



Psst... GRAND FORKS... can you spare an hour?

Earth Hour | Saturday, March 31 | 8:30pm

THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS
IS ASKING EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE IN EARTH HOUR
THIS YEAR BY TURNING OUT THE LIGHTS AND
UNPLUGGING NON-ESSENTIAL ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
FOR ONE HOUR

ON MARCH 31ST, 2012 FROM 8:30 PM TO 9:30 PM.

FortisBC is hosting an Earth Hour Challenge which commences on March 5th. The residents of Grand Forks and area are encouraged to visit their website at www.fortisbc.com/earthhour and pledge to switch off during Earth Hour. Everyone who pledges will be entered to **WIN** a weekend at the Manteo Resort in Kelowna!

ALSO.....

If residents of the Grand Forks area register the most pledges (number of people in a community to take the pledge compared with their 2006 census population), the Sunshine Valley Child Care Society will WIN an energy upgrade valued up to \$5000.

Please show your support to this important community organization by submitting your pledge today!

What is the city doing for Earth Hour?

- The street lights on Market Avenue and lighting on the Trails System will be shut down from 8:30pm to 9:30pm in recognition of Earth Hour
- City Hall non-essential outside lights will remain off for the weekend

Scrap Metal Clean Up Day

Sponsored by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

To celebrate Earth Day 2012, the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary is organizing a scrap metal clean up day for residents of Grand Forks and electoral areas D & C. Columbia Recycling will come to your home during the week of April 22nd and load up and remove any large metal objects including fridges and appliances.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange for pickup, contact Brad at 1.877.777.8354 or contact the RDKB at 1.800.355.7352.

Open Fire – Backyard Burning

An open fire or backyard burn is:

- Waste materials in one pile not exceeding 2m in height and 3m in width.
- Burns material concurrently in 2 piles each not exceeding 2m in height and 3m in width.
- Burns stubble or grass over an area that does not exceed 0.2ha.
- Open burning exceeding these dimensions must obtain a permit at 250-365-4040.

A person may light an open fire within 1km of forest or grass land when:

- The person is not prohibited to do so under another enactment.
- It is safe, and is likely to continue to be safe to do so.
- The person establishes a fuel break around the burn area.

While the fire is burning and there is a risk of the fire escaping, the person ensures that:

- The fuel break is maintained.
- A fire suppression system is available at the burn area, of a type and with a capacity adequate for fire control if the fire escapes.
- The fire is watched and patrolled by a person to prevent escape and the person is equipped with sufficient fire fighting tools.
- The fire does not exceed the capacity of the persons and fire fighting tools on site to take timely action to prevent any fire from escaping.
- Before leaving the burn area, the person ensures that the fire is extinguished.

Open fire burning is prohibited within the municipality of Grand Forks.

Grand Forks Fire/Rescue appreciates your co-operation.

Kitchen Waste Program Update from the RDKB



The city is working with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary to provide a service to help residents reduce the amount of organic material buried at the landfill. We know that 40% of the garbage collected at the curb is compostable material. Further, when food scraps are buried in the landfill, they decompose anaerobically and off-gas methane.

In January, a food scraps curbside collection program was introduced as a pilot project in the Val-mar Subdivision. Residents have been provided with a kitchen bucket for their food scraps. They empty this bucket into a green bin which is collected each week. As well, garbage collection has been changed to every other week.

Preliminary data shows that the amount of garbage collected at the curb has been nearly cut in half. After only two months, three-quarters of the residents actively participant in the green bin program each week.

Council is now considering expanding the food scraps recycling program to all residents in the City. Contact the RDKB for more information on the green bin program. 1.800.355.7352

Tim Dueck, Solid Waste Program Coordinator
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Notice of Water Main Flushing



The City of Grand Forks Water Department advises residents that watermain flushing will commence beginning the third (3) week of March, 2012 and continue throughout the city until the second (2) week of May, 2012. 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 corrosion and can help restore flow and pressures in the distribution system

Flushing will occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. 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.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS



Special Meeting on the 2012-2016 Five-Year Financial Plan

Monday, March 26th, 2012 – 6:00 p.m. at Council Chambers

All community members are welcome to attend.



Should I or Shouldn't I?

If I flush this down the toilet no one will ever know, right? Wrong! Actually non-biodegradable materials flushed into the City's sewer are known by City of Grand Fork's Wastewater Collection and Treatment Plant Operators every day. City staff must remove non-biodegradable materials and dispose of them properly.

Our Wastewater Treatment Plant operations and maintenance is greatly affected by the presence of non-biodegradable materials. As this is a biological system and plastics, latex or heavier fiber are not affected by these biological actions, these materials must be removed and disposed of properly. This removal occurs at a much greater cost to taxpayers than if correctly disposed of originally. Problems can occur in your own sewer or later in the City's sanitary sewer system, including the City main sewer lines and Lift Station pumps. Sewer blockages are unpleasant and costly to property owners and a drain (pun intended) on City resources.

Hundreds of pounds of non-biodegradable materials are pulled from the City's sewer system each year. Please make the right choice and only flush what you should. You should NOT flush feminine hygiene products and their applicators, q-tips, drink straws, make-up pads, condoms, cloth materials, plastic bags, teeth whitening strips, hair (human or pet), small toys and any other non-biodegradable items. The right choice of disposing into the wastebasket rather than in the Wastewater Collection System will make a great difference in our environment and save our tax dollars.

~ A message from the City Wastewater Collection and Treatment Plant Operators.

Compostable Yard & Garden Waste Collection Dates for 2012

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 12, April 9, May 7,
June 4, July 2, Aug. 13, Sept. 10,
Oct. 22, Nov. 19**

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

Yard & Garden pick up will be Tuesdays
**March 13, April 10, May 8,
June 5, July 3, Aug. 14, Sept. 11,
Oct. 23, Nov. 20**

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

Yard & Garden pick up will be Fridays
**March 16, April 13, May 11,
June 8, July 6, August 17,
Sept. 14, Oct. 26, Nov. 23**

Kettle Valley Waste 1-877-447-9265

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.