

**FRASER LAKE  
VILLAGE OFFICE**

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# Village News

**JUNE 2019**

## **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Village Speed Limits
- Village Wharf
- Park Drive Water
- Community Vehicle Garage
- Fire Smart
- 2019 Property Tax
- Mouse Mountain Days
- Indigenous Day Tri-Community Celebration

The Village Office and Public Works will be Closed on Monday July 1st, 2019 To observe the Canada Day Statutory Holiday

### **PROPERTY TAX NOTICES**

Property tax notices were sent out recently. If you have not received your notice, please contact the Village Office at 250-699-6257. Remember to come in and fill out your Home Owner Grant. Please note that the due date for tax payment is 4:00 pm on Monday, July 2nd, 2019.

## *FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER*

### **Village Speed Limits:**

Recently I've heard some interesting discussions about speed limits on Village roads. For the sake of clarity, all roads, streets and alleyways within the Village of Fraser Lake have a speed limit of 30 kilometers per hour. Signs posted at each of the exit points off Highway 16 display the posted speed limit as 30 km/hr. That speed limit remains in affect for all sections of the Village, unless otherwise posted. To avoid uncertainty, Council has asked that additional speed limit signs be erected within the Village. For those interested in the technical aspects of how these speed limits were established, the Motor Vehicle Act of British Columbia provides the Council of a Municipality the authority to regulate, control or prohibit vehicular and pedestrian traffic on our streets and roads. To exercise this authority, a Bylaw must be established. In 1989 the Village of Fraser Lake passed the Fraser Lake Traffic Bylaw No. 373; establishing the municipal speed limit at 30 kilometers per hour. This speed limit was established to ensure the safety of our residents. Please drive responsibly.

For those interested with the speed limited on Highway 16, the Village Bylaw does not have the authority to regulate the speed limit on the Highway. Speed limits on Provincial Highways fall under the authority of the Minister of Transportation.

### **Village Wharf:**

Over the last couple of years, our Wharf has sustained damage. In 2017, it was beavers chewing on the pilings. This past winter, the pressures generated by the lake ice sheered off two pilings. The Wharf has been inspected by an engineer. The good news, the wharf can be re-

paired. The bad news, the wharf will be closed for the coming season. We require low water and heavy ice conditions to complete the repairs. We hope to achieve both conditions next winter. With the sheered pilings at the end of the wharf, it has begun to sag. For everyone's safety, the wharf must be closed. Please stay off. To make best use of our assets, we will remove the floating wharf and use it at the boat launch for the summer. Our hope is to ensure our boaters had adequate dock space for their summer activities. Thank you for your understanding on this issue.

### **Springing leaks:**

Our public works crew have been busy excavating leaks in our water system. These leaks are symptomatic of our aging water lines. The leaks are repairable; however, the impacts of the excavation definitely linger for some time. Throughout our Village, the water, sanitary and storm sewer lines run under our roads. This is the standard practice in communities across Canada. With our very tight budget, we have delayed paving our streets until the buried infrastructure has been updated. We agree the lumps and bumps from these excavations are irritating. Please be patient, the excavations will settle in time. We'll continue to grade these areas off or add gravel as required. As your Village, we are working on the bigger solution by seeking funding to replace our aging infrastructure. Those processes simply take time.

### **Park Drive Water Main Extension:**

The extension of the Village Water Main to the west end of Park Drive has been a long-standing dream of the 9 property owners in that area. Once

the water line is operational, these property owners will no longer need to draw their household water directly from the lake. Instead, they will have the same safe, clean water supply enjoyed by all other residents in the community. This project was several years in the making. In 2017, the Village successfully applied to the Federal Gas Tax Fund for \$354,000.00 in support of this project. As a Local Service Area, the owners of the properties along Park Drive will fund the remaining costs through a Parcel Tax Bylaw. The project includes installation of water hydrants. This will ensure the properties on Park Drive have full fire protection services in the event of a structure fire. We recognize the project has been a muddy one. We join the residents of Park Drive in looking forward to the completion of this project.

### **Community Vehicle Garage:**

The Village of Fraser Lake Community Vehicle program began in February 2018. The program supports residents who might otherwise be challenged with transportation through this community-based transit system. Our community vehicle is an important community asset; providing up to 35 rides per day on Wednesday and Friday each week. To ensure this vehicle is stored out of the elements and secure, we are constructing a garage. It is our hope, by doing so, this vehicle will serve the community for years to come. This project was made possible through funding from the Nechako Kitimaat Development Fund and Federal Gas Tax Funding.

**Mouse Mountain Day Parade July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Theme -Forestry

Inviting floats, on or off-road vehicles, horses, forestry equipment (wheeled only), bikers, walkers. To book your spot contact Dave or LeEtta at 250-699-6257

**Fire Smart your Property:**

The large fast spreading forest fires over the past two fire seasons have likely caused each of us to evaluate our properties for their ability to survive any fire that might enter the community. It is our hope, many of you are accessing how *Fire Smart* your properties are. Moving firewood piles away from the structure of your home, cleaning debris from your roof and gutters, keeping grass mowed short and removing combustible plants such as cedars, junipers and other conifers from the side of your home are each important step to ensuring the survival of your home should a fire erupt close by. This past spring, several Village staff attended a Fire Smart workshop to learn more about assessing properties for potential ignition points around a home. For properties within the Village of Fraser Lake boundary, we would like to offer to visit your property, complete a Fire Smart evaluation and provide recommendations; if needed.

**Good Neighbour Bylaw and Overgrown Vacant Properties:**

With Fire Smart in mind, there are several undeveloped properties within the Village boundary. The accumulations of dead trees and other materials are creating a fire hazard. If you own such a property, please take steps to reduce the fire load by removing the combustibles. For those property owners not residing in the Village, we will be sending out letters. The Good Neighbour Bylaw does not allow unsightly premises, accumulations of firewood and other debris. We have seen the fires as they cut across the landscape burning the accumulations of dry dead trees. We don't need these same conditions within our community. Please help where you can.

**2019 Property Tax Rates:**

Each year, our Mayor and Council set tax rates for the various property classes within the Village. This includes residential, business, major industry, utilities and recreation properties. In recognition of our economy and the

related pressures on our property owners, Village Council held property tax rates to 2018 rates for residential, business and recreation properties. Tax Notices have been mailed. The Village of Fraser Lake also collects tax levy for Police Services, School, BC Assessment, Hospital District and Regional District. The Village does not have control or influence over those taxation rates. One potentially significant change to your property tax bill relates to an increase from the Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District. As an example, the Hospital District taxation on a \$100,000.00 property will increase from \$64.73 in 2018 to \$140.19 in 2019. This taxation is to provide a portion of the funds required by hospitals within the Hospital District for medical equipment, building renovations and new construction. This tax rate is expected to remain steady for the next five years. For more information, please review the 2019 Regional District Bulkley Nechako "Property Tax Guide" that is enclosed in your tax notice envelope.



**Fraser Lake - MOUSE MOUNTAIN DAYS**

June 30 - July 1, 2019

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- June 30th**  
10:30pm Boat Parade of Lights - White Swan Park - Enjoy a boat parade of lights while waiting for the fireworks.
- 11:59pm Fireworks at White Swan Park
- July 1st**  
8:00am Pancake Breakfast at the Fraser Lake Legion
- 10:00am Parade Line up – FLESS – Forestry Theme
- 10:30am Parade Judging
- 11:15am Parade Starts -FLESS, Dunnee St., Endako Ave., ends at Arena Complex
- 12:15pm Complex Stage - Singing of O' Canada, Mayors Address, Welcome the Hostages of Hospitality, Best Overall Parade Entry.
- 12pm - 4pm Community BBQ - Arena/Complex, Canada Day cake & ice-cream, community market, mini-rail, inflatables, games, show and shine.
- 12:30 - 4pm Complex Stage - Musical Entertainment - Entertainers TBA

**CLASS OF 2019**

The Village of Fraser Lake would like to congratulate the Graduating class of 2019. The graduation ceremony will be on June 8th, at 12 pm at Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School.

**Indigenous Day Tri-Community Celebration**

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 10am – 4pm

Parade starts at 10 am from FLESS to the Arena Soccer Fields

Opening Ceremony after the Parade

Hosted by Nadleh, Stellat'en and Village of Fraser Lake

Everyone Welcome

To participate as a vendor, volunteer, artist, sponsor or be in the parade

Contact:

LeEtta LaFontaine 250-699-6257

Eleanor Nooski/Linda Wijcik 250-690-7211

Elton Louie/Juanita Heron 250-699-8747