

» MAKE A SPLASH!



2015 is going to be a swimming year for our fundraising. Mark Saturday, March 7 down on your calendar and join us for a big spring splash at the Elks Hall! We will have a scrumptious dinner catered by SFN Catering, many wonderful items in a silent auction and the rockin' good music of Buck Fever to dance the night away as we kick winter out and get ready for a delightful summer. Pick your tickets up at The Rose Bowl or the Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce.

Also keep your eyes open for our fishbowls, proud supporter stickers and brochures at various locations around town - a place for you to get rid of your loose change and get a plethora of information on the pool and our fundraising activities!

Here is a breakdown of our fundraising drive since our public meeting June 2014:

\$2,400.00 – \$5.00 founding member drive (2010 to 2013)	
\$7,833.60 – comedy night	
\$400.00 – anonymous	<i>Donate directly</i>
\$10,000.00 – Avison Management	<i>to the District</i>
\$25,000.00 – Stephen Brothers	<i>of Vanderhoof</i>
\$10,000.00 – Omineca Medical Clinic	<i>or online at</i>
\$2,933.00 – InvestLocalBC.ca	<i>www.investlocalbc.ca/campaigns/</i>
\$58,566.60 TOTAL	<i>make-a-splash!</i>
\$500,000.00 (our goal)	
- \$58,566.60	
\$ 441,433.40 left to be raised by our community.	

» Thanks to NKDF

The District of Vanderhoof would like to thank the Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund (NKDF) for their generous support of the Alternative Capital Funding Strategy (\$10,869.55), and the Vanderhoof Heritage Restoration Project (\$5,000.00).

The Alternative Funding Strategy investigates the feasibility of financing \$45 million of capital upgrades in Vanderhoof including an aquatic centre, community centre, trades training centre, and hotel.

The Heritage Restoration Project was a joint venture between the District of Vanderhoof, the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, and the NKDF. The project involved the general repair and upgrades to the Vanderhoof Community Museum. The NKDF funding was used to build display cases at the Museum.

» Council Meeting Notes

December 15, 2014 - Regular Meeting of Council

Council presented a Long Service Award to Vanderhoof Arena/Parks Manager Shallon Touet for his ten years of service with the District of Vanderhoof. Council then announced Ian Leslie as Vanderhoof's new Fire Chief. Council received a delegation from the Nechako Valley Historic Society, who presented a funding request for 2015. Nechako Valley Speed Skating Club presented Council with a request for use of the arena from March 6-8th. Council also received a request from the Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce to use the Arena from April 29-May 3 for a trade show. Council then authorized staff to make an application to the Build Canada fund for funding to replace the Hunter Lane reservoir, and the upper zone water main.

January 12, 2015 - Regular Meeting of Council

Council received a delegation from School District 91 regarding the importance of secondary school apprenticeship training. Council also received a delegation from the Aquatic Centre Society which presented an update about fundraising events. Council then received the monthly financial reports, and the Building Permit Report.

January 19 - Special Meeting of Council

Council received delegations and financial support requests from Rip'n the North Bike Club, Vanderhoof Public Library, Nechako Valley Search and Rescue, Youth Centre, Nechako Community Services Society, and the Nechako Valley Historic Society. Council then directed staff to arrange events for the Lieutenant Governor's visit to Vanderhoof.

January 26 - Regular Meeting of Council

Council received a delegation from Coastal GasLink, and the Nechako Community Arts Council. Council received a grant request from Vanderhoof Crime Watch Patrol, the Dry Grad Committee, and the Nechako Valley Rodeo Association. Council then directed staff to apply for grants from Canada Summer Jobs, and Young Canada Works to hire three students as heritage interpreters, and one graduate as a curator.

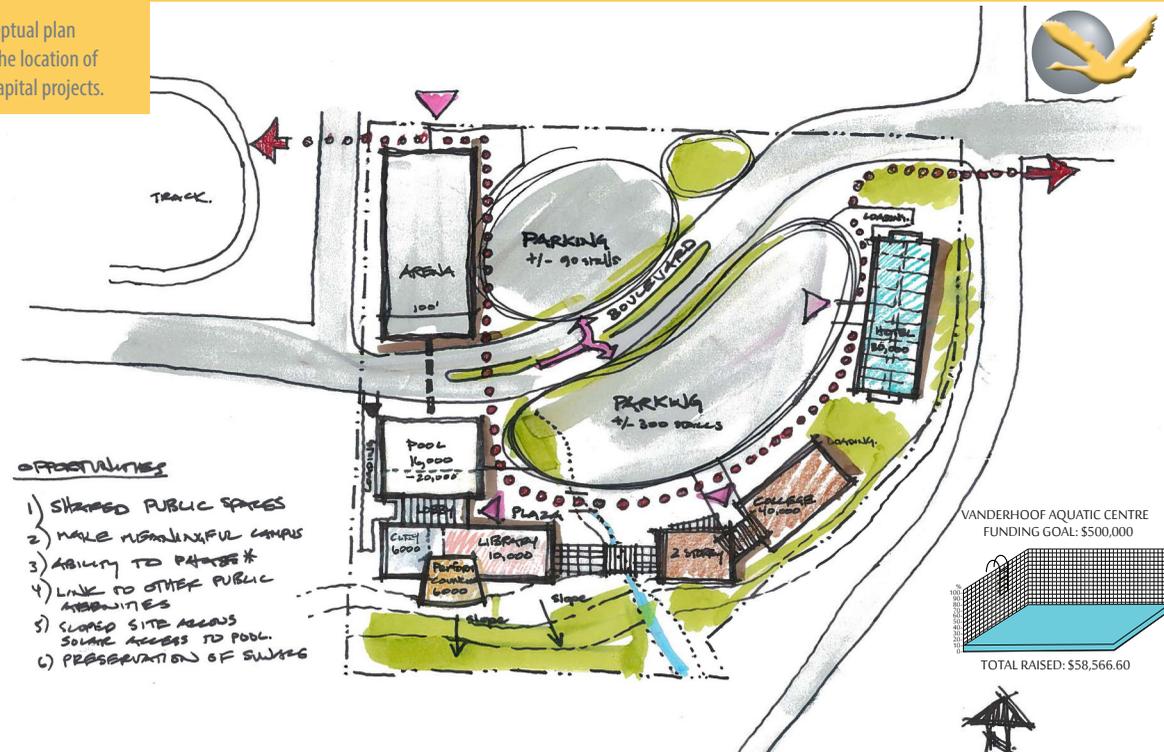
UPCOMING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

District Council Chambers, 160 Connaught Street • 5:30 pm Mondays

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23

CIFF conceptual plan showing the location of possible capital projects.



UPDATER

» Vanderhoof Community Foundation

The District of Vanderhoof is seeking three preliminary board members for the Vanderhoof Community Foundation.

Community Foundations are independent, volunteer-driven, charitable organizations that facilitate philanthropy by building permanent endowment funds that support local community projects.

The purpose of the preliminary board is to set the Foundation's governance structure.

Preliminary board members should be prepared to give a yearlong commitment to the Foundation.

If you would like to be a member of the initial board, please submit a letter to the District of Vanderhoof explaining why you would like to be on the board. Letters can be dropped off at the Municipal Office, or mailed to: 160 Connaught PO Box 1588, V0J 3A0

Letters may also be emailed to: community@district.vanderhoof.ca

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Don't forget to visit us at "District of Vanderhoof" on Facebook.

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Inquiries to the UPDATER can be made to Gavin Ireland 250-567-4711 or updater@district.vanderhoof.ca.

» Community Grant Writing

Did you know that the District of Vanderhoof offers a grant writing service to local not-for-profit groups?

The aim of the grant-writing service is to be a catalyst for the development of community infrastructure and/or employment opportunities. However, any kind of initiative that has a positive spin-off for the community may qualify for funding, so everyone is invited to contact the District office and find out if their project has the potential for funding.

The grant-writing process involves consulting with funding applicants to define project goals, identify possible funding sources or partners and obtaining the required information to prepare and submit funding applications. There are many different sources of funding for community groups across various categories including; Federal, provincial, non-profit and non-government organizations. In most cases there are specific requirements that need to be in place long before a funding application is actually submitted. This is an example of where the grant writer can assist and steer community groups in the right direction.

For more information contact:
Gavin Ireland
Community Grant Writer
deputy@district.vanderhoof.ca



» Vanderhoof Related Facebook Pages

If you are on Facebook, check out the District of Vanderhoof page. But also, there are many great Facebook pages that involve our community. Here is a sample:

- Vanderhoof Sights and Scenes
- Vanderhoof Community Message Board
- Vanderhoof and Area events only
- Vanderhoof Pet Shop
- Vanderhoof & Area Job and Rental Postings
- Those were the days

» Vanderhoof Public Library

The Vanderhoof Public Library is a vibrant and vital community resource. It serves many purposes including: a community hub, a community information centre, an independent learning centre, and a reference and research centre. Serving the needs of preschoolers to seniors, the library has the responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom and for supporting literacy in our community.

Libraries generate economic activity around them, enhance cultural and social vitality and contribute to a community's overall livability. In challenging economic times, people turn to libraries for quality of life issues such as job-related assistance and technology skills training, in addition to providing places for recreation and enjoyment.

Here are some fast facts about libraries in BC:

- governed by the BC Library Act
- 243 public branches serve 360 BC communities, comprising 99% of the population
- 16 million items are available to borrow in BC's public libraries
- 28% of library materials are now available online, with 2.6 million items accessed or downloaded in 2012
- 56 million visits (in person and virtual) to public libraries in BC each year
- in 2012, library boards contributed to the BC economy through more than \$221 million in annual spending

The Library Board

Public libraries are governed by a Board of Trustees and managed by a Chief Librarian or Library Director. On Tuesday, March 10, 2015 the Vanderhoof Public Library Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room at the library. We welcome your involvement and participation.

For more information about the VPL you may contact Jane Gray, Chief Librarian, or visit our website at www.vanderhoof.bclibrary.ca.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Vanderhoof Public Library is to open the doors to the world of education, information and recreation, thereby enhancing the social, cultural and economic vitality of our community.

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Public Works strives to provide the best possible service to the residents of our community during the winter months. Our crew has a great many years of experience amongst them. They are dedicated and care immensely about the community we live in.

Our equipment fleet for winter road maintenance operations include three (3) plow trucks, two (2) wheel loaders, two (2) sidewalk machines, a grader and a large tractor mounted snow blower. At any given time we can have three plow trucks, one loader, one sidewalk machine, grader and the large snow blower on the streets.

Removal of snow from the downtown curbed areas (including school zones) generally occurs in the overnight hours when traffic is less of a concern. To assist with these operations we ask the public to avoid parking in these areas overnight when snow removal operations are anticipated or in progress.

The plowing of our streets is based on a priority sequence, where all roadways are categorized in the following sequence:

PRIORITY ONE

Main arterial streets, streets in the downtown central business district, major and problem hills.

PRIORITY TWO

All remaining bus routes and all commercial/industrial roads.

PRIORITY THREE

Residential streets and lanes.

Please give the municipal office a call should you have any questions about our snow removal operations.

» Council Message

On behalf of Mayor and Council, I would like to thank you, the many hard working and community minded citizens of Vanderhoof. The recent election reaffirmed your commitment to the current team of Mayor and Council and make no mistake, your support, has served to sharpen our focus and drive to move the District of Vanderhoof forward.

The recent shutdown of Endako Mine only serves to highlight the continual need to proactively work with not only our primary industry players but with potential new drivers of economic growth.

To that end, the District of Vanderhoof is moving forward on a number of fronts ranging from advancing the Community Forest, working with Innergex and their respective wind farm development, and engaging with Trans-Canada and their LNG project. These are only several of a multitude of initiatives that Mayor and Council are working on as we move forward to position our community for the future. As always, Mayor and Council looks forward to your participation and feedback on a continual basis, to that end, we are moving forward to further refine and enhance how to better communicate with the community at large. In partnership with the Northern Development Initiative Trust, the District of Vanderhoof will be working very closely with their respective expert staff to identify and address shortfalls in the current communication plan.

January is budget deliberation season and recently we received funding applications/presentations from community organizations that have been traditionally funded by the District of Vanderhoof. For example, groups such as the Public Library, Vanderhoof Search and Rescue, Vanderhoof Volunteer Centre, Chamber of Commerce, and Nechako Valley Historical Society approach Council with their respective strategic plans, comment on how they serve and enhance our community, and request funding. The requests are then forwarded to our scheduled budget deliberations for approval, adjustments, or denial – as always, the District of Vanderhoof is open to input and feedback at any stage of the budget process. Mayor and Council take budget deliberations very serious; with careful and ample debate taking place to determine/assess operational expenses and capital expenses all the while taking into account the tax and cost of living pressures facing us all.

The DoV has a conservatively balanced tax structure (Residential, Commercial, Industrial) that has served to distribute tax burdens more proportionally – this is not the norm for many communities. What does all this mean? For one, the DoV finds itself in the unprecedented position of being essentially debt free, which in this day and age is rare indeed, this has occurred through a reasonable and distributed tax policy, strong and robust debate, hard work to find the right balance between operational costs and service levels, the establishment of achievable five-year capital expenditure plans, and the innate fiscal conservatism our town has always maintained. This allows the District of Vanderhoof to retain a greater potential to be flexible and proactive on a number of fronts than a great number of other communities saddled with high and/or disproportionate taxation and high levels of debt servicing. We are moving forward in 2015 and look to your continued comments, engagement and feedback.

~ Councillor Darren Carpenter



Councillor Darren Carpenter