



THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF GRAND FORKS

CITY HALL TIMES

City of Grand Forks • P.O. Box 220 • 7217 - 4th Street • Grand Forks, B.C. V0H 1H0

Connecting with the Community

Canada's next census will be held in May 2011. Early in May, yellow census packages will be delivered to every dwelling in Canada, providing residents the information they need to complete the census online or on paper. Completed questionnaires will provide valuable information that will be used by all levels of government to make decisions about your neighbourhood and community.

Census information is important for all communities and is vital for planning services such as schools, daycare, police services and fire protection.

Households have the option of completing their census questionnaire online. It is easy, secure and convenient. No pre-registration or lengthy download processes are required.

Each census package will have a Secure Access Code printed at the top of the enclosed letter or questionnaire. You will need this access code before you can start your online questionnaire.

If you have difficulties using the online question-



naire, call the Census Help Line at 1-877-777-2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. starting May 2nd. TTY users may call 1-866-753-7083.

Every person, young and old, must be included in the 2011 Census.

For more information about the 2011 Census, visit the 2011 Census website at www.census2011.gc.ca.

National Household Survey

In addition to the 2011 Census, some residents will be asked to participate in the new National Household Survey (NHS). The information collected in the NHS will provide data to plan and support family

services, housing, roads and public transportation, and skills training for employment.

Your information will help paint a detailed and comprehensive picture of Canadian society. If you receive the NHS, support your community and complete the survey.

The NHS will collect the same information that was collected by the 2006 Census long-form questionnaire. For information to be available for future planning and decision making, it is important that all residents who receive the NHS complete the questionnaire. Please encourage others to respond to this survey so your community can have accurate, reliable data.

For more information about the NHS, visit www.nhs.statcan.gc.ca.

**The 2011 Census –
connect online!**

Property Taxation and Assessments

The basic concept in taxation is: Assessment x Tax Rate = Property Taxes. An increase or a decrease in tax assessments does not automatically relate to an increase or decrease in Property Taxes since your tax rate might have increased.

At right is an example of a Residential Property taxation change for an average homeowner in Grand Forks who is under 65 and eligible for the Provincial Home Owner Grant.

If you are over 65 and eligible for the Provincial Home Owner Grant, you would pay \$275.00 less.

Fees and Charges Change for that same average home is as follows:



Under 65 - Home Owner Grant Eligible			
	2010	2011	Change
Water	\$ 334.25	\$ 346.60	\$ 12.35
Sewer	366.00	377.00	11.00
Garbage	108.00	108.00	-
Net Tax	1,106.72	1,083.82	(22.90)
Total			\$ 0.45

Property assessment is done by the BC Assessment Authority and is based on the market value of all real properties in BC. Correct classification is determined for every property. Legislation is reviewed to determine if the property is fully or partially exempt from taxation. Once the assessment is complete, a Revised Assessment Roll is provided to the City. Based on the information provided on the Assessment Roll and the revenue required to be raised from property taxation for services, a tax rate is determined for each class of property.

The taxing authority in Grand Forks is the City of Grand Forks. The City also collects taxes on behalf of the School District, Hospital Districts, Regional district, Municipal Finance Authority, BC Assessment Authority.

Assessment by Class of Properties provides the comparative assessment for taxation in 2011. The following reflects the changes from the prior year.

Schedule A of Assessment by Class of Properties



Residential Property: Eligible for under 65 year's Provincial Home Owner Grant			
Average Assessment Level I:SFC	\$ 202,044	\$ 205,960	
Tax Jurisdictions	2010	2011	Change
School	\$ 535.92	\$ 550.59	\$ 14.67
Less: PHOG	\$ 535.92	\$ 550.59	\$ 14.67
Net School	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
City: Municipal	\$ 589.14	\$ 683.46	\$ 94.32
City Flat	\$ 60.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 5.00
Total City	\$ 649.14	\$ 748.46	\$ 99.32
Less: Residual PHOG	\$ 34.08	\$ 219.41	\$ 185.33
City Tax	\$ 615.06	\$ 529.05	\$ (86.01)
Other Local Taxation:			
Regional District	\$ 379.32	\$ 421.62	\$ 42.30
Hospital District	\$ 39.30	\$ 56.95	\$ 17.65
BC Assessment	\$ 13.42	\$ 12.79	\$ (0.63)
Municipal Finance	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.00
Local Policing	\$ 59.58	\$ 63.37	\$ 3.79
Total Other Taxation	\$ 491.65	\$ 554.77	\$ 63.12
Net Payable	\$ 1,106.72	\$ 1,083.82	\$ (22.89)
Monthly Payable	\$ 92.23	\$ 90.32	\$ (1.91)

Assessment Class	Folios	2010 \$	Folios	2011 \$	Change \$	% Change	% of Assmnt
Residential vacant	616	14,410,930	626	16,941,530	2,530,600	17.6%	3.6%
Residential Single Family	1,571	317,411,500	1,576	324,594,300	7,182,800	2.3%	69.4%
Residential ALR	43	5,170,100	43	5,652,600	482,500	9.3%	1.2%
Residential Farm	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Residential Strata	178	27,402,700	178	26,880,700	-522,000	-1.9%	5.7%
Residential Other	70	16,873,100	69	16,836,600	-36,500	-0.2%	3.6%
Total Residential	2,478	381,268,330	2,492	390,905,730	9,637,400	2.5%	83.5%
Utilities	31	1,064,890	31	1,137,610	72,720	6.8%	0.2%
Major Industry	10	11,961,700	5	12,078,600	116,900	1.0%	2.6%
Light Industry	11	2,115,300	11	2,575,300	460,000	21.7%	0.6%
Business & Other	420	56,653,751	426	61,041,851	4,388,100	7.7%	13.0%
Rec/Non-Profit	70	57,100	72	63,500	6,400	11.2%	0.0%
Farm	6	154,301	6	154,301	0	0.0%	0.0%
	3,026	453,275,372	3,043	467,956,892	14,681,520	3.2%	100.0%

**Important information
regarding your
property tax notices
and making payments**

Property Tax Notices are being mailed to you this month. In order to anticipate areas that need clarification, we will be including a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" with your property tax notices.

If you have not received your property tax notice by June 10, 2011, and you own property in the City of Grand Forks, we urge you to please contact City Hall.

In the event of a postal disruption, please note that as legislated, your Property Tax payments are still due on July 4, 2011. Therefore, you will need to make alternate arrangements to ensure that your property tax payment is received by the due date. Alternate methods:

- Via Courier
- Home banking through your Financial Institution
- In person at City Hall

As well, please be reminded that the City no longer accepts credit cards for payment of Property Taxes and Utilities.

MAY /
JUNE
2011

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Phone 250-442-8266 • Fax 250-442-8000 • Email: info@grandforks.ca • Web Site: www.city.grandforks.bc.ca

Connecting with the Community

Did you know?

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION...
TAKE TRANSIT.

Compostable Yard & Garden Waste Collection Dates for 2011

Once a month yard and garden waste will be collected for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and November. This program is only available to City residents receiving curbside garbage collection.

**North Side of Highway 3 between
Riverside Drive and North Fork Road**
(current Wednesday garbage pick up)

Yard & Garden pick up will be Mondays
**March 14, April 25, May 23,
June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 26,
Oct. 24, Nov. 21**

Ruckle Addition and Valley Heights
(current Tuesday garbage pick up)

Yard & Garden pick up will be Tuesdays
**March 15, April 26, May 24,
June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 27,
Oct. 25, Nov. 22**

**South Side of Highway 3 between
Riverside Drive and Spraggett Road**
(current Thursday garbage pick up)

Yard & Garden pick up will be Fridays
**March 18, April 29, May 27,
June 24, July 22, August 19,
Sept. 30, Oct. 28, Nov. 25**

How Much and Type of Container

Three cans or bags or bundles. Can be any combination as long as it is a volume equal to three cans per month. Cans to be set out without the lid. If plastic bags are used, they must be clear and you must be able to see what is inside the bag. Waste will be picked up if it is in a regular garbage can (no lid), in a clear plastic bag, (or in the case of tree prunings) bundled.

What You Can Put Out

Grass, leaves, and similar garden materials. Tree prunings must be three inches in diameter or less and three feet long tied in bundles not exceeding the equivalent of a garbage can.

Acceptable Yard and Garden Waste

Grass, lawn and hedge clippings, grass sod, flowers, weeds, leaves, vegetables, stalks, shrubs and tree branches less than three inches in diameter.

- Boundary Transit provides transportation for EVERYONE Monday to Friday 8:30 to 3:30.
- Call 250-443-2179 and leave a message with your name, phone number, pick up and drop off locations and the time you wish to travel. Expect a call back by 4 PM or the next morning by 8:30 AM
- Rides in the city are \$1.50
- Attendants for customers using wheel chairs travel free
- Travel Greenwood to Grand Forks return every Friday
- Council members are pursuing the possibility of a scheduled loop service within the city
- Council members are also investigating the possibility of weekly regular return trips to Trail for medical services
- BC Transit is going to survey our community about improving transit services
- If you want to see these services improved, please get involved in the discussion!
Contact Councillor Moslin at 250-442-2620 or Councillor Robert at 250-442-5707.



Flood Preparation

Due to the current snowpack and extended cool weather this spring, we are currently monitoring the situation and want the residents to be prepared for the possibility of flooding.
If your home is subject to flooding in extreme high water flows please ensure the following are completed:

To reduce the likelihood of flood damage

- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and the base of ground level floors.
- Install drainage for downspouts a sufficient distance from your residence to ensure that water moves away from the building.
- Consider installing a sump pump and zero reverse flow valves in basement floor drains.
- Do not store your important documents in the basement. Keep them at a higher level, protected from flood damage.

If flood is forecast

- Turn off basement furnaces and the outside gas valve.
- Take special precautions to safeguard electrical, natural gas or propane heating equipment.
- Shut off electricity only if flooding has not yet begun and the area around the breaker panel is completely dry. Stand to the side of the breaker panel and look away from the panel when switching the power off. Have a flashlight with you.

If flooding is imminent

- Move furniture, electrical appliances and other belongings to floors above ground level.
- Remove toxic substances such as pesticides and insecticides from the flood area to prevent pollution.
- Remove toilet bowls and plug basement sewer drains and toilet connections with a wooden stopper.
- Disconnect eavestroughs if they are connected to the house sewer.
- In some cases, homes may be protected with sandbags or polyethylene barriers. Follow instructions from local emergency officials.
- Do NOT attempt to shut off electricity if any water is present. Water and live electricity wires can be lethal. Leave your home immediately and do not return until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- Keep your emergency kit close at hand, in a portable container.

Grand Forks Fire/Rescue appreciates your cooperation

Water Restrictions are now in place

Notice of Schedule Change

Sprinkling shall be restricted 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)

MANUAL SPRINKLERS

From 7:00 am until 9:00 am AND
from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

On the 31st day of any month –
MANUAL SPRINKLERS:

"ODD" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the mornings from 7 am until 9 am and
"EVEN" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the evening from 7 pm until 9 pm

FLOWER, VEGETABLE GARDENS AND NEWLY PLANTED LAWNS & LANDSCAPES

may be hand watered at any time using a hand held nozzle. ie. No manual sprinklers.

FOR NEW PLANTED LAWNS AND LANDSCAPES FIRST MONTH ONLY

Newly planted lawns and landscapes may be sprinkled twice a day every day from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for the FIRST MONTH using either manual sprinklers or automatic timed underground sprinklers.

Automatic timed systems can be used to water up to 5 minutes per zone at a time, with total watering time NOT to exceed 4 hours.

Newly planted lawns and landscapes may be hand watered using a hand held nozzle at any time
i.e. No manual sprinklers

AUTOMATIC TIMED

UNDERGROUND SPRINKLERS

EITHER from Midnight until 4 am,

OR from 7 am until 9 am AND

from 7 pm until 9 pm BUT NOT BOTH

On the 31st day of any month:

Either from Midnight until 4 am OR

"ODD" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the mornings from 7 am to 9 am;

"EVEN" numbered civic addresses may sprinkle in the evening from 7 pm to 9 pm BUT NOT BOTH

CITY PARKS AND CEMETERY will adhere to the same numbers of hours as residential sprinkling.

This Schedule Change Bylaw will be introduced by Council in May and will be effective June 1st, 2007. ALL previous sprinkling variances will be cancelled on May 31st, 2007.

The reason for the cancellation is that there is no way of effectively monitoring these variances without major expense to the City. This will provide the same number of sprinkling hours for all taxpayers. The City has authority to shut water off at the property line to those residents refusing to comply with sprinkling regulations.

Sprinkling will be monitored by Commissionaires.

The first offense will result in a warning letter.

The second offense will result in your water being shut off.

A reconnection fee of \$50.00 will be required before your water is reconnected.