

2007 COUNCIL'S PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Council holds two annual meetings away from the Council Chambers. In 2007, the two public meeting dates are:

**April 16, 2007 at
Senior's Centre starting
at 7:00 p.m.**

- **November 20th, 2007
at GFSS starting at
7:00 p.m.**

The purpose of these two meetings are to involve the general public on municipal issues, provide an overview of city services, projects and update on the financial status of the City based on 2006-2010 Financial Plan. Council appreciates public involvement in the affairs of your Civic Government. The last public meeting was held on two separate nights on November 20th and 27th, at the Hutton School and at the Senior's Centre. Topics discussed were community Centre, Towne Square Project, City Park, City Services and 2007-2011 Financial Plan.

General public are encouraged to attend and participate. If the public are unable to attend the two scheduled Community meetings, Council at every second monthly meeting provides for the general public to attend and discuss issues and express their views on services, projects and finances before Council. Council meetings are televised on the local Community Channel. Council also provides regular community updates on issues through this newsletter.

CITY OF GRAND FORKS

MARCH/APRIL 2007

ELECTRICAL MONTHLY FEE

Council and Staff members have fielded many calls concerning the monthly fee on the City's Electrical invoice. In previous years, all of the City's costs for running the Electrical utility were charged under the consumption "Kilowatt Hour Charge". As a ratepayer's consumption increased, the Kilowatt Hour Charge was multiplied by the consumption and this caused some

ratepayers to be charged very high amounts on their invoices. This was particularly evident during the cold weather months.

By charging a monthly "Flat Fee", the City is charging a fee that does not change during high consumption periods. In the long run, this will help lower your electrical bill by not charging all of the costs through the "Kilowatt Hour

Charge".

The City also provides an Electrical Credit on your yearly tax bill which helps to lower your overall taxes. The City's current electrical fee schedule is still lower than Fortis rates, and with the Electrical Credit on your tax bill, provides ratepayers with rates that are among the lowest in the province.

POLICING

Many times when residents see incidents happening in their neighborhood, they do not report them to the police by calling 911. Council receives complaints from residents about lack of policing in their areas, and talks to the RCMP about these complaints. The RCMP response is that there are no calls coming into their dispatch centre for them to respond to. In order to have effective and responsive policing, all residents should report any incidents to the police by calling 911 as soon as they happen. RCMP dispatch has a "Priority Sequence" for calls. If you delay in calling it is

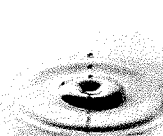
possible that your call will not be prioritized at the top of the sequence, and can result in delays in having an RCMP member dispatched to your area. When calling 911 be sure to have as much information as possible for the dispatcher, such as descriptions of culprits or descriptions of vehicles. You will be asked for your name and address. This is for follow-up purposes in case the RCMP need to investigate further. Please be willing to give this information as it is vital to having a responsive police department.

The RCMP have also met with

Council and reported that they are spending a considerable amount of time on "False Alarms". They also report that 99% of alarm calls are false. This causes a considerable amount of wasted time on the part of the RCMP and diverts them from more important investigation work. If this continues, Council will consider a "False Alarm" Bylaw where you will be charged a fine for having False Alarms. Proceeds of these fines will go towards support for policing activities.



WATER NEWS



Last year total water use in the City was 3.3 billion liters.

This translates to 734 million gallons. By way of comparison, in 2005 water usage in Castlegar was 719 million gallons. Castlegar has a population of 7,200 vs The City of Grand Forks population of 4,000.

Of the 734 million gallons, Industrial ratepayers accounted for 152,600 million gallons of the total. The peak months of July and August accounted for 205 million gallons of the total usage. The average daily usage during July and August was 3.3

million gallons. Some days were higher than others due to fluctuations in temperature. The highest single day water usage was 4.5 million gallons. Our system was pushed to the limit to provide that much water at once. Upgrading our water system to increase capacity will be costly to the ratepayers of the water system. By conserving water, ratepayers can save themselves money by helping the City to delay expensive capacity upgrades.

The City has adopted Bylaw 1822 that requires commercial ratepayers to have meters installed in 2007. This work is

currently in progress. At that time all commercial and industrial ratepayers will be metered. The City will have sufficient data to determine usage by each ratepayer class – commercial, industrial, City irrigation, hospital, school and residential. This will allow the City to implement a rate structure that will be more fair and equitable for all water users.



**PLEASE CONSERVE
WATER AND USE IT
WISELY.**

CIRCUIT COURT, MUSEUM & ART GALLERY NEW LOCATION

After months of negotiations with the Court Services and the Attorney General's Offices, an agreement was reached to relocate the Circuit Court from the existing Court House Building to 525 Central Avenue Property.(formerly occupied by the Ministry of Highways). This 7,810 sq.ft. building and the vacant lot next to it were acquired by the City for \$895,000 as part of the overall relocation package for the Circuit Court, Art Gallery and Museum.

Mayor Krog stated, "This is a very significant step in giving prominence to arts, heritage and culture in our community. The court house building is a beautiful historical centre piece which will allow us to show case our communities arts, heritage and culture as part of the Towne Square Project. With the

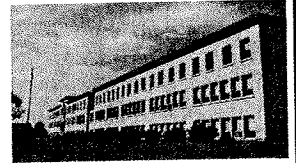
significant shift in tourism towards culture and the arts, Grand Forks is well situated to take advantage of the extensive traffic using Highway #3. With this prominent location and the attractive historical building in conjunction with the improved Gyro Park, the Visitors Information Centre and the Live Sites for events this area functions as a major people place in the downtown core".

The Circuit Court will continue to operate at the new location on the original lease negotiated at the time the City acquired the Court House building from the Provincial Government. Since the acquisition of the Court House, this 9,500 sq.ft two story building has mostly remained vacant with the exception of 2,365 sq.ft leased to the Ministry of Attorney General for Circuit Court sitting at an

average of six days a month. The annual lease payment is

\$35,000 annually with CPI increase in the next 5-year of the lease and a further market rate increase after 2014.

The City chose not to build a new building due to high cost, and chose this cost effective alternative with a variety of alternative municipal and government uses for the remaining space when the existing leases expire in the 525 Central Avenue Property. It made financial sense to acquire the property from the funds received from the sale of City properties. Council is extremely excited with this opportunity to change the face of the community and provide amenities for our citizens and visitors.



NOTICE TO RIVERSIDE DRIVE RESIDENTS



During April and May the City will be upgrading along Riverside Dr in order to protect the road (which acts as a dyke) from further damage during high water. This work will entail the placement of rip

rap on the banks of the river and the removal of trees, which are creating voids in the dyke works, allowing water to undermine the dyke. Work is scheduled to begin in mid April and will take approximately two weeks. There will be traffic control in place during all times of construction as the road may be closed at various times to facilitate the work. All work will be supervised

by engineers and a registered biologist. The City regrets any inconvenience this may cause residents, however the project is being done to help ensure that the dyke is maintained in good repair for the safety of residents.

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We are on the Web!
www.city.grandforks.bc.ca

NOTICE OF WATER MAIN FLUSHING



The Water Utility Department advises residents that we will be flushing water mains throughout the City during the months of April and May. Flushing water mains is done as part of a scheduled preventative maintenance program to remove sediment that gradually deposits in the pipes and help maintain water quality in our system.

Flushing will take place between the

hours of 7:00 am and 3:30 pm. As we flush your area, you may experience a temporary reduction in water pressure and/or discoloration of the water. These conditions are normal during flushing activities and are only temporary. Please check your drinking, cooking, and laundry water before using. To clear your water lines, simply turn on your cold water tap or outside hose bib and let it run until the water is clear (approx 15 min.)

The City of Grand Forks regrets any

inconvenience the flushing program might cause you. If you have any questions or if you experience any persistent water quality problems as a result of this maintenance program, please call City Hall, at 442-8266 or Mike Imrie, Water and Sewer Utilities Coordinator, at 442-4148, ext. 244. Calls after 3:30 or on weekends should be made to the Utilities Department emergency phone number, at 442-3355.

At the March 19 Primary Committee meeting, Council announced the release of the "3 Levels of Environmental Stewardship". Council is interested in hearing from you on these guidelines. After hearing all of the input, Council will make any amendments they feel necessary. This document will then become the general environmental principles to guide the City, Commerce and individuals.

CITY OF GRAND FORKS—3 LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

LEVELS OF INITIATIVES	MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP & DIRECTION	RESULT EXPECTED	FUNDING SOURCE	EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENT	MUNICIPAL ACTION
<u>Operational Initiatives</u>					
1. Vehicle Purchase & Use Idling	Purchase biofuel vehicles for municipal use—Reduce idling	Reduction in emissions and reduce operating cost	Municipal Tax	Reduce emissions, green environment	Policy on purchase where available with biofuels/propane
2. Gravel & Dust Areas	Paving gravel roads and alleys, and use grass, flowers and trees	Reduction in fugitive dust and air pollution, reduce surface water drainage with grass cover	Municipal Tax	Reduction in air pollution and surface water flow	Paving restoration and drainage cover unpaved areas with grass and paving stones, regular clean up
3. Office	Recycle Paper	Reduced paper products	Municipal Tax	Less trees to cut and reduce processing	Mandatory recycling of paper
4. Snow and Ice	Utilize biodegradable products	Less impact on plants and water	Municipal Tax	Neutral effect on environment	Use of biodegradable products
5. Roads and Streets	Reduce pavement and where possible use paving blocks	Reduction in emissions from asphalt plant, reduce oil consumption	Municipal Tax	Lower emissions	Reduce pavement and increase paving blocks
6. Greening of the City	Plant trees, flowers and shrubs in arid areas	Reduce CO2	Municipal Tax	Extraction of CO2 by plants & trees	Focus on parks & gardens
<u>Commerce</u>					
1. Emissions/ Permitting	Encourage utilization of up to date technology & processes	Reduction in emission, improve air quality	Municipal, Provincial & Federal	Reduces particles & gasses in the environment	Property tax exemption on machinery & equipment for pollution control
2. Transportation	Encourage employees to utilize public transit	Reduction in emissions and reduction in parking areas	Self & Industry Municipal Tax	Lower emissions & CO2	Public funded transit system
3. Fleet Conversion	Purchase biofuel vehicles for municipal use, reduce idling	Reduction in emissions and reduce operating cost	Companies	Reduce emissions, green environment	Policy on purchase where available with biofuels/propane
4. Packaging & Recycling	Encourage reduction in packaging and use of plastics	Recycle and refillable containers	Consumers	Reduction in disposal, landfill longevity decomposition	Education on packaging standards from Provincial & Federal

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Individuals

1. Walking & Cycling	Municipal Bicycle Network & Pathways	Healthy living, reduce vehicle congestion and demands on parking	Municipal Tax, Provincial Grant & Reserve	Reduced emissions from vehicles, less reliant on fossil fuels	Council adopted a bicycle & pedestrian network plan
2. Backyard Burning	Bylaw, free pickup, composting	Reduction in burning, increase in composting & recycling	Municipal & Regional Property Tax	Less smoke and pollution	Institute burning ban by bylaw: Grand Forks & Area D
3. Wood Stove Heating	Power Smart & Power Sense Programs Provincial Government	Reduction in burning & smoke	Provincial Tax & Municipal Electrical Rate	Less smoke, pollution and healthier individuals	Ban wood stoves and building code change - province
4. Homes	Energy efficient appliances, light bulbs and lighting	Reduction in heating & power generation	Provincial Sales Tax Exempt	Less pollution, less reliant on fossil fuels and lower source of new power supply	Building bylaw and Provincial Building Code
5. Windows and Doors	Energy Star certified products, encourage hardware stores to carry products	Reduction in heating & power generation	Exempt from Sales Tax	Less pollution, less reliant on fossil fuels and lower source of new power supply	Building bylaw and Provincial Building Code
6. Shopping	Encourage the use of paper bags and goods with less packaging	Landfill savings, decomposition & reduction in fuel sales	Industry & Consumers	Less garbage and waste to landfill and less use of trees & electricity	Resolution on packaging and education of public
7. Automobile and Idling	Encourage use of public transit, walking & cycling, encourage purchase of biofuel/hydrogen cell operated vehicle	Reduced emissions, reduced fossil fuel usage, individual savings	Individuals	Green, less emissions, decrease in CO2	Education: Provincial incentive-reduce tax on biofuels, idling bylaw

Municipal Initiatives

1. Official Community Plan	Designation of neighborhoods with high densities and parking restrictions	Use of public transportation. Cycle, walking network. No parking on streets	No significant funding required to undertake this action	Less vehicular traffic, less use of fossil fuel, cleaner air, healthy citizens	Undertake and revise OCP. Use Development Permit to enforce compliance
2. Land Use Patterns	Reduce parking requirement, set backs, size of lots	Compact high density dwellings smaller homes, less use of	No significant funding required from municipal government	Less use of land, less pollution, reduce CO2	Undertake and revise zoning bylaw
3. Water Conservation	Use water wisely and educate public on irrigation of lawns	Reduce water so that new wells are not needed in the future	Existing water rates	Conservation of ground water and potential avoidance of	Water meters, reward and penalty system on rates
4. Public Transit System	Institute a public transit system that is conveniently accessed & routed	Reduction in emissions and use of single utility vehicles	Gas tax and fares	Green environment without excessive emissions	Partnership with RDKB, BC Transit to complete feasibility and institute service
5. Waste Management	Provide a convenient system of waste management, encourage reuse, recycle	Less waste going to landfill site, extend life of landfill, reduce landfill costs	Municipal Taxation	Reduction of pollution, less use of fossil fuels, less use of packaging, saving trees & resources	Provide regular collection of waste, recycling and support services: bags, boxes
6. Parking Control	Reduce parking areas & land use for parking	Increase use of public transportation, walking, cycling	Parking Fees & Tax	Lower emissions and CO2	Amend land use by-laws & institute parking fees