

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Council was busy between July and August, with two regular council meeting, a pool design meeting, and a number of Official Community Plan Meetings. Highlights include:

July 15 - Council Meeting

Council received a delegation from Fort St. James which applied for use of Vanderhoof's portable stage for the Inter Community Night Market that took place on Tuesday August 20. Council also received an update on the Vanderhoof air show from the Airshow Society. Council supported the District's involvement in a

buy local campaign sponsored by Northern Development. Council reviewed local crime statistics and the ombudspersons reports. Council supported applications for funding to Northern Development and the Nechako Kitamaat Development Fund to build a new washroom facility in Ferland Park.

July 22 - Official Community Plan Meeting

Council met with the district's municipal planner to work on the official community plan (OCP). The majority of the meeting

focused on commercial land and industrial land use, with a focus on the highway 16 corridor.

July 29 - Official Community Plan Meeting

Council discussed OCP policies with the municipal planner. Development permit areas were discussed, as well as a variety of

OCP policies relating to agriculture, utilities, environmentally sensitive areas, and heritage policies.

August 12 - Council Meeting

Council received a delegation from Nechako Historic Society about the museum grounds. Council received a request from Music on the Mountain for the use of the District's public washrooms. Council also reviewed the animal control bylaw to consider the

addition of cats. Council supported the District's application to the Nechako Kitamaat Development Fund for funding for an electronic sign. Council also reviewed a staff report about the possibility of curbside recycling in Vanderhoof.

August 19 - Official Community Plan Meeting

Council met with the municipal planner to further discuss development area permits, as well as community objectives, parks and

recreation, environmental sustainability, and protection.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER

The District of Vanderhoof is pleased to announce that you can now find us on Facebook and Twitter! The District's Facebook page is a great place to find out what's happening in the community, including upcoming events, council meetings, and community updates. The Facebook page will also be a great place to find photo's and connect with others, including businesses, and community organizations. The District looks forward to seeing you online!

PHOTOS OF VANDERHOOF!!

Share your pictures with us to use on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and in the Updater! Fishing, swimming, community events, horse-back riding, scenery, around town - send us your favourite 'Vanderhoof' pictures!

UPCOMING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

District Council Chambers
5:30 pm Mondays

SEPTEMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 23



• SCHOOL STARTS •
September 4, 2013

All public schools in SD 91 start on Wednesday, September 4. Tuesday September 3 is a Pro-d Day, students stay home. Go to www.sd91.bc.ca for more information.



David Kelly took this great photograph of a double-rainbow over Riverside Park. Thank you for emailing the District of Vanderhoof this image!

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MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CAO...



I want to say a hearty hello to all the residents of Vanderhoof and area. Having served small communities for the past twenty five years, I can honestly say that Vanderhoof brings back fond memories of my time in Didsbury, Alberta. Both communities have strong Mennonite roots, historical agricultural values coupled with resource based industries. However, the most telling similarity is the small community friendliness and welcoming attitude that makes this area so special. I wish to thank all those folks who made a special visit to Municipal Hall to say hello. Thank you.

I have served five communities in both Alberta and British Columbia, first in rural Alberta, then in the Okanagan and Vancouver Island. I've had the privilege of serving a wide variety of regions while working with community leaders, and facing their unique challenges. Outside of the normal local government statutory duties (finance, administration, permit issuance etc.), I accepted this position for three key reasons:

- 1) To work with Vanderhoof's dedicated Council to pursue the construction of an aquatic facility for Vanderhoof and the surrounding area. At 12 million dollars, the District needs to fund 2/3 of the costs by partnering with key players who share our vision, and will invest in not just this community facility, but also to help provide quality programming for future generations.
- 2) To secure a site and funding for a new community centre. Every community needs a 'sense of place' where residents can meet, and share experiences. This is a priority of Council, and I completely share that vision.
- 3) To secure funding and implement a flood mitigation program to protect both property and persons. This is a critical infrastructure necessity.

In addition to these top priorities, the District of Vanderhoof will also focus on a housing strategy, a community transit strategy, and completion of the Official Community Plan. All in good time.

In the meantime, I want to hear from you... the taxpayer, the small business owner, the volunteer. You know this community better than me. I'm trained in local government administration and community development, but I'm ignorant of the issues that face this proud community. In serving the residents and business owners, I need your support and involvement in making Vanderhoof the envy of the North... sorry... central British Columbia!

Drop by Municipal office for a coffee... the door is always open.

Regards, Evan D. Parliament, CLGM, Chief Administrative Officer

COMMUNITY GROUP

Master's Running Club

Do you like a good cardio workout or how about some speed work for those legs or how about a good hard run? The Masters Running Club (MRC) might be for you. The MRC was formed in 1998 by Wanda and Brian Nemethy – two dedicated runners who have done Ironmans, short course triathlons, marathons, half marathons, trail races, and countless 5km and 10km runs. Both are long distance specialists who have made running a big thing in Vanderhoof. As well, both are teachers for the past 23 years in the SD91. They have made track and field and, especially, cross country running a top contender in the North Central Zone and at the Provincial level.



Wild Goose Chase, one of the events hosted by the MRC.

The MRC begins to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of April at 6pm at the NVSS front doors and runs through to the middle of October. Up until July, the workouts entail a warm up jog of 3km followed by short fast repeats – to work on speed – and finishes off with a cool down run and stretching. Starting on the first Tuesday of July, the group meets up on Carmen Hill road east for long interval runs – to prepare for half and full marathons in the fall. For more info contact the Nemethys at 250-567-5324.



LOVE VANDERHOOF

Northern Development Initiative Trust is funding a buy local campaign in Vanderhoof! The project will be coordinated by Amy Quarry who created the very successful Small Town Love campaign in Quesnel (www.smalltownlove.com).



Vanderhoof is one of six municipalities participating in this great pilot program. The finished program will feature a high quality, professional website (www.lovevanderhoof.com) that will include professional photographs taken by a local photographer, and personalized write ups of the participating businesses.

25 businesses have signed up for the pilot, and all are locally owned and operated. The Love Vanderhoof website will be launched in November, and will be accompanied by a launch party featuring participating local businesses.

The program is being championed by Erin Siemens, the District of Vanderhoof's Economic Development Coordinator. Any questions can be directed to her at 250-567-4711, or edc@district.vanderhoof.ca.

UPDATE on the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Facility:

Construction of the Sturgeon Recovery Facility is going according to plan and should be completed on schedule. Clearing, grubbing, initial filling, and the foundation are all complete. Aquaculture equipment has begun arriving, including treatment equipment and tanks. Plumbing of the aquaculture systems is ongoing as the site is brought up to the final grade level. What this means is that the deeper plumbing went in first and has been added in layers as the fill has been added to the site.

Cory Williamson has been hired by the Freshwater Fisheries Society as the manager of the recovery facility, and will start on September 3, 2013.



THE NORTHERN ORCHESTRA'S 2013/14 SEASON APPROACHES...



The upcoming 2013/14 season promises to be the biggest ever for The Northern Orchestra, our very own regional amateur symphony orchestra. Not only will they do their three regular concert pairings in Vanderhoof and Prince George, but Vanderhoof will also get its very own Strauss Ball on February 15 where you can dress up and waltz until midnight to the accompaniment of a real orchestra. And for the first time ever, they will present a truly international

guest soloist, Robert Silverman, who will be playing Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with the orchestra on October 19 in Prince George, and 20 in Vanderhoof.

"Dr. Silverman," says conductor Gordon Lucas, "is perhaps Canada's best known pianist. He has over 100 recordings on catalogue, including the complete Beethoven Sonatas, and he has played with many of the world's great orchestras, including the BBC, Leningrad, Chicago and Boston, as well as every orchestra in Canada. A true Canadian icon, this concert is just not to be missed!"

"And in addition to Dr. Silverman and the Strauss Ball, we are featuring Vanderhoof's own Jonathan Schultz, who will play Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" in the December Concert, and talented violinist Rachel Eagles in the May Concert playing Mozart's "Concerto #5 in A Major" in her guest solo debut."

The Northern Orchestra was started in 2002 by Gordon Lucas, who was then Concertmaster of the Prince George Symphony Orchestra. He saw a real need for a regional amateur orchestra which could fulfil the goals of a teaching and performing vehicle for talented young musicians and local top amateur players, performing true symphonic repertoire. Personnel would be drawn from the entire region so the orchestra would be a benefit to the entire area, and regional artists would be featured in solo situations so they might develop artistically where otherwise they would not have the opportunity. And indeed, the Northern Orchestra has been an unqualified success, delighting audiences in Prince George, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, and McBride.

Be sure to join them this year for solid symphonic entertainment. You can get all of the concert information on their website at www.northernorchestra.ca and tickets are available both in advance and at the door. Tickets are reasonably priced at \$10 per adult and \$5 for students and seniors. The Robert Silverman concert has special pricing. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, with tickets at the door \$20.

UPDATE

COUNCIL MESSAGE Summer

Wow! Where has it gone? We have spent a few days down at the river, a great airshow, and a 'never been better' fall fair, but after that it's all gone fairly fast.

Council usually only has two meetings over the summer, one in July, and one in August. As I've mentioned in other articles, this is the year of our Official Community Plan otherwise known as the OCP.

Over the past 10 months or so Council has had six meetings entirely devoted to planning where we see our community headed over the next 5 years. Prior to starting our meetings with Council, Vanderhoof's planner held a number of focus groups that discussed everything from the environment to what seniors want to see in the community.

The OCP is required under the Community Charter to be done every five years and it can take well over a year to work on it. Council has made sure that they give all the input they sense is needed to make sure this is truly a community plan by having four of the planning sessions over the summer and each lasting well over three hours.

We've talked everything from recreation to environment, residential to industrial subdivisions, walking trails to roads, and sea cans to attracting industrial buildings. It's been neat to see each Councillor and senior staff member champion ideas then have them challenged by others. There's lots of discussion and often lots of laughter, but in the end it has been a great experience.

Now the "Community" part. Starting the end of September we will be coming to the public with a number of town hall meetings to hear your thoughts on the plan. The next five years will be pivotal for Vanderhoof. Most foresters tell us that in 2018 the pine beetle wood will be harvested. Mount Milligan will be operating and New Gold's Blackwater Mine will have



Mayor Gerry Thiessen

The District of Vanderhoof Mayor and Council are very pleased to introduce Evan Parliament, the new CAO for the District. Evan began his position here in Vanderhoof in August and is looking forward to working with and for our community. See the inside page for a message from Evan.

gone through the environmental assessment process, construction, and will be beginning operation. Vanderhoof will be a place with lots of jobs it seems, but will the workers see these jobs as "fly in - fly out" or will they see Vanderhoof as a place to call home?

The answer to that will depend on you as residents of Vanderhoof. We need everyone's input to make sure this plan gets us to where we want to be.

~ Gerry Thiessen, Mayor



One of the many acrobatics that were enjoyed by the crowd at the Vanderhoof Airshow in August. Photo by Borealis Photography.

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