



FROM COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Deft Developments

THANK YOU TELUS

Progress continues on the build out of the new fibre optic network. Residents may notice crews running lines to their houses if they have already signed permission forms. The fibre lines being laid allows us to have a similar service as that offered in larger cities. The first neighbourhood to complete the build process will be offered the upgraded services in September. At the end of the project, Telus will have invested \$8 million in Grand Forks.

CONGRATULATIONS BOUNDARY WOMEN'S COALITION

Congratulations to the Boundary Women's Coalition on receiving \$1 million in funding from BC Housing for their new transition house. It is sure to be a beautiful, sustainable and safe environment. The current transition house sees regular use as women and children make key changes to their lives. It's an unfortunate reality that gendered violence exists in our communities. Beyond acknowledging the problem, this project enhances a proven solution. The new building means a stable resource for some of our most vulnerable residents. It will provide a strong platform for their work - creating healthy families.

ESSO AND TIM HORTON'S

The Esso and Tim Horton's development is going through the development process which consists of getting a development permit, signing the works and services agreement, and finalizing the land sale. The development permit sets out the requirements for things like the type of landscaping, access to the property, form and character of the building, and environmental considerations. The works and services agreement addresses other infrastructure requirements like water, waste water, and electrical connections. When these are completed then the land sale will go through and development can begin.



Mayor Konrad at the public announcement of the transition house funding.



Councillors dishing out Canada Day cake.

Event Madness

This summer has been busy with events with lots to do and plenty of visitors. The Rotary Spray Park opened this June and has seen consistent use – even on not so sunny days. One of the nice things about the design is that the water is held in tanks and then re-used by Public Works. That way we don't waste water during the hottest days of the year. The Good Sam Club visited soon after with over 120 rigs and about 250 people. We heard lots of positive feedback from them – they love Grand Forks!

Hot on its heels, the Grand Forks International once again delivered a week of entertaining and nail biting baseball. With teams from across Canada and the United States, it came down to a classic rivalry between the two countries in the final game. The City was the real winner as the visitors spent plenty of cash in local businesses. Once again, the Canada Day Parade showcased local clubs and business. The BMX riders and summer camp float showed how vibrant our youth culture is.

New this year in July, the "Kettle River Classic" Ultimate Frisbee tournament brought in players from across BC. They had a great time playing in City Park and are sure to come back next year. Next door, the Grand Forks BMX club hosted a number visiting riders for its provincial championship series race.

Cannafest rocked the City in early August with over 5,500 people attending over the two days. If that doesn't seem like a lot, remember the City only has 4,000 residents. Beer garden lineups aside, the event put Grand Forks on the lips of thousands of people as fans tuned into the live stream of their bands playing at Cannafest.

Park in the Park had over 240 cars, trucks, and motorcycles this year. Up significantly from last year, they filled City Park with chrome and polish. Look up – the annual fly in is coming up this weekend. Hungry? Why not stop by their pancake breakfast on Sunday on your way to the Fall Fair.

Dick Bartlett Park will be full again this year with performers, vendors, and fun activities for all at the Fall Fair. Running for three days, there is ample opportunity to get out and support this event that is a true local tradition.

Look for your Council in the Fall Fair Parade! We'll be riding in style – but we won't give away how just yet. Find us afterwards to ask any questions or to let us know how we're doing.

Volunteer of the year

The City is looking for nominations for the volunteer of the year. If you know someone who is always out helping others or the community, please send us their name for consideration. The volunteer of the year is recognized each year at the fall business awards. Send your nominee to info@grandforks.ca.



By Design

XERISCAPING CITY HALL

City staff designed and installed a new Xeriscape section in the landscaping around City Hall on the south east corner. With minimal drip irrigation, it mimics a dry river bed with feature rocks of different sizes and plants scattered throughout. With dry hot summers, this style of landscaping cuts down on water consumption and maintenance.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PLAN

The Sustainable Community Plan (SCP) review is underway and will continue for the next 16 months. The SCP guides growth and change in the community by creating a shared vision of the future. At the first open house staff gathered feedback on information panels representing key topics in the SCP – Protected Natural Areas, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Food Security and Urban Agriculture, and Innovative Housing. Residents were happy that they were given the chance to give input early on in the review process. Lots of the feedback focussed on protecting wetlands and river banks along with more trail access.



Xeriscaping at City Hall

Council Heading to UBCM

Council will be meeting with two ministers and the premier at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in September. The topics chosen are Asset Management, the Council Code of Conduct, and homeless and housing. They fall under the Fiscal Accountability, Community Engagement, and Community Liveability strategic priorities of Council. By meeting with senior government, our Council can show off our innovations and successes while learning about partnership opportunities.



Showing off the old fire truck at Park in the Park

Financial Findings

TWENTY YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN NOW COMPLETED

The 20-year capital plan balances spending between asset renewal and new infrastructure. As a long term planning document, it prioritizes the City's capital spending so that funding is in place for infrastructure like the water system, sidewalks, and roads. By planning ahead, the City will decrease the risk and inconvenience of failing infrastructure, and ensure that Grand Forks remains a great place to live.

YOUR MONEY AT WORK - CITY BUDGET PROCESS

The budget process lasts for about five months and includes many reviews and public input. Staff start working on the budget in November. After internal discussions, the draft budget goes to a Council workshop in January for review and input. It goes back to Council for another two workshops that are open to the public in January and February. This is the time to have your say on the City's spending priorities before they get finalized.



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