

June 2006

Don't Be the Cause of a Wildfire

Interface fires often start as small accidental ignitions. FireSmart standards are aimed at helping interface residents (where development presses up against wildland areas) prevent interface fires from starting.

FireSmart your chimney—Chimneys should be constructed to meet current B.C. Building Code requirements and should have approved spark arrestors.

Power lines and propane tanks—Vegetation should be cleared well back from power lines, propane tanks and other fuel supplies.

Emergency facilities—FireSmart building sites have adequate emergency vehicle access, with an on-site emergency water supply (pool, pond or tank).

Shovels and rakes—Every home should have shovels, rakes, axes, garden hoses, sprinklers and roof ladders to assist in suppressing wildfires.



The FireSmart information is reprinted with permission of the BC Provincial Emergency Program. For further information pick up the complete FireSmart manual at City Hall or visit the PEP website at www.pep.bc.ca

City of Grand Forks Newsletter

www.city.grandforks.bc.ca

BE FIRE SMART!

GET READY

Properly preparing your home and community doesn't guarantee that you will not incur fire damage, but it does reduce risks. Obtain insurance coverage for all property at risk from fire—government disaster financial assistance is limited and only covers uninsurable perils.

Some of these preventative measures cost very little and reduce fire damage by a great deal; others require planning and a long-term commitment to change.

Let's look at areas where you can apply FireSmart standards to protect or reduce the damage to your property should a wildfire strike.

SITE PREPARATION

Any kind of vegetation is combustible. Mature trees, shrubs, grass, even your woodpile, are all potential fuels and can easily ignite (increasing the chance of building ignition and loss). Managing the space around your house and building is very important.

Do you have a cleared zone around your house and buildings? The first 10 metres of space around your home is your "First Priority". It's the most critical area to consider for fire protection. A good fuel free space gives firefighters a chance to save your home from an advancing fire. A home without a good fuel free space around it can make firefighting difficult, if not impossible.

What to do? Remove any shrubs, trees, deadfall or woodpiles from this area and keep your grass mowed and watered.

How FireSmart is your "Second Priority" Zone? From 10 to 30 metres out from your home is the second priority zone. In this zone, you need to reduce fuels by thinning and pruning so that combustion cannot be supported.

What to do? Remove trees and debris that can spread fire upwards to become a fast spreading crown fire. Space trees so that crowns of individual trees are 3—6 metres apart.

Remove or reduce the number of evergreen trees in the area. Evergreens such as pine and spruce are much more combustible than deciduous trees. In fact, aspen, poplar and birch all have very low flammability rates.

Remove deadfall, thick shrubbery and mature trees that might provide the opportunity for a ground fire to climb up into the forest canopy. Once a fire crowns out, it's virtually unstoppable.

Can you extend the FireSmart maintenance plan to the "Third Priority" zone? The third priority zone begins 30 metres from any structure and extends to a distance of 100 metres

and beyond. The idea here is not to remove all combustible fuels from the forest, but to thin the area so fires will be of low intensity and more easily extinguished.

What to do?

Thin or reduce shrubs or trees that make up the under story, retain fire resistant deciduous trees, space trees (3—6 metres between crowns) to reduce the potential for a crowning fire.

These are simple, economical steps anyone can take to create a FireSmart home, community or business site. For these actions to be effective they must be maintained.

FIRESMART PROTECTION PLAN

- A. Prune tree branches to a height of 2 metres or more
- B. Store firewood 10 metres or more from house (avoid downslope location)
- C. Remove all trees, long grass, shrubs, twigs, etc. within 10 metres of house
- D. Thin trees (with 3-6 metre crowns) within 10 metres of house
- E. Contact your utility company if trees or branches encroach on power lines
- F. Grass within 10 metres of buildings should be mowed and watered
- G. Address clearly signed for quick identification by fire service
- H. Driveway is wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles
- I. Try to provide an alternate emergency access route to your property
- J. Pond or tank with an emergency water supply
- K. Driveway clear of trees to a distance of at least 3—4 metres
- L. Chimney installed to code complete with spark arrestor screens
- M. All eaves enclose and screen all vents including soffits
- N. Undersides of balconies, decks, etc. sheathed in flame resistant materials
- O. Propane tanks located at least 10 metres from building
- P. Use only Class A, B or C fire resistant exterior siding
- Q. Solid shutters or metal firescreens will provide increased fire protection for windows and doors

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

It could be another long, hot, dry summer. In order to ensure that the reservoir remains at a level to provide adequate fire protection to the community, as well as to provide ample water for residential, commercial and industrial use, it is imperative that consumers on the City water system make every effort to keep non-essential water use to a minimum.

For outdoor uses, please ensure that you are observing the sprinkling regulations. Water only as needed. It is not necessary to use the entire allotment of time allocated under the sprinkling regulations. The sprinkling hours are very generous in order to accommodate a wide variety of individual schedules, please only sprinkle when necessary.

If you are using an automatic irrigation system, you may apply at City Hall for a variance to the sprinkling hours to allow you to water during the early morning hours. This will minimize evaporation, as well as take pressure off the City water system during peak water use times. For information on sprinkling regulations visit the City website at www.city.grandforks.bc.ca or contact City Hall at 442-8266.



Water Conservation In the Yard

1. Try to water during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler, to minimize evaporation.
2. Water your lawn in several short sessions rather than one long one. This will allow the water to be better absorbed.

CITY OF GRAND FORKS WATER REGULATIONS & RATES BYLAW NO. 1501, 1997

The City of Grand Forks watering restrictions are in place year round. Sprinkling shall be restricted to all City consumers to the following days and times:

"EVEN" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle on "even" numbered days (02, 04, 06, etc.)

"ODD" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle on "odd" numbered days (01, 03, 05, etc.)



from 5:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.
and
from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Sprinkling shall be permitted on the 31st day of any month as follows:

"EVEN" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the mornings from

5:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. ONLY

"ODD" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the evening from

5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. ONLY

City consumers with automatic timed underground sprinkling systems, or establishing a new lawn, may apply for a permit to vary the sprinkling hours as outlined above.

There is No Charge for a Variance Permit.

****Please note that the City has authority to shut water off at the property line to those residents refusing to comply with the sprinkling regulations. A reconnect fee of \$50.00 will be required prior to reconnection (Schedule "B", Bylaw 1501).**

3. Fertilize less. This is particularly important prior to or during dry periods.
 4. Consider using more efficient irrigation systems such as a soaker hose or drip irrigation.
 5. Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
 6. Raise the mower blade during dry weather. Cutting the grass higher encourages deeper rooting.
 7. Use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If it goes in easily, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.
 8. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.
- ### Water Conservation In the Home
1. Only run full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
 2. Check showerhead and other faucets for drips or leaks. Fix leaks immediately.
 3. Use water conserving plumbing fixtures.
 4. Take shorter showers.
 5. Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth or shaving.
 6. When washing dishes don't let the water run to rinse them. Fill up one sink for washing and one sink for rinsing.
 7. Use the short cycle on your dishwasher, some dishwashers can wash dishes without pre-rinsing them.

NOTICE OF YEAR 2006 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

In accordance with Section 127 of the Community Charter, please take notice that the following is a listing of scheduled Regular Meetings of Council for the City of Grand Forks for the remainder of 2006.

Monday, July 17, 2006
Monday, August 14, 2006
Monday, September 11, 2006
Monday, October 2, 2006
Monday, October 16, 2006
Monday, November 6, 2006
Monday, November 20, 2006
Monday, December 4, 2006
Monday, December 18, 2006

Please note there is only one Regular Meeting in the months of July and August. All Regular Meetings of Council are held in Council Chamber at City Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Following is a listing of scheduled Primary Committee Meetings of Council for the City of Grand Forks for the remainder of 2006. Primary Committee Meetings are scheduled to follow the Regular Meeting of Council.



Monday, July 17, 2006
Monday, August 14, 2006
Monday, September 25, 2006
Monday, October 16, 2006
Monday, November 20, 2006
Monday, December 18, 2009

EVENT REQUEST FORMS

Any groups planning events in City facilities that require special services, need to complete the City's "Special Events Form" at least two weeks before the event takes place. Forms submitted with less than two weeks notice will not be acted on. The City will not accept verbal requests.

COMPOSTING TIPS

Composting our kitchen scraps could mean a 10-20% reduction in our garbage. Add yard waste and leaves to your composter and we've cut back another 10-20%! Composting is not expensive, it's easy and saves fertilizer costs.

Compost leaves, grass, twigs, weeds & food scraps. It saves you time & money! The fertile product can be used in your garden to save digging time, conserve water and lessen the need for fertilizer & mulch.

An effective mixture is the key to composting. An easy way to think of this is two parts green material (nitrogen) like fresh grass clippings and food scraps to one part brown



(carbon) such as leaves. Layer your compostable materials to 15 cm (6") thick, then about once a week or so, give it a good mix to speed up the process. And, remember to keep your composter nearly full. The more nutrients, the better.

- Drop in your yard & food waste into your bin with a little soil when first beginning your compost
 - Mix fresh green and brown yard waste
 - Keep it moist and covered
 - Chop up large, tough materials
 - Stir it up regularly to ensure air flow
- Throw in some worms to speed up the process.

**PLEASE
DO NOT**



**FEED
THE DEER**

BEAR AWARE—A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

Properly storing or securing residential garbage and other bear attractants is a proven method for discouraging bears and preventing nuisance problems around homes, farms and neighbourhoods.

The following items attract bears and should be properly managed:

Garbage Cans, Bird Feeders, Pet Food, Wildlife Feeders, Feeders, BBQ Grills, Smokers, Livestock Feed, Compost Piles, Beehives, Fruit Trees, Petroleum Products, Nut-Bearing Trees and Shrubs, Small Livestock such as Goats, Rabbits, Pigs and Chickens.

GARBAGE - Store garbage inside until pick-up. Ensure bins are properly sealed. Wash and clean cans and jars and recycle where appropriate. Freeze pungent wastes until pick-up day. Don't throw cooking oil or grease outside.

FRUIT TREES— Pick fruit as it ripens or pick it before it ripens if you don't intend to use it. Consider replacing unwanted fruit trees with other trees. Don't allow windfall to accumulate on the ground.

COMPOST- If your compost stinks, you're doing something wrong. Use a proper compost bin. Turn your compost regularly; cover compost with leaves, lime and soil to reduce odours. Do not put fish, meat, fat, oils, unrinsed eggshells or any cooked foods into your compost.

SMALL LIVESTOCK - Secure pet and livestock feed. Bring pet dishes indoors.

YARDS AND PROPERTY

- Place birdfeeders out of bears reach and keep the area free of seeds. Avoid using birdfeeders in the summer, spring & fall.
- Clean barbecues after use. Cover and/or store indoors. (Do not take propane tanks indoors).
- Thin out brush to reduce natural cover close to buildings and along paths.
- Try to leave natural paths of escape for bears that may wander in looking for food.
- Never leave garbage bags, regardless of what's in them, in your yard. Don't leave food or garbage in the back of pick-up trucks - not even one with a canopy.
- Don't store food in outdoor freezers.
- Don't leave coolers or other items that may contain food smells in your yard.
- Enclose beehives with electric fencing.

If you see a bear.....

- Remain calm; don't panic. Often the bear is simply looking for food and will move on if it finds nothing to eat.
- Keep away from the bear and go inside and bring children

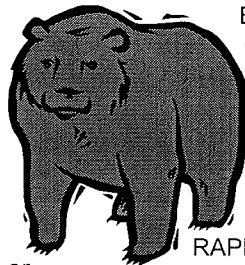
and pets indoors.

- Never approach the bear and do not run from the bear. Do not act submissively by crouching down or whispering.
- Warn others of the bear's presence, but don't do it by yelling
- If the bear climbs a tree, keep people and pets away.

Eventually when things quiet down, the bear will come down and leave. This usually happens after dark when the bear feels safe. Once the bear is safely out of the area, check your yard to ensure there are no attractants available.

If the bear is threatening, persistent or aggressive...

Call the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-RAPP (7277) or your local police.
For more info on being BEAR AWARE check out their website at www.bearaware.bc.ca



IT'S UP TO YOU!

More than 1000 bears are killed every year in BC because of bear-human conflicts. Almost all of these bears were attracted into neighbourhoods by improperly stored garbage and other attractants.

Exposure to humans causes bears to lose their normal fear of people. When this happens, bears become a potential threat.

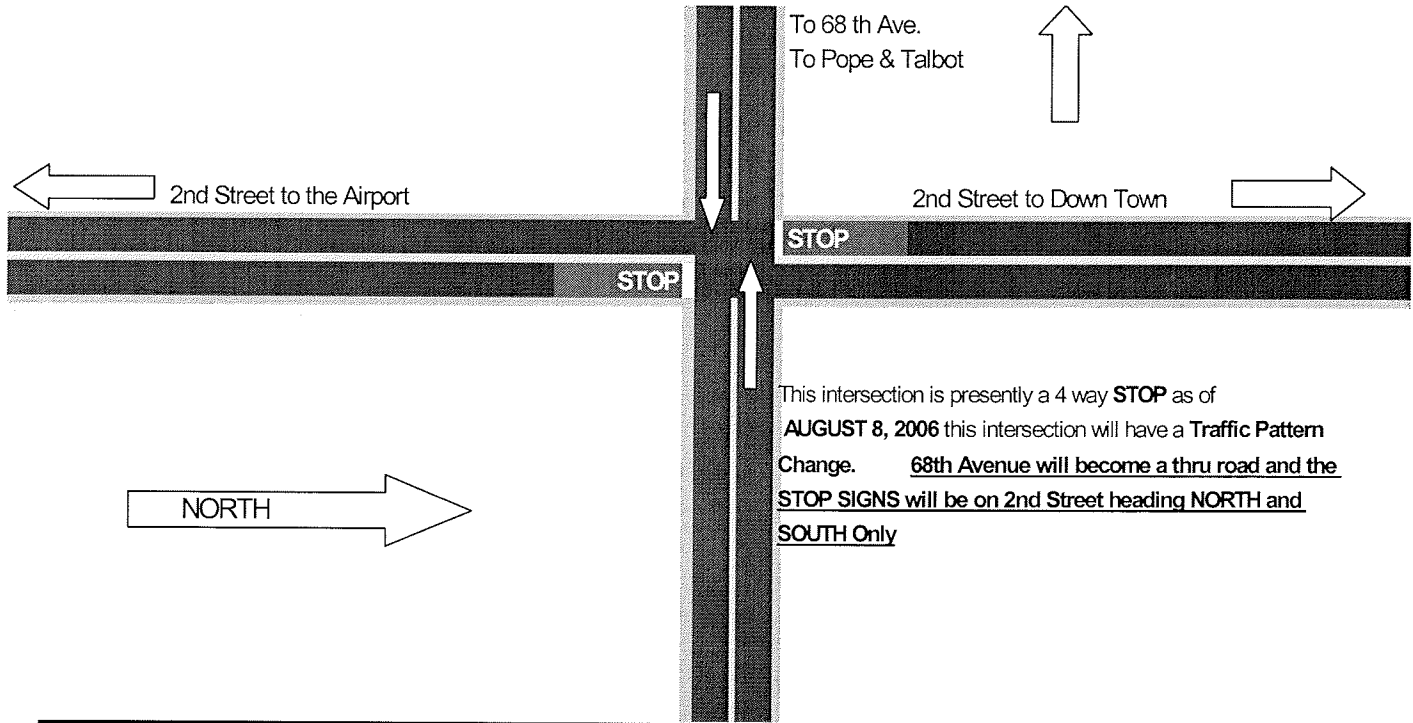
Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament

The 27th edition of the GFI will open on Wednesday, August 30th with three games and the opening ceremonies. For the first time in tournament history, 9 innings will be played in every game of the tournament. 12 Teams will compete for \$43,000 in prize money, with the championship final on Monday, September 4th. Fans will be treated to 25 games of outstanding baseball plus a great atmosphere at James Donaldson Park. The Hardball Café, the Right Field Tavern, Gifi the loveable mascot, the Family Friendly Zone, Bingo at every game, and the Alumni Hall of Fame, are all added features to keep everyone entertained beyond the action on the field. Last year the Kids Run the Bases competition was a real hit and it will be back along with some other new promotions. Tournament passes are available at the Grand Forks Pharmasave and for Reserved Seating you can call the office at 442-8323. Visit the GFI website at grandforksbaseball.com for more information about the tourney.



If you are interested in volunteering at this year's event we welcome your call at the above number. There are many opportunities to help and it is a great feeling to serve your community as you enjoy a fun and meaningful experience with a team of 300 GFI volunteers.

TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGE



This intersection is presently a 4 way **STOP** as of **AUGUST 8, 2006** this intersection will have a **Traffic Pattern Change**. 68th Avenue will become a thru road and the STOP SIGNS will be on 2nd Street heading NORTH and SOUTH Only

IMAGES OF CANADA, IMAGES OF THE BOUNDARY

The Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Canada Day is having a Photo Display Contest, the "People Choice Awards" featuring—Images of Canada and Images of the Boundary. Do you have a photo you would like to submit? The photos will be on display for voting on Canada Day outside the Chamber Office at 7362-5th Street and can be previewed on the Grand Forks Chamber Web site at www.grandforkschamber.com. Judging by the audience in attendance will take place at the Canada Day Celebration from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Saturday, July 1st at GYRO PARK, corner of 5th street and Highway #3. The photo display contest is open to everyone. Please come out and enjoy the festivities and vote for your favorite photo. If you would like to submit a photo, email it to photos@grandforkschamber.com or drop a photo of your favorite Boundary scene or place or event at the CHAMBER OFFICE for scanning.

The deadline is 4:00 p.m. June 27, 2006.

EVERYTHING IS "FALLING" INTO PLACE AT GFREC

Summer is just starting, but here at GFREC we're busy getting ready for Fall. At the top of the list are the exciting upgrades underway at the Grand Forks Arena and Aquatic Centre. Four years of research and planning will become a reality this year when the new state of the art heat reclaim and solar heating system is installed and commissioned.

Grand Forks has a lot to offer for children and youth. On Thursday, September 7th Grand Forks Recreation is inviting all local clubs and organizations who serve the children and youth of our community to showcase their programs and products at an Open House in the Arena viewing room. This will give parents a comprehensive view of everything that is offered for kids in the community—kind of "one stop shopping" event! Exhibitors can book space at no charge and no admission fee will be charged to the public.



It's always a good idea to "shape up" before you get back on your skates. GFREC is offering some pre-season conditioning for kids the last week of August. Morning Power Skating sessions will teach skills and build endurance. Then in the afternoons they can team up for some supervised scrimmages.

Many of our favourite events will be back this Fall. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Station to Station Cross Country Course (or choose the more moderate 5 km route) and finish up with a delicious brunch at The Station.

The 3rd Annual Cooper Ridge Duathlon is slated for Sunday, October 15th. Last year even a downpour couldn't dampen everyone's enthusiasm. Individuals and teams participate in this cross country run and mountain biking event.

IT'S OK TO PLAY AT GFREC! Call the Recreation Office at 442-2202

MUSIC IN THE PARK



This season's music in the park will start on Wednesday, July 5th at 7:00 p.m. in City Park and will continue every Wednesday for the summer.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE SATURDAY, JULY 29TH

The Summer Youth Pops Touring Orchestra will be performing at City Park for a free concert on Saturday, July 29th at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM VISION

Communities in Bloom are planning a fall planting of yellow daffodil bulbs. These bulbs are deer resistant and do not have to be taken out each year. Watch for more details from Communities in Bloom coming soon.

