

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

April 10 Meeting

Council supported an application for funding to the Nechako Kitamaat Development Fund Society for \$80,403.00 (50%) of the budgeted cost of \$160,806.00 to remove the existing dasher boards and to replace them with a new system as well as have the existing netting reinstalled.

District of Vanderhoof submitted an application to the TIRE STEWARDSHIP BC'S COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM to purchase rubber tile matting to be installed under the new outdoor gym equipment at Riverside Park in the amount of \$19,326.00 on a 50-50 cost sharing basis with the District of Vanderhoof and the Tire Stewardship Community grant paying \$9,663.00 each.

Council approved that Damon Square adjacent to W.L. McLeod School between Victoria Street and Douglas Street be established as a One-Way Street to improve child safety.

BOTANICAL GARDEN SOC

Are you interested in: establishing and maintaining a local, aesthetically pleasing botanical garden in partnership with the District of Vanderhoof; providing horticultural and arboricultural education for the public; advancing horticultural and arboricultural knowledge; promoting the use of plant material that is viable in our local area. If so, please call Richard or Mary Burkholder at 250-567-9000 about the newly proposed Botanical Garden Society.

Mayor Gerry Thiessen along with roughly 110 others, worked diligently on Earth Day to clean-up litter in Vanderhoof during the annual Community Clean-up. The Nechako Waste Reduction Initiative organized the 'green' event, which was itself nearly waste free. The meat for the BBQ was locally sourced with the help of the Nechako Valley Food Network.

April 23 Meeting

The Nechako Valley Motor Sports Association was granted a five year license agreement to use the airport to host an annual snowmobile drag race and their annual summer drag race providing that the agreement contains a Cancellation Clause and a requirement to provide dates at least two months in advance of the planned events.

Council approved the use of the Portable Stage for the IDIDALAP4CANCER event to be held on June 22, 2012 and waived all fees and the damage deposit.

Council approved the use of the Portable Stage for the Nechako Historical Society to use during their Ol' Tyme Daz on July 21st, 2012 and waived all fees and the damage deposit.

Council approved the use of the Portable Stage for the Nechako Historical Society to use during their Canada Day Celebration on July 1st, 2012 and waived all fees and the damage deposit.

Council agreed to provide one-half of the costs up to \$500.00 to the "Walk for Justice" group to bring Amir Javid to Vanderhoof to speak at the Walk for Justice event.

Council provided Councillor Moutray with approval to move ahead with recommending committee members for the Community Concert Committee.



UPCOMING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

District Council Chambers
5:30 pm Mondays

MAY 14

MAY 28



• FIDDLER ON THE ROOF •

May 5 - Last Performance

20th Anniversary performance of Fiddler on the Roof. Presented by the VCTS and NVSS. Final show is May 5.

• MOVE FOR HEALTH DAY • May 7

Join Mayor Thiessen and Council for a walk around Vanderhoof at 12 noon on May 7 to celebrate Move for Health Day. Visit our website for more information.

• EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK • May 6-12

An awareness week dedicated to educating the public about emergency preparedness.
www.getprepared.gc.ca

• DRINKING WATER WEEK • May 13 - 19

Get to Know your H2O.
www.drinkingwaterweek.org
Take the Challenge and win!

UPDATER

The **UPDATER** is produced once a month and distributed to all Vanderhoof mailboxes.
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COUNCIL MESSAGE

So Much Promise and Hurt

The town of Vanderhoof has experienced some of the most maturing investment we have had in the town's history. Our local industries continue to invest in our community. Canfor built a thermal energy plant where they are burning sawmill residual waste to heat oil, which is piped through their dry kilns. Nechako Mechanical purchased a machine that will use robotics which is only the second one to operate in BC. L & M Lumber, a BC Hydro award winning company, announced a \$7 million green energy project, which they will use to help power their pellet plant. The project will produce enough energy to provide power to 1,320 homes, which equates to a town about the size of Vanderhoof. This year, a sawmill upgrade valued at \$24 million is underway.

These upgrades may not necessarily bring many new jobs but they demonstrate a deep commitment by our major industries to our community and will help insure that the jobs we have now will be here for many years to come.

We all have heard about the investment being made at Mount Milligan and Endako Mine these past 2 years. With their significant investments, Thompson Creek, who owns both of these projects, has shown great confidence in our area and appears to be here for the long term.

In May, New Gold will be opening an office on Highway 16 and a Core Lab Facility at Northside. They are continuing to expand their exploration camp south of Vanderhoof and are currently recruiting for their Lab operation.

Council is continuing to focus on making Vanderhoof a great place for families and seniors. Our goal is for Vanderhoof to continue to be a great place to raise a family. Watch for upgrades to Riverside Park this summer.

Council encourages your input on what you feel makes Vanderhoof a great place to live, work, and play. I encourage you to take the time to come to one of our regular Council meetings, every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, or to a regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, every 3rd Monday. All regular scheduled meetings start at 5:30 pm. You can visit us at www.vanderhoof.ca for more information.

In closing, it is hard when there are so many positives, to go through the sadness we have this past week with the explosion and fire at Lakeland Sawmill. Our Councillor Steve Little suffered the tragic loss of his brother Alan, in the fire. Our thoughts and prayers are for Steve's family and the entire Sinclair Group family.



Mayor Gerry Thiessen

Council Facts! Committees of Council

There are two types of committees that Council can establish under the Community Charter:

Standing Committees: The Charter States "The Mayor must establish standing committees for matters the Mayor considers would be better dealt with by committee and must appoint persons to those committees. At least half of the members of a standing committee must be Council members, persons who are not Council members may be appointed to these committees. Standing committees are more permanent and deal with an area of issues as opposed to one specific issue."

Council currently has three standing committees: Finance, Community Health, and Education, which are dealt with in a Committee of the Whole that includes all of Council.

Select Committees: The Charter States "A Council may establish and appoint a select committee to consider or inquire into any matter and to report its findings and opinion to the council. At least one member of a select committee must be a Council member, persons who are not Council members may be appointed to a select committee. Select committees look at one specific issue."

There are five select committees: Pool, Community Centre, Energy, Emergency Management, and Air Management Planning. Each of these includes Council members and members of the public. Each committee was formed to look at a particular issue and report back to Council on an advisory basis only.

Other Appointments: Council also appoints a member to be a liaison on the Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce, Nechako Valley Exhibition Society and the Nechako Valley Historical Society. The Councillor appointed to these boards are not regular members but act as liaison between Council and the board. They attend meetings but are not voting members.

Council also appoints members to other boards and agencies that are political appointments. These include the RDBN, Municipal Insurance Association, Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee, Prince George Regional Advisory Committee, Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, Nechako River Sturgeon Action Planning Group and the Vanderhoof Public Library. The Council representative on these boards and agencies have full voting powers.

Thanks ~ Mayor Gerry Thiessen



COMMUNITY ACHIEVERS

Alison Desmarais

Alison Desmarais is a very active and dedicated 14 year old from Vanderhoof. She participates in a number of sports including soccer, cross-country running, track and field and cycling. However the community achievement being celebrated here, is her love and skill in speed skating.

Alison has been speed skating since she was 8 years old and she is part of the local speed skating club and team. Her short term goals for this past year were to qualify and skate well at the BC Winter Games and Western Championships. Through her hard work, dedication and support of her team mates and family, she qualified and earned medals in both. Her goals for next year include skating at Canada Cups and Canadian Jr. Championships. Her long term goal is to qualify to skate at the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George. Below are Alison's major competitions from the past season - well done Alison! (1) Western Canadian Short Track Championship. Winnipeg - 14 to 16 year old Female Division. **4th overall, Train to Train 14 yr Old Female Div:** Silver medal in the 200 m; Silver medal in 400 m; Bronze medal in the 1500 m; Gold in the 3000 m Team Pursuit. (2) BC Provincial Short Track Championship, Kamloops. 14 to 16 year old Female Div: **3rd overall, Train to Train 14 yr Old Female Div.** (3) BC Winter Games, Vernon. 14 to 16 year old Female Div: Silver medal, 1500 m; Bronze medal, 3000 m Point. (4) Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships, Fort St. John. **4th overall, Train to Train 14 yr Old Female Div.** (5) BC Long Track Provincial Championship, Fort St. James **Silver medal overall, Train to Train 14 yr Old Female Div.**

Alison's accomplishments are supported and encouraged by other skaters in her club and team who also achieved great goals this year. Congratulations go to Sara McBride, Tyrell McComb, Anne Douglas, Nicole Ebert, Hilary Desmarais, Lachlan Fantillo, Matthew Ebert, and Jessica Sewell.



Alison Desmarais competing in a speed skating race this past winter.

UPCOMING CNC PROGRAMS

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL PROGRAMS

- Administrative Assistance Program
- Health Care Assistant Certificate Program
- Heavy Duty Mechanic/Commercial Transport Mechanical Repair - Foundation Level



SPROCKIDS

This nationally recognized program introduces four skill areas of cycling: safety, etiquette, riding and bicycle maintenance. 9-12 year olds will have fun while exploring the real adventure of cycling and experiencing success on a variety of levels.

Runs May 15 - Jun 7 • Tues & Thurs 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Fee: \$95 • Instructor: Jason Barr • www.sprockids.com

Register at CNC before May 8

Call the Vanderhoof CNC Campus today at 250-567-3200 for information on these and other programs or visit www.cnc.bc.ca/vanderhoof.

VANDERHOOF EMERGENCY SERVICES - BIKE RODEO

Where: Vanderhoof Arena, *When:* **Saturday, May 12, 2012**, *Time:* 10:00am-2:00pm. *Door Prizes, free lunch provided* Vanderhoof Emergency Services invites you to attend our 2nd Annual Bike Rodeo. Children of all ages will learn:

- Bike safety
- Rules of the road
- Responsibilities while biking
- Learn about bike trails in Vanderhoof

Omineca Source for Sports staff will be on site to check the condition of your bike and helmet. Bikes for all ages are available to use if you don't have a bike and would like to participate in the Rodeo. Parents are encouraged to attend watch and participate to try out their skills and knowledge.

For more information on the Bike Rodeo please contact: Cst. Alistair Peers – Vanderhoof RCMP at 250-567-2222 or Fire Chief – Joe Pacheco at 250-567-7755.

Please thank and support our gracious sponsors as they continue support our community!



UPDATER



A common kitchen counter sight in April are little pots of seedlings. The big planting weekend in Vanderhoof is usually not until the May long weekend, however a good quote is "Plant your potatoes when the snow is off Sinkyut Mountain." Photo submitted by Carolyn Krawczyk.

NECHAKO VALLEY POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The District of Vanderhoof, on behalf of the Nechako Valley Post-Secondary Education Committee, has given the go-ahead to a study to expand the post-secondary education and training opportunities in the Nechako Valley.

A web page has been developed to inform the region on this project. For more information go to: <http://www.vanderhoof.ca/NVPSEWG/NVPSEWG.html>

Submit your ideas!

Our consultants, Yates, Thorn & Associates, will be gathering the views of local and provincial key stakeholders, but we are interested in hearing from anyone and everyone in the Nechako Valley region. An online form is available on our website. Please also feel free to send emails to the project consultant, Bob Yates.

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Email your best photo of **Outdoor Physical Activity** to updater@district.vanderhoof.ca for a chance to be in the next Updater.