



Letter B

Serving the communities of Ahbau Creek, Baker Creek, Bouchie Lake, Cinema, (lower) Cottonwood, Dunkley, Hilborn, Milburn Lake, Moose Heights, Parkland, Quesnel-Hixon, Riverpark, Strathnaver, Ten Mile Lake and many areas in between!

March 2013
Volume 2, Issue 3

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

April 6th—Quesnel Community Foundation Gala,

April 12th—CRD Board of Directors Meeting, Williams Lake

April 13th—Seedy Saturday, CNC—Quesnel

April 21-27th—Volunteer Appreciation Events, Bouchie Lake / Parkland

May 1-3rd—North Central Local Government Association Conference, Quesnel

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Heloise-Dixon-Warren-
CRD Director Area B

NEWS FROM YOU TO ME... across Electoral Area B!

Greetings and Happy Spring. With the days noticeably longer, I find myself spending more time outside and am itching for the snow to go so we can get on with garden / yard / farm work. It is always intriguing what pops up from beneath the snow in the spring... often times things one does not remember leaving there in the fall. It's been a busy time since the last issue of "Letter

B". At the end of February, I spent 3 days in Richmond attending an Electoral Area Forum followed by some workshops hosted by LGLA / Local Government Leadership Academy. It was a great time for education and networking. Earlier this month, I attended the North Central BC Clean Air Forum in Prince George on behalf of the Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable. At this forum, we discussed how we

can work collaboratively to create an environment with cleaner air. I also attended an Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting in Langley which was also of great interest and value. I hope you enjoy this issue of "Letter B". Through these newsletters, my intent is to provide information of interest and perhaps answer a few "burning questions". Enjoy your Easter. Another issue will be enroute in April!

TEST YOUR HOME FOR RADON!

Radon is a radioactive gas which has no colour and no odour. It has been determined that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking, and the primary cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. Radon is naturally occurring in many northern soils and can build up in your home. It enters your home through any opening that exists between the building and the ground. In colder northern climates, the migration of radon into your home is often sped up during winter months when heating systems create negative air pressures inside buildings.



The only way to know for sure whether your home is high in radon is to test it. Health Canada recommends that homes be tested for a minimum of three months (preferably 12 months), ideally between October and April. The detectors should be set up in the lowest lived-in level of your home where you spend at least 4 hours of your time each day.

"Long-term radon test kits can be purchased for \$30 from Northern Health Public Health Protection offices. In Quesnel, the kits can be purchased at 523 Front Street / 250.983.6810

The current Canadian Guideline for Radon is 200 Bq/m³. Health Canada recommends that your home be mitigated if you detect radon concentrations greater than 200 Bq/m³. The higher the radon concentration, the sooner the remedial measures should be conducted.

If radon concentrations in your home are above 200 Bq/m³, there are a number of steps that you can take to reduce these levels: Increase the mechanical ventilation via a heat recovery ventilator to allow an exchange of air; Seal any entry points into the home (i.e. seal cracks and opening in foundation walls and floors and around pipes and drains); Paint basement floors and foundation walls with two coats of paint or a sealant; Ventilate the basement sub-flooring by installing a small pump to draw the radon from below the concrete slab to the outside; Renovate existing basement floors, particularly earth floors.; Active Soil Depressurization, a method generally conducted by a contractor, is the most common and effective method of reducing radon in a home.

For additional information on the health effects of radon, check out <http://www.northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/EnvironmentalHealth/Radon.aspx>

Area B Supports Volunteers

National Volunteer Appreciation Week—April 21-27, 2013



The communities of Parkland / Ten Mile Lake and Bouchie Lake / Milburn Lake are working together to show support and appreciation to the incredible volunteers that provide so much to our communities. During National Volunteer Week (April 21-27, 2013) both communities will be hosting events that are focused on volunteer appreciation and how volunteerism fits into creating healthy, vibrant communities.

These events will be hosted by the **Bouchie Lake and Parkland Community Associations** which recognize that volunteerism is the heart of our communities and the management of our recreation facilities and provision of programs is dependent upon having a healthy and happy volunteer base. The events are being supported by the allocation of up to \$2,000 of Electoral Area B Special Projects Funds which the CRD approved at the March 22nd Board of Directors Meeting. These funds are being specifically used for promotion of the events & celebratory items (newsletters, banners, signage, giveaways, cake).

The Bouchie Lake and Parkland Recreation Commissions will be supporting these events through providing the facilities for the above events and by hiring on a Volunteer / Events Co-ordinator to assist the communities in volunteer recruitment and planning.



If you would like to learn more about these events and how to get involved, please contact either the Parkland Community at 250.992.5400 or the Bouchie Lake Community (250.249.5508). There is also a facebook page—**“Bouchie Lake—Parkland Volunteer Appreciation”**.

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

On March 13 I attended a 1 day **Agriculture Advisory Workshop** in Langley. As a “farmer” and someone interested in land use planning, I found this workshop interesting and of value. AAC’s are There are different ways for them being organized—they all have a terms of reference whereas some are municipal based, some Regional District, and some Electoral Area. There are currently 45 AAC’s in the province with the majority of them in the lower mainland, on Vancouver Island, and the Thompson—Okanagan area. There are very few in the Kootenays and in the “north” there are only 3—in the Peace River, Haida Gwaii, and Bella Coola.

AAC’s are an effective way for local government to link with their farm / ranch communities. Members are appointed and the group functions similarly to other advisory committees. A key asset is that the AAC members are predominantly drawn from the farming community (2/3’rds) and the committee focuses on agricultural issues. AAC’s typically advise local governments on proposed bylaws & official plans & rezoning applications, advise on applications under the Agricultural Land Commission Act, share insight on water supply & drainage issues, give feedback on insect / weed control programs, & provide input on parks & recreation, transportation, growth management plans and other land use proposals that affect agriculture. **(Continue on page 4)**

You're Invited

Parkland Community Association
Invites you to a
Family Day Easter Party!
Saturday, March 30
Noon - 3 PM



Easter Basket Draw

Lots of fun crafts and activities

- Make an Easter Bonnet or Bunny Ears
- Make an Easter card for someone special
- Bunny Face Painting
- Easter Cookie Decorating
- Bunny Cupcake Hop
- Easter Egg Hunt for treats

Parkland Community Centre
North end of Parkland Elementary School
Bjornson Rd, 10 Mile Lake
For info: 250-992-5400

Congratulations Bouchie Lake!

On Monday, March 16th the Bouchie Lake community hosted the 31st Annual Bouchie Lake Senior's Luncheon. Seniors from throughout the Quesnel area attended and were hosted to a wonderful meal prepared by volunteers of Bouchie Lake and beyond. The Bouchie Lake Hall was buzzing with great conversation and laughter as everyone enjoyed good times and even some music. A great **BIG** thank you to the people who make this event happen. It is people like you who make our communities what they are!



Jordan Rossman (Area A resident) on the right with her cousin Nicole who was visiting help out at the BL Senior's Luncheon. Super Volunteers!!!!



The Bouchie Lake Hall doing what it does best....being used for social, enjoyable functions!

PLANNING WORKSHOP

On March 9th, the Area B Advisory Planning Commission met for a 2 hour Planning Workshop at the Bouchie Lake Hall. Lead by Rick Brundrige, Manager of Planning the workshop focused on an overview of the Regional District Planning function (Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws), Agricultural Land Commission, and Subdivision Control. The APC is comprised of 10 Electoral Area B residents who volunteer their time to perform the important function of reviewing land use proposals.



FIRE PROTECTION IN AREA B & THE BENEFITS OF BEING A VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER

Within Electoral Area B, fire protection is offered through volunteer fire departments. Although not all Area B residents reside within Fire Protection Areas there are 4 separate fire protection functions within the Area. These are Ten Mile Fire Protection, Bouchie Lake Fire Protection, Hixon Fire Protection (Hixon Fire Department) and Two Mile Flat Fire Protection (provided by the Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department).

Being a volunteer fire fighter can be a rewarding and life-changing experience. Being part of a fire department is a great way to make friends, develop comradery, learn new skills and provide a much needed and appreciative service to your community. It has many benefits but it requires a commitment and requirements that enable fire fighters to safely and effectively perform the service. To join a volunteer fire department, you must be a minimum of 19 years of age, hold a valid BC's drivers license, be prepared to commit the necessary time and effort involved with being a fire fighter,

and work or live in the fire protection area (FPA) or in an adjoining protection area with a mutual aid agreement.

Members are expected to attend as many fire practices as possible during the year. These are typically held once a week for at least a couple hours. An administration meeting is also held monthly. New recruits are expected to attend an orientation program.

Training is a big part of being a volunteer fire fighter. There are many areas to be trained in and may include the use of self-contained breathing apparatus, search & rescue, radio communication, ropes & knots, the structure of command, basic pump operations, working from hydrants, working from draught, hose laying, hose loading, operation & selection of nozzles, driving, ventilation, structure suppression, fire prevention, overhaul, ladders, salvage, foam, extinguishers, and dealing with flammable products.

Although the position is volunteer,

one form of compensation available to volunteer firefighters is accident and sickness insurance. Volunteer fire fighters are also now eligible for the "Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit"/VFTC for 2011 and subsequent years if the following conditions apply: (i) you must be a volunteer firefighter in the year; (ii) you must complete a minimum of 200 hours of eligible volunteer firefighter services with 1 or more fire departments in the year. A written certification from the fire chief or delegate official within the fire department may be requested to verify the number of hours of eligible firefighter services a person performed for a department. For additional information on the VFTC, check out <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2011/qa03-eng.html>

For additional information on how to become a volunteer firefighter contact your local fire department or check out <http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/Services/EmergencyProtectiveServices/FireProtection/Recruitment.aspx>

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEES (continued from pg. 2)

In addition to the "day to day issues", many AAC's participate in much more broader initiatives and are very much advocates for farming, food security and local food production. They contribute to Agriculture in the Classroom initiatives, provide farm tours and /or on-farm visits, raise agricultural awareness through participating in fairs & exhibitions and farmers markets, propose local government policies relating to farming, steer agricultural studies, economic plans, and agricultural area plans to completion, assist with the implementation of plans for the agriculture and food sectors, and advise on the need and appropriateness of farm bylaws.

The first steps in forming an AAC is to contact Ministry of Agriculture staff to discuss AAC formation and identify agricultural groups in the area which may be interested in participating in an AAC. It is also highly beneficial to contact other jurisdictions with AAC's about their experiences and learn how these AAC's function. The AAC must be supported by local government and it is important that there is a solid link between the AAC and local government whether it be a council or board.

If you are interested in learning more about AAC's, please contact me at hdixon-warren@cariboord.bc.ca The agriculture community in the North Cariboo is planning to meet with Ministry of Agriculture staff on April 19th to discuss AAC's and how they may work in our area.

If you would like to be added to my distribution list for Area B, please email me at hdixon-warren@cariboord.bc.ca

NORTH CARIBOO MULTI-CENTRE UPDATE

A question that comes up periodically is where things are at with the North Cariboo Multi-Centre. Hope the following answers some of the questions... The information has been provided by staff at the City of Quesnel and Cariboo Regional District.

The total amount of money quoted as raised to date for the Multi-Centre can vary depending on what information is included in the total. The following funds can be attributed to the project. If all of them are included, the total amount received or committed toward the project is estimated to be approximately \$24.4 million. These numbers are as of March 21, 2013.

| Category of Funds | Value (\$) | Details | Note Below |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|------------|
| Taxation | 15,000,000 | Referendum of 2008 authorizing the Cariboo Regional District to borrow up to \$15 million towards the project; Loan Authorization Bylaw 4396 expires 12 December 2013 | i |
| Community / Corporate Fundraising | 79,268 | Received – funds received & held by CRD / City of Quesnel | |
| | 1,214,000 | Pledged – commitments that are believed to be firm | |
| | 200,000 | In Progress – commitments that have been made and are believed to be close to firm | |
| Grants | 2,000,000 | Northern Development Initiative Trust | |
| | 4,000,000 | Province of British Columbia | ii |
| SUBTOTAL - CONFIRMED | 22,493,268 | | |
| Pre-Taxation | 1,940,034 | Pre-Taxation (“Multi-Centre” Pre-tax collected under NCRP* function). Total Collected /to be collected in 2013: \$2,313,750.00 . Total spent / committed = \$373,716.00 . North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee has approved in principle using funds raised through pre-taxation towards the project. This is still subject to final approval by NCJPC and CRD | iii iv |
| GRAND TOTAL | 24,433,302 | | |

i) In November, 2008 the following Referendum Question passed:

“Are you in favour of the Cariboo Regional District adopting i) Loan Authorization Bylaw 4396 to borrow up to \$15,000,000 and ii) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw 4395 to increase the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks function taxation limit to a maximum of the greater of \$3.2095/\$1,000 of assessed value of land and improvements or \$4,900,000 to provide for the construction of a new arena, theatre and multi-purpose event space.” Background information on the Referendum is available on the City of Quesnel’s website (<http://www.quesnel.ca/>). Any funds being borrowed would need to be issued in the Municipal Finance Authority’s Fall Issue, which means that the CRD’s Security Issuing Bylaw would have to go to the Board at its July 12th meeting.

ii) The Provincial Grant expires March 31, 2015. One of the stated requirements in the grant contract was that the project commence within six months of receiving the money. Regular reports to the Province are a requirement of the grant and through these reports the Province is aware of the project’s progress.

iii) Residents within the NCRP Service have been “pre-taxed” for the multi-centre since 2006. The Board resolution pertaining to the pre-tax is as follows, from the November 17, 2006 meeting: *That \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value, based on hospital assessments, be added to the taxes for the North Cariboo Recreation specified area, with the funds deposited into a reserve for the purpose of pre-taxation for the proposed multi-centre project. The rate shall be set so that residents pay at \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value.*”

iv) NCRP = North Cariboo Recreation & Parks Service (function which supports Quesnel & District Arts & Recreation Centre, Bike Park, Twin Arenas, Bouchie Lake, Parkland, & Barlow Creek Recreation Commissions, Alex Fraser Park, Pioneer Park, Green Space / Parks in City of Quesnel (LeBourdais Park, River Front Trail), Bike Park, & the Dragon Lake / Hydraulic Rd. outhouse).