

Head Office: 155 George Street
 Prince George, BC V2L 1P8
 Telephone: (250) 960-4400
 Toll Free: 1-800-667-1959
 Website: <http://www.rdffg.bc.ca>
 Email: district@rdffg.bc.ca



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

What's Inside

Feature	Page
Signing of Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding	2
Community Services	2
Lakeshore Guidelines	2
Planning News	2
Solid Waste Management 2002 Review.....	3
Finance.....	3
Administration.....	3
Parks.....	4
List of Services.....	4
	<i>and more</i>

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is dedicated to:

- Maintaining sustainable taxation levels
- Improving our communications
- Reviewing existing service arrangements and partners' financial equity
- Improving 911 service delivery
- Maintaining rural community needs

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

- * **May 15**
- * **June 19**
- * **July 17**
- * **August 21**
- * **Sept 18**

Public is welcome!

Chairperson's Message

I am both honoured and pleased to have the opportunity to serve as the Chairperson of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. I look forward to the task at hand and the many challenges and opportunities in 2003. The Regional District will be dedicated to maintaining sustainable taxation levels, improving communications, and reviewing existing service arrangements and partners' financial equity. The 9-1-1 service delivery will be expanding in terms of coverage of the North. We will continue to strengthen our relationship with the First Nations communities. One of our goals is to expand the GIS (digital mapping/database system) into a service center for the North for servicing local governments and private sector. Please contact us regarding any issues or concerns as we strive to serve you better. **Mayor Colin Kinsley, Chairperson**

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL AWARD



Photo courtesy of The Prince George Citizen

Article reprinted from The Prince George Citizen, Wednesday, February 19, 2003

Mayor Colin Kinsley, left, Art Kaehn, Vice-Chair of the Fraser-Fort George Regional District, and Chief Barry Seymour of the Lheidli T'enneh Band display the Fraser Basin Council Strengthening Communities Award. The City, the Fraser-Fort George Regional District and Lheidli T'enneh were awarded the honour for signing a Protocol on Cooperation and Communication that formalized already established relationships....*more on page 2*

Congratulations to Mr. Tom Bennie

2003 recipient of the Fraser-Fort George Regional District Bursary of \$300. This annual bursary is available to a student either attending or planning to attend any full-time courses at CNC or UNBC. To be eligible to apply, a student must have graduated from an accredited high school within the Regional District, or be a mature student who has established permanent residency within the Regional District. Students should contact CNC for further information. **Way to go, Tom!**

Planning News

Fraser-Fort George's achievement of being the only B.C. local government with ALR decision-making authority has been successful and is continuing. Over much of the region non-farm and subdivision proposals can be considered by local elected officials rather than by the Provincial Land Commission.

The most exciting economic news that is anticipated to bring a significant level of development and tourism activity are the proposed recreational commercial mega projects at the base of Canoe Mountain, south of Valemount. The multi-million dollar projects are to include resort development, golf, residential, mountain gondola and possible hot springs use. *Cont'd on page 4*

*"If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade."
- Tom Peters*



Ness Lake Regional Park is located 35 km northwest of Prince George via Hwy 97 and Chief Lake Road. A beach provides access to the lake and from here you can launch a canoe, go swimming or in the winter you can go ice fishing.

Facilities include picnic tables, fire pits, toilet facilities, change houses and a beach with a designated swimming area. **ENJOY!**

COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM-2002

The purpose of the forum is to build relationships with First Nations and share mutual concerns. The participants were from Lheidli T'enneh Band, McLeod Lake Indian Band, City of Prince George and Regional District elected officials and staff. The main highlight of the forum was the signing of a protocol on communications and cooperation between Lheidli T'enneh and the Regional District, which was a first in the province. In February, the protocol agreement received a prestigious award from the Fraser Basin Council on



**Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Communication
Official Signing Ceremony
July 16, 2002**

L to R:

*Mayor Colin Kinsley, Chairperson,
RDFFG
Cst. Andrea Baltus
Chief Barry Seymour, Lheidli T'enneh*

Strengthening Communities. Another highlight from the forum was the staff level discussion on the possibility of service agreements between the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the Regional District. Funding is provided by the Union of BC Municipalities and BC Hydro. The success of the 2002 forum will likely result in a forum in the fall of 2003. ▲

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Sewer Projects – the Regional District is awaiting confirmation of funding approval under the Canada/BC Infrastructure Program for the Bendixon Road and Buckhorn community sewer projects. Similar projects for West (Nadsilnich) Lake and Summit Lake are still at the evaluation stage.

Broadband Connectivity – the Regional District has done a preliminary assessment and made application to the Federal Government for funding to support the development of a formal business plan for deploying broadband internet connectivity within Electoral Area G. This includes the communities of Bear Lake, McLeod Lake, Summit Lake and other smaller settlement areas.

9-1-1 Services – the Regional District has reached an agreement with the Cariboo Regional District to provide 9-1-1 services (call answer & fire dispatch) to the south/central part of its jurisdiction. The 9-1-1 service is scheduled to be implemented in late 2003 and will include Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, the Chilcotin Plateau and the interlakes district.

Fire Services Coordination – the Regional District will shortly be hiring a staff person to coordinate training and purchasing for most of the fire/rescue agencies within the Regional District. The program will also provide strategic planning for the fire service with respect to apparatus specifications, firehall design and construction, as well as legal and liability issues. It is anticipated that the program will result in cost savings, better efficiencies, and improved service to the public. ▲

LAKESHORE GUIDELINES

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) contains hundreds of lakes with varying levels of development and recreational use. To protect lake quality, in 1978, the RDFFG adopted its first set of the **Lakeshore Guidelines** to manage development.

➤ These Guidelines provide a valuable source of information to the residents of the Regional District. They contain helpful information on how to develop land with minimal impact to the lake environment. Since the introduction of the RDFFG Guidelines other Regional Districts throughout the Province have used them as a template for creating their own lakeshore development guidelines. The original document has undergone significant revisions since 1978. The current edition is the 1994 **Lakeshore Guidelines**, now under review to update concepts and ideas creating a "more user-friendly" document. It will provide a useful source of information on how to minimize development and user impacts on our environmentally sensitive lakes and streams. Copies of the current **Lakeshore Guidelines** are available at the Regional District office and are available on the Regional District web page at www.rdffg.bc.ca

If you have any ideas on how the 1994 **Lakeshore Guidelines** could be improved, feel free to contact Brady Nelless at the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. ▲

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - 2002 REVIEW

The Environmental Services Department has been very effective in reducing, reusing and recycling waste within the region. The department utilizes indicators to determine success in reducing, reusing and recycling materials from our homes, industry, business and institutions. Reducing waste extends the Foothills Regional Landfill useful life and reduces associated environmental impacts. Here are some indicator results for 2002:

► **The Regional District buried 75,429 tonnes of solid waste** at regional landfills. That is 43% less than waste-to-landfill disposal in 1994, but still enough waste to fill a line of commercial garbage trucks from Prince George to

Quesnel.

► **Region wide Drop Depot recycling activity** increased 3% in 2002. Over 920 fridges and freezers were serviced at Regional District facilities to recover ozone depleting gases and recycle the metal in 2002.

► **More than 6000 passenger and light truck tires** were recycled from Regional District facilities in 2002.

► **The Foothills Landfill composted 5130 tonnes of yard and garden waste** at the centralized composting facility in 2002, consistent with 2001 activity. The public continues to make a special effort to deliver source-separated compostable materials to the landfill and Quinn Street transfer station. Sepa-

rated yard and garden material is received without charge at those locations.

► **A new landfill gas capture and flaring system** installed at the Foothills Blvd. Regional Landfill in 2002 will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25,000 tonnes. That is equivalent to removing about 10,000 vehicles from the road.▲



FINANCE

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors approved the Five Year Financial Plan at its regular meeting on March 20, 2003.

* **Operating expenditures** for 2003 totalled \$18.8 million, with \$11.5 million of this funded through taxation.

* **Total expenditures** have increased approximately \$580,000 over 2002.

* **Taxation** has increased by \$104,000, approximately 1% from last year.

* **The balance of the expenditure** increases are funded using surplus amounts from prior years and increases projected in other revenue sources.

Chairperson Colin Kinsley said, "The Regional Board has been working consistently to keep the requisition as stable as possible during the past five years. The actual percentage increase will vary among the municipalities and Electoral Areas and it depends on changes in property assessments for each area and the level of services being provided".

► **Two new services**, the Fire Dept Coordinator and Dome Creek Recreation have been added in 2003.

► **Budgeted expenditures** for some of the major services: Solid Waste Management-\$5 million; 911 Emergency Response-\$2.3 million; Protective Services and Inspection Services-\$2.7 million; Regional Parks-\$2.3 million; Cultural and Heritage Services in the form of operating and capital grants to Regional Facilities-\$1 million.▲

ADMINISTRATION

► **Paperless Agenda:**

Approval has been given for the Paperless Agenda Project. We are the second local government in the province to do so. The project is a component of the overall Information Technology Program, which is striving for efficiencies and innovation in the delivery of services and information.

► **Cultural and Heritage Five-Year Plan:**

Approval has been given for the development of a five-year regional cultural plan. Several funded agencies along with the City of Prince George will participate in the planning process. The goal of the cultural plan is to allow synergies and efficiencies to be developed between the groups such that more can be done

with the existing levels of funding. The cultural agencies will search for outside funding sources to assist in the planning process.▲

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
- CHECK US OUT -
www.rdffg.bc.ca

KEEP THESE NUMBERS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE WHEN RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

**REGIONAL DISTRICT
RECYCLING AND SOLID
WASTE INFORMATION
PRINCE GEORGE
960-4486**

OR

**TOLL FREE:
1-800-667-1959**

**FOOTHILLS BOULEVARD
REGIONAL LANDFILL
AND
COMPOSTING CENTRE
962-8972**

**REAPS COMPOSTING
HOTLINE
561-7327**

**BC RECYCLING HOTLINE
1-800-667-4321**

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is a region of communities striving forward to deliver excellent services, developing strong economic and social benefits, and is accountable to the citizens.

"A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it."

Planning News (cont'd)

Long-term planning projects underway include the Tabor Lake-Stone Creek and Crooked River-Bear Lake Community Plan reviews.

The Pineview Community Plan should also get started this year.

LIST OF SERVICES

Development Services

- building permits
- sewage permits
- park permits
- zoning and community planning
- bylaw enforcement

Community Services

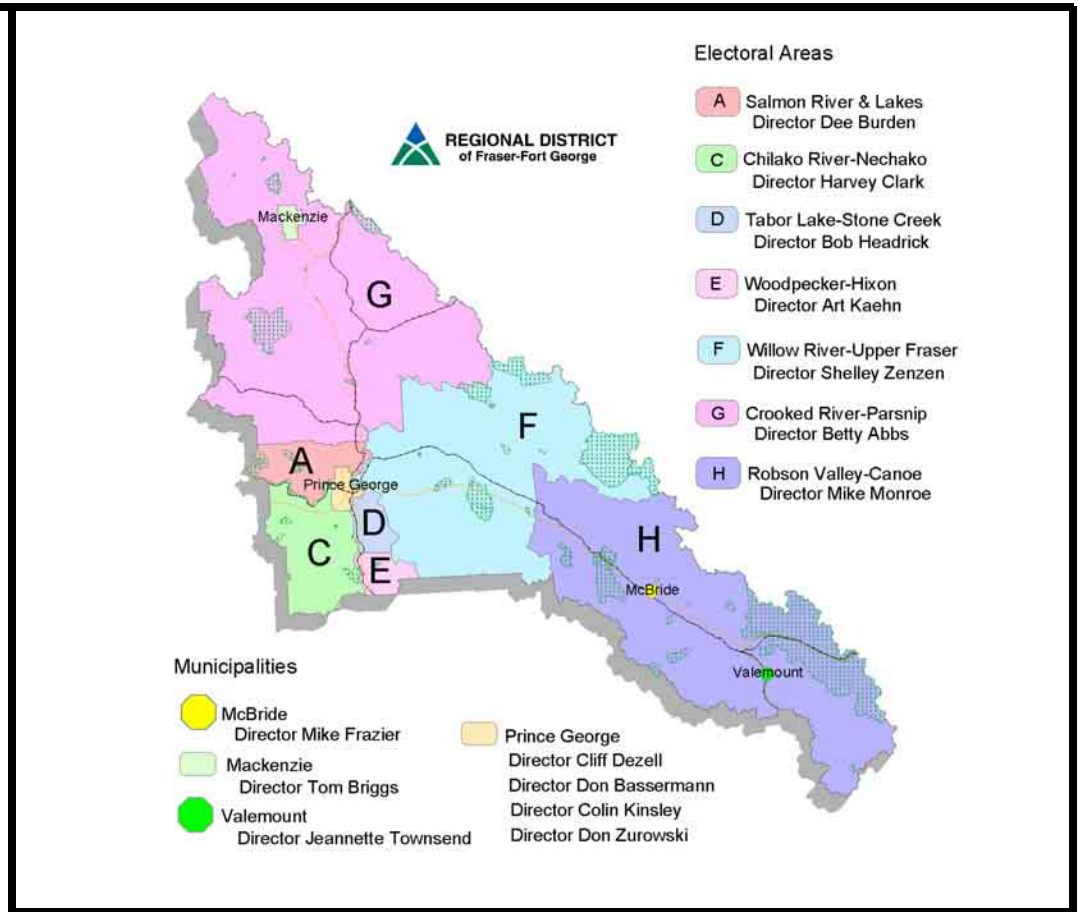
- community halls
- fire protection
- 911 Emergency Response
- recreation centres
- water services
- community sewer system
- street lighting
- rural library services

Environmental Services

- rural transfer stations
- landfill operations
- Foothills Blvd Landfill
- reduce/reuse/recycle program
- composting
- multi-material recycling
- air quality issues

Administration/HR Finance

- Chairman and Regional Board
- Human Resources
- Regional Recreation Commission
- legislative matters
- elections and referendums
- culture and heritage
- general information



KRISTIAN WINTHER REGIONAL PARK

Kristian Winther Regional Park is located on the south shore of the Salmon River, 30 km north of Prince George via the Hart Highway 97. This park will offer a large lawn with picnic facilities overlooking the beautiful Salmon River. The Park's opening is planned for the end of June 2003, watch for the announcement.



L to R:

Trent Blair and Sorine Winther, son-in-law and daughter of the late **Chris Winther** who generously donated approximately 70 acres of land and \$30,000 for development of the Regional Park in memory of his late son.

Darrell Randahl, Financial Assistant, TD Canada Trust, Pine Center Branch
Debbie Darbon, President and **Tina Shields**, Vice-President, of the Salmon River Recreation Association

Blaine Harasimiuk, Parks Coordinator, RDFFG.

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation present a cheque for \$3,000 to the Salmon River Recreation Association and the RDFFG to build gates to protect the Salmon River from vehicles, and \$8,100 for a log rail fence and two garbage containers. **BC Hydro** has donated \$2,270 to assist in building the gates. ▲