



CITY OF GRAND FORKS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2006

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON COMMUNITY ISSUES

COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED THEIR NOVEMBER 20, 2006 REGULAR MEETING TO BE HELD AT 7:00 PM AT HUTTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

- The City's Architect for the proposed Community Centre will be in attendance with the proposed design.
- The 2007-2011 Financial Plan components will be presented:
 - Paving Plan
 - Sidewalk Plan
 - City Park Plan
 - Major Capital Projects



- Any issues that the public would like Council to consider.

COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED A PUBLIC MEETING ON NOVEMBER 27TH AT 6:00 PM AT THE SENIORS CENTRE IN CITY PARK.

- Proposed Community Centre
- 2007-2011 Financial Plan
- Any issues that the public would like Council to consider.



OVERWEIGHT TRAFFIC REGULATION BYLAW

Council has now given final reading to a Bylaw that regulates overweight traffic on City roads.

The Bylaw reads as follows:

"Unless otherwise posted with traffic control devices indicating a truck route, no person shall drive a truck with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 23,000 kg upon a roadway within the municipal boundaries, other than an arterial highway, except municipal or utility vehicles, trucks, delivering goods and material to properties on a street or streets directly serviced by the roadway, trucks in parades or used for driver testing.

Notwithstanding the foregoing clause, trucks delivering goods and materials do not include loaded or unloaded logging or chip trucks, and no person shall drive a loaded or unloaded logging or chip truck on 2nd Street from 68th Avenue north to Central Avenue".

1. Truck Routes will be established and signed. Loaded trucks will be permitted on some municipal streets,

which include streets accessing the card lock and bulk fuel facilities as well as access to the North Fork. Truck routes will also accommodate loaded truck traffic into the industrial park, via the 68th Avenue Bridge.

2. Trucks delivering goods and materials, municipal trucks, utility vehicles, trucks in parades, and trucks used for driver testing will be exempt from the restrictions posed in the bylaw.
3. Trucks delivering goods and materials do not include loaded or unloaded logging trucks or chip trucks.
4. No loaded or unloaded logging or chip trucks will be permitted on 2nd Street from 68th Avenue north to Central Avenue regardless of weight.
5. The bylaw maximum of 23,000 kg gross vehicle weight will permit an unloaded logging truck to be parked in all areas of the municipality provided the driver does not use 2nd Street.



TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW



Council has adopted the Annual Tax Exemption Bylaw #1813. The Bylaw exempts from taxation, certain lands used for religious worship, hospital, recreational and charitable purposes. The bylaw exempts these properties from paying taxes to all taxing authorities. The properties will continue to pay utility charges. For places of worship, only the church and the land associated with the church are exempt. Other lands and buildings such as parking lots, rectories are still taxable.

The following properties are exempt for 2007 taxes:

- United Church
- Catholic Church
- Mennonite Church
- Christian Centre Church
- Boundary Hospital
- Masonic Building

- Slavonic Seniors Centre
- Seniors Centre
- River Valley Community Church
- Anglican Church
- Lutheran Church
- Jehovah's Witness Church
- Curling Club
- Sunshine Valley Little Peoples Centre
- Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop
- Royal Canadian Legion (Recreational Portion Only)
- Boundary SPCA
- Abbeyfield
- Grand Forks Wildlife Association



NOTICE TO ALL ELECTRICAL CUSTOMERS



For the year 2007, all outstanding electrical balances will be due by the end of the following billing period. No balances will be carried forward. At the end of the following billing period if you have not paid your electrical bill, you will be subject to disconnection. This applies to all residential and commercial accounts.

SNOW PLOWING

For safe snow plowing operation for our equipment operators and the public,

a few helpful considerations should be applied:

- Have your vehicles parked off the roads and boulevards in the months of November - March. Vehicles impeding snow removal operations are subject to towing.
- Garbage cans & bags should be back from the curb-side 4 meters.
- Keep back alleys clear of everything as they are used for City equipment and Emergency vehicles.
- Please do not put the snow from your driveway,

parking lot, or sidewalk back into the street as this makes it very dangerous for a driver to keep control of a vehicle in winter conditions.



- Stay away from all working equipment.
- Stay back from snow plowing equipment at intersections and while operating a vehicle on roadways.

For snow plowing purposes, please do not park on the streets in the downtown core from 3:00 am to 7:00 am as the crews will be out early removing snow from streets, sidewalks, alleys, and parking lots. Vehicles parked in the downtown area will be subject to towing.

If you help us with these requests, we can do our jobs faster and safer, saving the taxpayers money.



ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

WINTER DRIVING CAN BE TRYING AT BEST. IN ORDER TO GET TO YOUR DESTINATION SAFELY PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- Good winter tires, especially over mountain passes. (All season radials have much less traction than winter radials).
- There are serious consequences for not driving to the conditions. SLOW DOWN!!!
- Most accidents occur in the fall and winter (ICBC statistic).
- Carry safety supplies: blanket, flashlight, tools, jumper cables, etc....
- Watch front wheel drives on ice and slush. Do not use 4 wheel drive on ice.
- Do not pass unless safe to do so.
- Do not pass a plow truck when placing winter abrasive/or plowing.
- Use all caution around flag persons and accident scenes.
- Commercial vehicles should carry chains and use them when chain up signs are in effect.
- To view any British Columbia road conditions contact www.drivebc.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT GFREC

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

- **Food Bank Day** - Wednesday, November 22. All drop-in admissions at Aquatic Centre by donation to GF Food Bank.
- **Kids Recycle & Swim Day** - Saturday, November 25, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Recycle crafts in pool lobby; games & activities for kids in the pool.
- **Free Teen Swim** - Thursday, November 30, 8:30 to 10:30 pm. Free admission, free pizza & pop (donated by Flames Restaurant & Pepsi).



DECEMBER EVENTS:

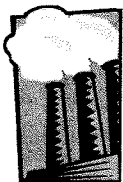
- **Annual Seniors Social** - Friday, December 15, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Refreshments & entertainment in pool lobby, no charge.
- **Old Fashioned Christmas** - Monday, December 18, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Free skating at GF Arena, entertainment and visit from Santa.
- **Annual Santa Swim** - Saturday, December 23, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.
- **First Night Swim** - Sunday, December 31, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Free New Year's Eve Swim.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

November 28 at 6:00 pm at the Omega Restaurant - A night to honour all volunteers. Presentation and Recognition to take place at 6:30 pm.

All Community volunteers are invited to attend.



BOUNDARY AIR QUALITY SURVEY

The Boundary Air Quality Committee (BAQC) has been meeting once a month since February this year. In addition, two subcommittees have also been meeting regularly each month. Countless emails, phone calls and visits with experts with other communities facing the same challenges have taken place. The Committee, made up of volunteers from industry, government, business, health organizations and provincial ministry, has worked hard to create a plan that will have public support and that will improve the air quality in our City and surrounding districts. At the public meeting held October 11th at GFSS, there was broad agreement on several important goals for the Committee:

1. By October 2007, BAQC will have worked with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to set goals with each industry on a specific project to improve air quality.
2. By October 2007, BAQC will have taken tours of local industry to better understand their operations in order to set goals.
3. By October 2007, MoE will have assisted the BAQC with the completion of an emissions inventory.
4. By January 2007, TEOM data will be available on a daily basis on-line- in real time.
5. By October 2007, BAQC will have secured long-term funding.
6. By October 2007, BAQC will develop a "wood stove" strategy.
7. Throughout 2006-2007, BAQC will engage the community through education.

This survey is an important step in the Committee's goal to engage and educate the public. Furthermore, it will provide the data that will guide the Committee's recommendations to local governments for bylaw implementation. Data will also provide a baseline on public attitudes and behavior over time. Moreover, data will provide the support as the Committee seeks funding for the long-term work that will bring improvements in the monitoring and analysis of the air shed.

The Committee is asking all residents of the City, Area C and Area D to complete this survey and return it to Grand Forks City Hall by mail Box 220, in the drop box or by hand delivery. If you require another survey they will be available at City Hall.

PLEASE CIRCLE THE LAST 3 DIGITS OF YOUR POSTAL CODE:

1H0 1H1 1H2 1H3 1H4 1H5 1H8 1H9 1E0 1E1 1E2 1E3

Please circle the number that best describes your feelings & opinions on each question.

1 = strong disagreement to 4 = strong agreement DK = Don't Know

Circle the number that best describes your opinion on each question.

1. Air quality is a very important issue to me.

1 2 3 4 DK

2. Wood heat is very important for my home.

1 2 3 4 DK

3. Industry is responsible for the poor air quality.

1 2 3 4 DK

4. Smoke from wood stoves is responsible for the poor air quality.

1 2 3 4 DK

5. Vehicle traffic emissions are responsible for the poor air quality.
- 1 2 3 4 DK
6. Municipal bylaws restricting outside burning can help improve air quality.
- 1 2 3 4 DK
7. Municipalities should put bylaws in place to phase out old wood stoves.
- 1 2 3 4 DK
8. Burning clippings and other yard wastes can badly affect local air quality.
- 1 2 3 4 DK
9. It is important to curtail unnecessary driving on a POOR air quality day.
- 1 2 3 4 DK
10. It is important to curtail emission producing activities, such as outside burning or using wood heat, on a POOR air quality day.
- 1 2 3 4 DK
11. Please rate the effectiveness of each media listed in communicating poor air quality days to you? (1 = least effective and 4 = most effective)
- | | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| Internet | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | DK |
| Newspaper | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | DK |
| Radio | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | DK |
| Road Signs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | DK |
| TV | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | DK |
12. I feel that poor air quality affects the health of my family as well as myself.
- 1 2 3 4 DK
13. I feel that the Boundary Air Quality Committee plays an important role in the improvement of air quality in my area.
- 1 2 3 4 DK
14. Please list any other forms of air pollution that concerns you that have not been addressed in this survey, or add any comments that you may have.

THANK-YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO FILL OUT THIS SURVEY!