



From Council Chambers

On March 12th the City of Grand Forks co-hosted a community conversation event with the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government (AKBLG).

There were over 70 people who participated in round table discussions where ideas and strategies for the community were shared.

Council would like to acknowledge the Grand Forks Fire Department for doing their part for water conservation. Way to Go!!



Sneak Peak

When you are out and about in Grand Forks take a look at the proposed plans for City Hall at one of three locations in Grand Forks: the Public Library, Aquatic Center or 7425 5th Street. Have feedback? Let us know at info@grandforks.ca

Accounts Payable E Billing

Supplier's to the City of Grand Forks are now able to send invoices via email to AP@grandforks.ca
Electronic Billing is convenient, saves on postage costs and helps the City process invoices more quickly.

Flood Preparation

We are currently monitoring area snow packs and, dependant on spring weather conditions, want residents to be prepared for the possibility of flooding.

If your home is in an area subject to flooding in extreme high water flows please ensure the following are completed:

To reduce the likelihood of flood damage

- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and the base of ground level floors.
- Install drainage for downspouts a sufficient distance from your residence to ensure that water moves away from the building.
- Consider installing a sump pump and zero

reverse flow valves in basement floor drains.

- Do not store your important documents in the basement. Keep them at a higher level, protected from flood damage.

If flood is forecast

- Turn off basement furnaces and the outside gas valve.
- Take special precautions to safeguard electrical, natural gas or propane heating equipment.
- Shut off electricity only if flooding has not yet begun and the area around the breaker panel is completely dry. Stand to the side of the breaker panel and look away from the panel when switching the power off. Have a flashlight



with you.

If flooding is imminent

- Move furniture, electrical appliances and other belongings to floors above ground level.
- Remove toxic substances such as pesticides and insecticides from the flood area to prevent

pollution.

- Remove toilet bowls and plug basement sewer drains and toilet connections with a wooden stopper.

- Disconnect eaves troughs if they are connected to the house sewer.

- In some cases, homes may be protected with sandbags or polyethylene barriers. Follow instructions from local emergency officials.

- Do NOT attempt to shut off electricity if any water is present. Water and live electric wires can be lethal. Leave your home immediately and do not return until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.

- Keep your emergency kit close at hand, in a portable container.

Grand Forks Fire/Rescue appreciates your cooperation

Electricity bill higher than average?

Some customers have noticed that their utility bills were higher this winter than last heating season.

This winter has seen colder temperatures, which typically means we use more electricity to heat our homes. And with shorter, darker days, we generally leave our lights on longer and use more electronics when we spend more time indoors.

A typical B.C. home uses about 1,000 kWh each month during the winter. A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a unit of energy measuring how much power you use over an hour. You are billed for the number of kWhs you use. What can you do with 1 kWh?

- Use a space heater for one hour
- Watch TV for 11 hours
- Use a CFL bulb for 43 hours
- Make 40 pieces of toast

With warmer spring temperatures just around the corner, here are some simple things you can do to reduce how much energy you use around your home.



- Change out incandescent bulbs to CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) which use 75 per cent less energy.
- Switch to programmable, ENERGY STAR® thermostats. You set it once—for example, to turn down to 16C at night and back up to 21C in the morning—and you will save energy at night or when you are not home.
- Add more insulation inside your exterior walls to help your home stay warmer in winter and cooler in summer. It's easy to add insulation in attics, basements and crawlspaces.
- Hot water tanks are one of the biggest energy users. Reduce the setting to 60C. Wash clothes in cold water.

Annual Sweeping Program

Our annual Spring Sweeping Program is scheduled to begin in late March and continue through to April cleaning up winter sand, dirt, and leaves accumulated on roadways, sidewalks, and boulevards. Regular removal of debris is necessary to prevent storm water drains from clogging, keeps our roads safe, protects the environment and improves the appearance of the City of Grand Forks.

Sweeping will begin in the downtown core, and progress to arterial roads and residential streets. To help us provide the best service possible, residents are reminded to:

- Keep vehicles off residential streets to allow the sweeper to do a proper job,
- Place garbage containers and recycling away from the road on collection days,
- Keep basketball and hockey nets off the road and far enough back from the curb,
- Be understanding while street sweeping is

underway, there may be some noise and dust,

- Be patient. Cold and rainy weather prevents our sweeper from operating.



The City of Grand Forks appreciates the co-operation from the residents and businesses. Any question or comments may be directed to the Public Works office at (250) 442-4148 or info@grandforks.ca.



Notice of Water main flushing

The Water Utility Department advises residents that we will be flushing water mains throughout the City during the months of April and May. Regular annual flushing is an important component of a comprehensive water management program. Flushing water mains are done as part of a scheduled preventative maintenance program to remove sediment that gradually deposits in the pipes and helps maintain water quality in our system.

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)

Utility crews continue their water main flushing program to ensure the distribution system is refreshed and healthy. 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 info@grandforks.ca or call City Works at 250 442 4148.

