebo, picnic areas, play equipment, lighting, volleyball court and walking/cycling paths.
6. Funding for a "Town Square" project which includes upgrades to 5th Ave. between Central Ave. and 73rd Ave.

POLICY ON SNOW CLEARING OF ROADS

This policy defines a process by which the City of Grand Forks will provide snow clearing services for Municipal Roads and the Grand Forks Airport. Snow removal operations shall be carried out in order of street priority, as indicated below.

Priority #1:

- Valley Heights.
- Second Street from Airport to 75th Ave.
- 72nd Ave/Kettle River Dr./68th Ave. from 5th Street to Spragget Bridge.
- 7th Street/75th Ave./Riverside Drive from 72nd Ave to Central Ave.
- Boundary Drive from 68th Ave. to 77th Ave.
- Donaldson Drive from Boundary

Drive to Central Ave.

- McCallum View/17th Street/77th Ave from Columbia Drive to Boundary Drive.
- 76th Ave from Columbia Drive to 22nd Street.
- 22nd Street from Central Ave to 77th Ave.
- 75th Ave from 22nd Street to North Fork Road.
- 7th Street/75th Ave/Riverside Drive from Central Ave to 85th Ave.
- 73rd Ave from Boundary Drive to 8th Street.
- 27th Street from 68th Ave to Central Ave.

Priority #2:

- Main arterial streets in downtown

core and City owned parking lots and the airport.

Priority #3:

- General residential streets.

Priority #4:

- Cul-de-sacs and non-through streets, lanes and alleys.

Airport: Snow Removal at the Municipal Airport shall be:

Priority #1 :

- When an emergency Medi-vac call originates, personnel will immediately be dispatched to clean the runway and taxiway A.

Priority #2:

- At all other times, the airport will be considered a priority #2.



POLICY ON SNOW CLEARING OF SIDEWALKS

This policy defines a process by which the City of Grand Forks will provide snow clearing services for Municipal Sidewalks. The City will clear snow and ice from sidewalks in the priority identified below.

Priority #1:

- Sidewalks in the downtown core adjacent to City owned property.
- Wheelchair ramps and alley drops.
- Central Ave. (Hwy3) from the bridge (including bridge) to

Donaldson Drive (GFSS, Perley School, RCMP).

- 19th Street from Central Ave. to 77th Ave.
- 76th Ave. from Donaldson Drive to 23rd Street.
- 22nd Street from Central Ave. (Hwy3) to 77th Ave. (Hospital, Hardy View Lodge).
- 75th Ave. from 22nd Street to 28th Street (Hutton School).
- 19th Street from Central Ave. to 68th Ave.

- Kettle River Drive from 8th Street (Boundary Lodge) to 68th Ave. and including 68th Ave. to 19th Street.
- Boundary Drive from 68th Ave. to 77th Ave.

Priority #2:

- City owned buildings—Fire Hall, City Hall, Library, Museum, Court House, and Scout Hall.
- Second Street from Public Works Yard to bridge (including bridge).

ONLINE INFORMATION & PAYMENT



The City of Grand Forks is introducing another method for you to:

- Review your account.
- Pay your account.
- Obtain property information.

A new feature has been added to the City's Website:

www.city.grandforks.bc.ca

You can now go onto the City's website and select **ONLINE INFORMATION & PAYMENT.**

If you wish to obtain basic public information about a property within City limits, you can search by a known factor—i.e. Street Address.

- The result will provide a pick list which then permits you to select a specific address;
- And obtain public information on a property;
- If you are a property owner or an owner's designated agent, you will be able to view and pay utility billing account balances. An access

code will appear on each Utility Bill mailed to you.

If you are a property owner, you will be able to apply for a Home Owners' Grant if you are eligible. You will be able to view and pay property tax account balances. An access code will appear on each Property Tax notice mailed to you commencing May 2007.

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE PLANS

The RCMP have indicated that it intends to develop Community Performance Plans for all communities in the province. These plans are intended to reflect local policing priorities and augment provincial and national priorities.

The performance plans are part of the RCMP provincial 5 year business plan and it is mandated by the Provincial Police Service that all detachment areas have a detachment (Community) performance plan. The completion of these plans is part of the RCMP internal audit review process and is intended to enhance RCMP accountability.

The plans are a new and evolving process which focus on ongoing communication/consultation between the community, elected representatives and the RCMP. The plans are intended to be developed with appropriate

input from the community (i.e. elected representatives, community administrators, community organized groups and citizen input town hall meetings) and to reflect the needs of the community.

The type of plan, the type of consultation, and the frequency of the reporting requirements back to the community are to be developed between the local government and the local Detachment Commander. The intent is that the plan will identify specific priorities the community would like addressed, the frequency of meetings (quarterly, semi-annual, etc.) and with whom (mayor/council, regional district board, electoral area representatives, community group, etc.). The local government and the Detachment Commander will be expected to "sign off" on

the plan for the delivery of police service to the community.

Local governments have a choice in how and when Community Performance Plans are implemented. One, the local government can wait until the Community Performance Plans are rolled out in their area by the RCMP. Two, the local government can contact the Detachment Commander who is the local manager for the accountability framework of the District Officer who is responsible for overseeing the accountability framework in their district and request the development of a Community Performance Plan. Council met with staff Sgt. to identify community priorities, discussion continues.

2007 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday February 19, 2007
 Monday March 5, 2007
 Monday March 19, 2007
 Monday April 2, 2007
 Monday April 16, 2007
 Monday May 7, 2007
 Monday May 28, 2007
 Monday June 11, 2007
 Monday June 25, 2007
 Monday July 23, 2007
 Monday August 20, 2007
 Tuesday September 4, 2007
 Monday September 17, 2007
 Tuesday, October 9, 2007
 Monday October 22, 2007
 Monday November 5, 2007
 Monday November 19, 2007
 Monday December 3, 2007
 Monday December 17, 2007

Please note there is only one Regular Meeting in the months of July and August. All Regular Meetings of Council are held in Council Chamber at City Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Following is a listing of scheduled Primary Committee Meetings of Council for the City of Grand Forks for the year 2007. Primary Committee Meetings are scheduled to follow the Regular Meeting of Council.

Monday February 19, 2007
 Monday March 19, 2007
 Monday April 16, 2007
 Monday May 28, 2007
 Monday June 25, 2007
 Monday July 23, 2007
 Monday August 20, 2007
 Monday September 17, 2007
 Monday October 22, 2007
 Monday November 19, 2007
 Monday December 17, 2007

2007 ASSESSMENT NOTICES

Recently, notices were sent to all property owners in the Grand Forks area. Within the City, the average residential assessed value increase for existing properties was 26.36%. Homeowners who have an increase below 26% should see little or no change to their 2007 tax bill compared with 2006. If your assessment increase is higher than 26%, you will likely see an increase, but it is dependent on what other taxing jurisdictions will charge for 2007. The change in the 2007 tax bill is also dependent on your electrical credit for 2007. Other taxing jurisdictions that will affect your tax notice are School Tax, Regional District, Regional Hospital, BC Assessment Authority and Provincial Policing (new this year). See the back page "Police Cost Update" for an explanation of the new Provincial Police costs.

Establishing how much to raise from property taxes is part of the budget process. Council must consider the costs of providing the services it believes the public wants—ascertained in part through an annual public process—and the non-taxation revenues available to offset these costs. The amount to be generated from property taxes is the difference between these two.

At the outset, the budget contains the same tax levy as levied in the prior year. If the value of the assessment roll has gone up because of market value change, the city has a larger assessment base from which to raise this revenue and tax rates go down. In other words, we factor market value change out of the calculation of the tax levy by reducing tax rates to compensate.

ELECTRICAL UTILITY IMPORTANT NOTES

The basic monthly charge to recover the cost of recurring services is now \$10.00 per month. These services include cost of producing the invoices such as postage, envelopes, paper, computer hardware & software, as well as meters and meter readings. The overall residential electric rates are designed to be 2 % less than the Fortis BC Interior rates. The residential customer charge is 7% less than the Fortis BC Rate. The City's residential KWH charge is .06654 per KWH and the Fortis BC residential KWH charge is .06738. The City's rate is 1.3 % less than the Fortis BC rate.

ANY BALANCES FORWARD UNPAID BY THE DUE DATE OF MARCH 28, 2007, WILL BE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE DISCONNECT OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE!

CITY OF GRAND FORKS

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We are on the Web!
www.city.grandforks.bc.ca

Police Costs Update



Prior to 2007, all Municipalities under 5,000 population and all Regional Districts were not charged a direct tax for policing services. For City residents, the cost for policing was taken from the province's general revenues. For Regional District residents, it was recognized that some contribution to policing was being provided through the rural property tax on the annual tax notice.

In 2007, the province has developed a new police financing model, which will require small communities and rural areas in British Columbia to pay a more equitable share of their policing costs. Under the new model, less than 50% of the total annual provincial cost to police municipalities under 5,000 population and

rural areas will be collected from property taxes. The cost will be apportioned to each community using a formula that combines property assessment values and population statistics.

The province will be charging the City \$142,008 for police costs in 2007 and the Regional District Area D will be charged \$68,890. Preliminary reports are that City residents will pay an additional \$41 in taxes for an average residence and Regional District Area D residences will pay an additional \$19 per average residence. If your residence is higher or lower than the average residence, you will be higher or lower than the \$41 amount. The Regional District's share is less than the City's due to the recognition that some

contribution to policing was being provided from the rural property tax paid to the province.

An additional category has been added to the yearly tax notice to reflect this change. The amount added to your tax notice will be eligible for the Home Owner Grant, so some residents will not see any change if their property value is below the amount required to pay the minimum tax. For City residents, the electrical credit to taxes will be in effect again this year, so some residents may not see a change depending on the amount of electrical credit to taxes.



YARD AND GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION DATES



Once a month yard and garden waste will be collected for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, 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 pickup)

March 19, April 16, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug 20, Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 12

Ruckle Addition and Valley Heights (Current Tuesday garbage pickup)

March 20, April 17, May 15,

June 12, July 10, Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 13

South Side of Highway 3 between Riverside Drive and Spraggett Road (Current Thursday pickup)

March 23, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 13, Aug 24, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16

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 pruning)

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 or less 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.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY @

442-8266