



Settle down.

## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

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# CITY HALL TIMES

Connecting with the Community

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## The City of Grand Forks Kindly Invites You To An **OPEN HOUSE**

**Well #4/5**

(Southeast Corner Dick Bartlett Park)

**May 8, 2014 12 - 3 p.m.**

Please join Council and City Staff at **1 p.m.**  
for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the  
**West Side Fire Protection Gen-set  
Installation Project**



## Make a pledge to use our water wisely

### Grand Forks, BC – Are you up for the challenge?

With May 4-10, 2014 proclaimed Drinking Water Week across BC, the City of Grand Forks is asking residents to “take the challenge” and commit to small and simple acts that will conserve water.

“These are simple pledges anyone can do that will help use less water,” explains Mayor Brian Taylor. “When it comes to water conservation, every little bit helps. We live in a semi-arid climate and Grand Forks faces drought and water supply issues during the hot summer months, so it’s important to think about where and how we use our water.”

By clicking on [www.drinkingwaterweek.org/](http://www.drinkingwaterweek.org/) challenge, you can see any of the five pledges—they include limiting showers to five minutes, installing water efficient fixtures and appliances and even using less water outdoors.

The average Grand Forks resident uses more than 720 litres per day of water, about one-third more than the average British Columbian.

“That’s almost 3,000 cups of water every day. We want to encourage our citizens to use this precious resource wisely,” Taylor adds.

As part of Drinking Water Week, the City is hosting an open house May 8 to help you learn how to save water and use it more efficiently. It is the first of many opportunities in the coming

months for residents to learn helpful tips and practical solutions to reducing water use, and maintaining a healthy lawn and garden.

- Join us at the open house May 8 between noon and 3pm at Well #4/5, located in the southeast corner of Dick Bartlett Park, near the intersection of 19th St. and 70th Ave
- Watch your mailbox in May for a newsletter with more information and tips on how you can reduce your water consumption.

Watch for more information at [www.grandforks.ca](http://www.grandforks.ca) over the next few weeks.

For media information, please contact:

Sarah Winton, Deputy Corporate Officer  
City of Grand Forks  
(Tel) 250-442-8266

## PROPERTY TAXES 2014 Due Date: July 2, 2014

Notice: Payments will be processed on the Effective Date sent from your bank. Therefore, payments made late in the day after your bank's cut off time will be processed the following day. If you have any questions regarding the Effective Date, please contact your bank.

### Remember to claim your Home Owner Grant (HOG)

- If this house is your principal residence, you must make application for the Home Owner Grant. Your mortgage company can't do this for you. Even if you are not making a payment, or your bank pays your taxes, you still have to claim your Home Owner Grant by the due date to avoid penalty.
- If your bank pays your taxes, let them know if you are claiming the Home Owner Grant or not claiming the Home Owner Grant. This will enable your bank to pay the correct amount of taxes on your behalf.
- Home Owner Grant applications can be claimed by mail, in person at City Hall's temporary location of 7425 – 5th Street, in the drop box at City Hall, or through the City's website [www.grandforks.ca](http://www.grandforks.ca). In the website highlight “I Want To”, then on the dropdown menu click on “Access my Account”. If you haven't registered yet you will need to register now in order to continue. If you are already registered, click on your name (left of the logout button) to access account management. From here you will need to link your property tax account. Click on “Add New” and enter your folio number, leaving off the “210” prefix. Then enter your access code/pin which is shown on your tax notice. Click save and your account is linked. Arrow out of account management and click on the “Online Services” menu at the top left. Select Property Tax and your account information will show up. From here you can click on the Home Owner Grant tab and claim your grant.
- Your financial institution will not accept your Home Owner Grant application.

### What is the penalty for paying taxes late?

- A 10% penalty for 2014 property taxes after 4:00 p.m. on July 2, 2014.
- 2014 Property Taxes outstanding include any unclaimed Home Owner Grant and are subject to the 10% penalty.

### Where can Property Taxes be paid?

- Payments can be made by mail (do not mail cash), write your roll number or property address on the cheque. The City is not responsible for any lost payments and late payment penalties will apply.
- In person at City Hall at our temporary location at 7425 – 5th Street, by using the drop box at City Hall's temporary location or through a pre-authorized payment plan. (Please call City Hall for information.)
- As well, payments can be made through most financial institutions using the online services and by adding the City of Grand Forks (TAXES) to your payee list.

### What forms of payment can be used to pay taxes?

- Cash, cheque and debit cards are accepted. When using debit cards please be aware of your daily withdrawal limit.
- Post dated cheques are accepted; however, to avoid penalties, cheque must be dated no later than July 2, 2014.
- Credit card payments are not accepted.
- Coin payment is not accepted.
- Please ensure that your cheque is signed, dated and completed accurately. The City of Grand Forks is not responsible for errors and/or omissions.
- All returned cheques are subject to a returned cheque fee of \$15.00 and are not considered payments. It should be noted that the penalty fee of 10% of 2014 property taxes will apply and be levied on returned cheques if a certified payment is not remitted by the tax due date.

### Why is the Home Owner Grant amount subject to penalties?

- You can reduce your taxes owing by claiming grants you are eligible for; until you claim the grant, the total bill is taxes owing.

The most efficient way to pay your property taxes is online. By using the online payment service you avoid potentially extended wait times to pay your bill.



## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## FORTIS B.C. POWER OUTAGE

Please be advised that in the early morning hours on May 25, 2014 Fortis B.C. will be having a scheduled power outage to about 1/3 of the City. Areas affected will be North of Central from 12th street east including Valley Heights, and the downtown core.

**The power outage will occur from:  
4:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
May 25, 2014**

This outage is to facilitate upgrades to the Ruckles Substation to enhance future reliability of the system.

**The City of Grand Forks apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Public Works office at (250) 442-4148 or [info@grandforks.ca](mailto:info@grandforks.ca)**



### JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL INFORMATION SESSION FOR PEOPLE THINKING OF RUNNING FOR COUNCIL

Mayor and Council invites members of the community and past Council members to participate in an informal discussion and “heads up” on what to you can expect in the job!

**Wednesday May 21st, 2014  
7Pm– 8pm  
6641 Industrial Parkway  
(old Canpar office building)  
downstairs**



### City of Grand Forks Banner Program

The City of Grand Forks is implementing a street banner program for businesses. If you have a business and are interested in sponsoring a Street Banner, please visit [www.grandforks.ca](http://www.grandforks.ca) for more information.



## City Hall Rebuild Update

You may have noticed some action at City Hall. Currently the remediation company, Belfor, is back at work in City Hall to remove more lead based material and asbestos material from the building. This should take approximately 4 weeks to complete. Staff are working through the process to develop a tender package for the General Contracting of the rebuild which is expected to begin in June.



## Water Wise Water Conservation

City Staff have been enjoying lively conversation regarding water conservation with both Perley and Hutton elementary students just in time for Drinking Water Week from May 4th - 10th.

