

Grand Forks investing in our infrastructure – our future

Did you know that our great city was incorporated in 1897, making it 114 years old? Since that time, our community has grown to just over 4,000 residents.

Our community just completed and endorsed our Sustainable Community Plan, which focused on eight goals for a sustainable future. These goals can be summarized as having a growing community that is resilient to the constant economic and social changes we face.

At the root of our community is the foundation of infrastructure we have built upon. This infrastructure continually provides our families and businesses with the day to day transportation, water, sanitary, energy, recreational and cultural services we have all come to rely on. These same services, with the aid of our beautiful valley, help us attract new residents and business.

Over the years our city has built up approximately \$127 million in public infrastructure, this is quite an investment. As our community has aged, so has our infrastructure. This infrastructure has served us well but it is getting old, with some of our roads having been built in the 1930s and pipelines built in the 1940s. In fact, it is estimated that the remaining life of our infrastructure is only about 36%. "This loss in value is not uncommon in a community" explains City Financial Director Cecile Arnott, "However, we must be prepared to respond before this infrastructure starts failing, once it starts failing the renewal

costs and the costs of responding to failures get very expensive". The city estimates the current backlog of renewal work (deficit) is approximately \$32 million.

Over the past year, city officials have been conducting an in-depth analysis of the remaining life our infrastructure to determine the risk of deferring repair against the cost of repairs. The result of this analysis has shown that many of the city's water, sanitary, storm water and roadway sections have already reached the end of their service lives. "What this means," says City Chief Administrative Officer Lynne Burch, "is that this infrastructure is starting to fail, and we need to act now to start renewing this infrastructure. Failing to do so will only increase the cost of repairs, and possibly result in some loss of service levels." Lynne Burch went on to say that, "This isn't uncommon, much of our infrastructure typically needs to be renewed on a 30 to 40 year cycle, and we are reaching the end of the latest cycle."

In order to maintain current levels of service and reliability, funding for this renewal investment is required. To address the immediate need for funding, Council gave three readings to two bylaws on July 18, 2011, one that would authorize the borrowing of up to \$1.3 million for emergency water supply for fire protection (Bylaw 1922) and another that would authorize upwards of \$4.2 million for road, water and sewer capital renewal projects (Bylaw 1923). "Bylaw 1923 is designed to combine road, water and sewer repairs into combined projects to minimize our cost,"

explains Mayor Brian Taylor. "Based upon some good science, we are able to combine multiple priorities into more comprehensive multi-utility projects."

These two bylaws will need to be voted on via referendum during our upcoming civic election on November 19th. To help residents and businesses gain a better understanding of the analytical process and results, City Councillors and staff will be delivering presentations to key community groups in early October, if your community group is interested in a presentation please contact Cecile Arnott, Director of Finance at 250-442-8266.

**The city will also
be holding two
OPEN HOUSES on
Wednesday, October 26,
2011: the first one will be
from 10 am to 12 pm at
City Hall; and the second
one will be from 6:30 pm
to 8:30 pm in Studio B
at 7330 2nd Street.**

"We also encourage residents to drop by City Hall for more information and to talk to staff," suggests Councillor Thompson. "Our goal is to inform our community on the process and information assessed leading up to the bylaw decision, and to capture community feedback."

Say hello to the new City of Grand Forks website!

Our new website has been operational for approximately a month and half now and we are thrilled with the positive public responses we have received to date. We urge you to check it out by going to www.city.grandforks.bc.ca.

For those of you who were eagerly waiting for the City's Live Weather Station to come back to life, it is now available on our new site and can be located on the City's home page in the lower right hand corner!

Many thanks to Pro Creative Design Labs for their excellent work and continued support.

Woodstove Safety Tips

It's that time of year again.....

- Have your wood stove and chimney cleaned and inspected each year prior to heating season.
- Open dampers before starting a fire in a wood stove.
- Vent your stove properly and insulate vent from flammable materials.
- Use paper and kindling wood to ignite a fire. Do not use lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline.
- Keep dry wood away from the stove.
- Always use seasoned wood, at least 6 months old.
- Remember that slow burning fires can create creosote and soot problems. Small hot fires are more efficient.
- Clean ashes from your stove every week during the heating season. Do not use a vacuum to clean ashes. Put ashes in a metal container and store away from your home and combustibles.
- Inspect your pipes and connections monthly for creosote and soot build-up.

Warning signs of chimney problems:

- Build up of creosote (dripping from base of the chimney or staining of the outer chimney shell).
- Sluggish draft (smoke spilling out when the woodstove door is opened).
- Corrosion of the outer shell of a factory built chimney.
- Deterioration of the brickwork of a masonry chimney

**Have a Safe and Enjoyable Fall from
Grand Forks Fire/Rescue!**



City announces a new Freeman of the City

At the City of Grand Forks' Volunteer Appreciation Evening held on Wednesday, September 14th at Gallery 2, Jock and Betty Ann Mackay were conferred on the Freedom of the City and were presented with a plaque bestowing this honour by Mayor Brian Taylor. They were recognized by a full complement of friends, family, and many citizens of Grand Forks.

In addition to the evening's events were presentations given to volunteers of the community who were nominated by community organizations and members of Council.

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Award recipients were:

- * The Hip Sisters – Belly Dance Group
- * Joshua Caron
- * Grand Forks Pipes And Drums
- * Les Folles Jambette – Can Can Dancers
- * Lincoln Ford
- * Ken Flagl
- * Ted Invictus
- * Zak Eburne
- * Shawna Schuh
- * Shirley Schuh
- * Cliff Schuh



Betty Ann and Jock Mackay were presented with a plaque bestowing the honour of Freeman of the City by Mayor Brian Taylor (right).

An Invitation

To attend an information session on
Haskap Berry Production
on October 15th, 2011
City Park Senior's Centre ~ 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Okay, everyone, pull out your HB pencils and put on your tinfoil thinking caps. Here is this month's "Pop Quiz":

- 1) Have you every heard of the Honeysuckle plant? Yes? Excellent. They are of the genus, "Lonicera" and there are many varieties grown in gardens and as ornamentals throughout the Boundary.
- 2) Have you ever heard of the Haskap berry? Hmm...I see...not as many. Haskap berries come from varieties of Honeysuckle native to Siberia and northern Japan. Able to withstand temperatures of -40C, these hardy plants produce large, purple berries that ripen before strawberries, have a distinctly unique flavour, and are packed full of yummy goodness.
- 3) Were you aware of the potential to locally produce Haskap berries commercially? If you are but thought that was an awkward way to put it - you still get full points. If you aren't, then you may want to attend an upcoming information session sponsored by the City of Grand Forks.

On October 15th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the City Park Senior's Centre, Curtis Braaten, from Haskap Central Sales in Henribourg, Saskatchewan, will be speaking on his extensive knowledge and experience in growing Haskap. His association with Dr. Bob Bors from the University of Saskatoon, a leading developer of production cultivars, will afford all those interested in the opportunity of visioning a ground-level opportunity for Grand Forks and Area. Stay tuned to your local news media for more.



Election 2011 Tidbits

With November 19th fast approaching, the City is preparing for this year's local government election. Here are a few tidbits of information geared to assist members of the public and those running for Mayor and Council:

- **NOMINATION PAPERS TO RUN FOR OFFICE.** Those wishing to run for either Mayor or Council may pick up a nomination package from City Hall. Completed papers will be reviewed and received by the Chief Election Officer or Deputy Chief Election Officer from October 4th, 2011 – 9:00 am to October 14th, 2011 4:00 pm excluding weekends and statutory holidays. The Chief Election Officer may challenge nominations as nomination documents are received. Please ensure that your nominators are either on the City's Voter's List; or are eligible to vote in the City of Grand Forks in this year's election and have filled out the appropriate declaration for Residential or Non-Residential Elector. (Please note that a Non-Residential Elector requires the consent from the majority of the registered property owners.)
- **THE VOTER'S LIST.** September 27th was the last day for eligible electors to have their names appear on the voter's list. This list will be made available for inspection at the Front Desk at City Hall from October 4th to November 18th during regular office hours. Before inspecting the list of registered electors, a person other than a local government officer or employee acting in the course of duties must sign a statement that the person will not inspect the list or use the information included except for purposes of the election. Each person who has been nominated to run in the 2011 City of Grand Forks Election is entitled, for use by that person for the purposes of the election, one copy of the list of registered electors without charge. Additional copies as requested by the nominated candidate will be charged \$10.00 per copy in accordance with the City of Grand Forks Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1671.
- **ADVANCED VOTING.** Is on November 9th and November 16th, 2011 at the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Boardroom at 2140 Central Avenue, Grand Forks from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- **SPECIAL VOTING.** Will be available to patients and staff working and residing at the Boundary Hospital at 7649-22nd Street, Grand Forks, on November 19th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm
- **GENERAL VOTING.** Will be at Dr. D.A. Perley School at 1200 Central Avenue from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- **THE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS 2011 ELECTION** will be advertised in the Grand Forks Gazette on October 26th and November 2nd, 2011
- **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS** can be found on-line at http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm and <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/election/2011>