

AIR QUALITY AND WOOD STOVE REGULATION BYLAW

Boundary Air Quality Committee of the City Council requested the City to institute a bylaw that would regulate air quality as a result of wood burning in wood stoves. The key elements of the proposed bylaw are:

Air Quality Advisory – means a public health warning issued by the Ministry of Environment on the basis of its monitoring of air quality parameters in the City.

Canadian Standard – means the performance testing of solid fuel-burning stoves, inserts, and low-burn rate factory-built fireplaces CAN/CSA-B415.1 standard published by the Canadian Standards Association as amended from time to time.

Constant Visible Plume—defined as a visible plume which is constant for 30 minutes or more.

Hydronic Wood Heating Appliance – means a wood heating appliance that transfers heat by circulating a fluid through a closed system of pipes.

Noxious Material – includes tires, plastics, rubber products, demolition and construction wastes, special waste as defined in the Environmental Management Act, animal organic waste, vegetable waste, food waste, bio-medical waste, automotive battery shipping boxes, plastic materials, waste petroleum products, chemically-treated paper and cardboard.

Pellet Stove – means a stove designed and used exclusively for the combustion of wood pellets having a maximum length of 2.5 cm in any dimension, and meeting the particulate emission requirements of the Canadian Standard or the US Standard.

Permitted Woodburning Appliance Fuel—defined as seasoned, untreated wood or manufactured products retailed for use fuel in a woodburning appliance

US Standard – means the New Source Performance Standards, Title 40, Part 60, Sub-part AAA of the Code of Federal Regulations (USA) (7-1-92 Edition), published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Wood burning Appliance – means a fireplace, woodstove, or similar device other than a Pellet Stove, installed in or about any premises, in which wood is burned and which discharges combustion products in the air.

Woodburning Appliances:

1. No person shall use a wood burning appliance at any time when an air quality advisory is in effect, except to heat premises that are equipped with no heating appliance or facilities other than the wood burning appliance.
2. No person shall operate a wood burning appliance in such a manner as to discharge air contaminants that are likely to cause a constant visible plume. No person shall install or operate a hydronic wood heating appliance.

Requirements for Installation of Wood burning Appliances:

No person shall install a wood burning appliance in or about any premises unless the appliance meets the particulate emission requirements of the Canadian Standard and the US Standard.

Prohibited Fuel Type:

No person shall cause or allow any substance to be burned in any wood burning appliance other than seasoned firewood that is properly stored, and in particular any garbage or noxious material.

Inspection and Orders—This

section will allow an Officer to inspect premises for the purposes of determining compliance, and further provide authority for an Officer to order the extinguishment of any fire that is in violation of the bylaw, and to further cause the fire to be extinguished if the order is not complied with.

A cost recovery section will allow the City to bill a property owner for the extinguishing of a fire in the event that the order to extinguish the fire is not complied with.

A penalty section allowing for a fine of up to \$500.00 for non-compliance.

Discussion and input is continuing on the proposed bylaw.

COUNCIL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

- Community Garden Initiative. City to provide land for community garden initiatives for local citizens who can grow food/vegetables locally; Haskap Berry Production proposal for Grand Forks was heard by Council
- Sunshine Valley Community Services. Work Program for disabled individuals provided this does not contravene the Collective Agreement. Grant given to Sunshine Valley to employ disabled workers
- Task Force on legal, local safe access to medical marijuana. Council did not approve the task force. This issue may be brought forward after November 2009.
- Filed notice of objection in reduction in Greyhound Services to Grand Forks
- Consideration of Sister City Relationship with MUping City in China for economic and cultural considerations between the two Cities.
- Grant funding applications submitted under Canada Stimulus Plan: Rehabilitation of trails and walkways to South Ruckles over Black Train Bridge and pedestrian/bicycle access on 9th street; Observation Mountain Grind including a tag line and Downtown Revitalization. Total grant application \$4 million
- Continuing Tax-Exemption for Interfor for another five years on the same basis as was available to Pope and Talbot on the new planer plant
- Boating on the Kettle and Granby Rivers. Filed a letter with Transport Canada to conduct review of the navigable waters to restrict use of boats. City does not have jurisdiction over federal waterways to regulate the use unless it relates to waterway structures and business licence.
- Letter of Support provided to Sunxt Development at the end of Riverside to make application for grant for sustainable community development under the Program called Equilibrium Communities Initiatives.
- A feasibility Report was submitted to Council for the development of a multi-purpose playing field south of the City Campground in the City Park. The proposed project is to be included in the 2010-2013 Financial Plan and public consultation process later this year.
- Approval of restoration of Lost lake with the diversion of water from Overton Creek . The City holds water licence on Overton Creek.

DO NOT FEED THE DEER

The City of Grand Forks is blessed with residents who take great care and pride in landscaping their properties, as well as many public green spaces which the City maintains. With this environment comes the challenge of living alongside natural wildlife. We are requesting that City residents refrain from feeding the deer. By feeding the deer, we mean the deliberate lay out of food to attract deer. Deer can find natural food sources and survive well on their own. In fact, handouts from humans may do the deer more harm than good. Feeding deer, especially during winter, maintains artificially high populations that make deer more susceptible to starvation and disease. Deer become accustomed to food handouts and lose their fear of humans, putting both deer and people at greater risk. Feeding deer attracts more of them to an area resulting in more damage to nearby properties. Feeding encourages deer to travel, increasing risks when they cross streets. Council will consider a bylaw prohibiting the feeding of deer within City Boundaries. EVERYONE HAS A ROLE IN MANAGING WILDLIFE

CITY PARK SEWER LIFT STATION

Tender has been awarded to Maglio's Installations from Castlegar. The total project is expected to cost \$1.9 million. The project funding is from Federal Rural Municipal Infrastructure Grant of \$556,000, grant of \$666,000 from ICE levy from the province and \$40,000 from Federation of Canadian Municipalities for heat extraction components built into the project. The local funding component is expected to be under \$800,000. The project is to commence in September and completed by April 30th, 2010. The City sought an Alternate Approval Process from ratepayers for \$3.5 million. The remaining unused borrowing authority will not be utilized elsewhere. It will lapse. The cost implication for sewer ratepayers in the future for the next fifteen years as a result of this improvement is expected to be as low as \$4 and as high as \$6 per month. Final rate will be provided once the project has been completed. The rate will take effect in two phases in 2010 and 2011.

INFRASTRUCTURE: ROADS, SIDEWALKS, WATER AND SEWER

A report was commissioned on the state of infrastructure in the City. This report is available on the website and at City Hall in electronic format. Over 10 to 15 year period about \$36 million needs to be invested to upgrade the **existing** water, sewer, roads, drainage and sidewalks. Financing of these projects can be spread in phases of \$5 million each over the next 30 years each repayment period of 10 years. It

will be a heavy burden on taxpayers and ratepayers to expect a massive increase in water, sewer and tax rates. Advance planning can make structuring of rates in such a way that once the first \$5 million is built up and paid for the remaining phases of each \$5 million will be subject to no further changes in rates and taxation. For instance the first \$5 million over 10 years will have an interest and principal pay-

ment of \$700,000. After the repayment, this \$700,000 is available to refinance the next \$5 million and so on. The other option might be to build a reserve of \$200,000 annually for the next 3 to 4 years to accumulate debt repayment. Each option is to be viewed in terms of progress to be made in fixing the ageing infrastructure. All costs are based on 2009 dollars. Residents may offer input on options to fix infrastructure.

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE

The service should commence effective September 8th, 2009. A contractor has been selected. The City has purchased the former SPCA building located at 8120 Donaldson Drive. The building has been leased under agreement of lease/purchase to the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. The participants of the animal control service are the Cities of Grand Forks and Greenwood, and Electoral Areas "C"

and "D" of RDKB. RDKB operates the animal control service through the contractor. The service is expected to be different than SPCA. RDKB bylaw does not allow for the acceptance and drop-off of cats at the location. The contractor is unable to provide for the adoption service. Volunteers may wish to get in touch with the contractor – Good Governance Solution. The local office phone number is (250) 584-9398 and

will also be published on the City's website as soon the contractor has taken possession of the facilities on Donaldson Drive. The contractor will provide the animal patrol service in all communities on intermittent basis. Do not let your animals run at large. Fines & penalties apply at the impound facilities before releasing animals caught.

FORTIS BC-ELECTRIC COST OF SERVICE STUDY

FortisBC commissioned comprehensive electric cost of service analysis (COSA). COSA is one of the major inputs that will be used by FortisBC in developing proposed rates for FortisBC. COSA takes the revenue requirements for FortisBC and allocates costs across various ratepayer classes. The results are used to ensure that proposed rates are fair, equitable and not unduly discriminatory. FortisBC last undertook such a study in 1997. COSA study will be subject to British

Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) approval when FortisBC files its rate design application later this year. There are five municipal wholesale customers of FortisBC- Kelowna, Penticton, Summerland, Grand Forks and Nelson operate as BC Municipal Electrical Utility (BC-M.E.U). These municipalities combine resources and make submissions and intervene in BCUC hearings. There is substantial implication to the City's electrical ratepayers (including other municipal ratepayers of

BC-MEU) arising from this COSA and the proposed rate design. According to FortisBC proposal, the City's wholesale power purchase rate is to increase by 29%. The City along with other municipally operated electrical utilities will be intervening later this year when BCUC commences the hearing. Municipally owned utilities do not agree with the method of cost allocation. BCMEU will be presenting its position refuting the FortisBC proposal. The entire COSA can be found on FortisBC website.

FLOWERS IN CITY GARDENS AND PLANTERS

Flowers and Planters are for the enjoyment and beautification of our City. More of these will be done in the future as funding is made available. They are an attraction to locals and visitors alike. It has been noticed some people pick these flowers. Please refrain from removing flowers from gardens and planters.

VANDALISM ON THE RISE

City is experiencing increased vandalism and graffiti. The City removed the West Entrance sign of "Grand Forks" done in flowers. Vandals within our Community are costing you money. If you see city properties being vandalized, call crime stoppers at: 1-800-222-8477

COMMUNITY TRANSITION STUDY

The Province paid for a Community Transition Study. The study has been completed. Council will be presented with the study at the September 8th meeting. Thereafter the study will be posted on the City's website. The Transition Study is designed to provide the Community with short and long term options for moving the Community forward. The report provides options in diversifying the local economy.

RAIL LINE REMOVAL PROPOSAL

OmniTrax has given notice to remove all rail trackage in Grand Forks, Area D, Christina Lake and the North Westside of Kettle River in Ferry County. Council along with Electoral Area Directors of C and D have been making submissions and meetings with the province, State, County and Federal representatives to ensure that this vital rail line is not removed. Grand Forks' major employers rely on this transportation link. Work is continuing with the assistance of the Provincial Rural Secretariat to keep the rail line operating. An economic impact study is currently underway.

SATISFACTION SURVEY ON CITY SERVICES

In the next few weeks the City will be sending out a services satisfaction survey to all property owners. The intent of the survey is to gather public's input on city services. The result of the survey will guide council in establishing the future levels of services and taxation. Participation is encouraged to complete this survey. The feedback will assist Council in setting service levels in 2010.

CAMPGROUND FEES AND OPERATIONS

The City has received a number of complaints on the rate charged. The City's rate is \$36 including GST or excluding GST is \$34.28. The rate was set so as not to provide tax subsidy in the operation of the campground. As of August 17th, 2009, the operation of the campground is at break-even with no subsidy from the property tax. The City is not in competition with other private sector campgrounds that have a lower rate structure.

The rate for campground is set based on these criteria: proximity to amenities such as downtown location, facilities provided (water, sewer, air conditioning rate power at 100amps to each site, bathroom , showers, disposal facilities parks, playgrounds, swimming and walking trails) The closer proximity to these amenities, the higher the expected rates and further away from such amenities, the lower the rate structure. City Campground happens to have all these amenities within a short walking distance.



COMMUNITY FORUM ON ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY

The City's Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) is presenting a Community Forum on Alternate Sources of Energy at the GFSS Auditorium on September 16th, 2009 commencing at 7.00pm. Public is invited to attend and learn about alternative sources of energy and how to save energy now and in the future. The panel consists of:

- Carol Suhan** A Power Sense Operations Manager: FortisBC
 - Dave Mayes** An Okanagan Environmental Industry Alliance
- with key note address from:

Jeane Manning— A Vancouver based author of "The Coming Energy Revolution" and Break-through Power: How Quantum-Leap New Energy Inventions Can Transform Our World (co-authored with industrial science consultant Joel Garbon.)

The presentation is funded by grants from FortisBC-Power Sense, Terasen Gas and City of Grand Forks Electrical.

SOLAR ENERGY REBATES

FortisBC, in partnership with Natural Resources Canada and ecoENERGY is delivering \$1,000. rebates for new home installations of solar hot water systems. FortisBC is offering a \$300 rebate to retrofits of solar hot water system to residents with existing electricity-fueled hot water tanks. These offers are available throughout FortisBC's service area. City of Grand Forks is part of Power Sense program offered by FortisBC. City of Grand Forks buys 100% of electricity from FortisBC.

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We are on the Web!
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