

FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Street Sweeping

With the nice weather approaching street sweeping will be starting soon. Please watch for the slow moving vehicle.

UTILITY BILLS

The Village utility bills have been sent out and are due May 31st. Watch for yours in your mailbox.

The Village of Fraser Lake's Strategic Plan encompasses: Beautification, Asset Management, Community Forest, and Tourism. Each of these items are especially important and are being worked on diligently. While Rome wasn't built in a day as they say, everyone is working extremely hard and considering our limited staff and capacity we are proud to say last year we had 53 projects on the go compared to a few years ago where we had 1 project. We have some projects carrying over from last year which includes the 4th Lagoon, the RV park plus a few more and 38 new projects in the planning and design stage for this year which leaves us with 45 projects.

Much of this work is possible thanks to Provincial funding, grants, proceeds from the Community Forest and work from Council and our awesome Staff and the Works Crew.

We have been working diligently to address the aging infrastructure issues that include things like better drainage, water lines and repaving. Having reserves assists in dealing with these issues.

All of this takes time and a lot of work. Forward planning and asset management is the cornerstone of that work. This is very important in the overall management of the municipality. We need to be able to predict when things need to be replaced and have realistic expectations on when we can afford those pieces. This is now a provincially mandated process as all municipalities are facing this very issue. You may have noticed for instance your water, sewer and garbage bill has had an increase. While we would have liked to have left it at the 2014 rate, we cannot run our accounts in a deficit. The Village had a Water Conservation Plan completed in 2020 they recommended a \$10.30 increase per month on just the water. Council settled on \$9.30 for the total utility bill. While not an easy decision it is our mandate to maintain service levels and infrastructure.

Overall, we should not just cover the costs of our expenses, we should be putting money away in our reserves to cover, replace and repair infrastructure. This way future generations are not left with what we have now which is the need to come up with close to 50-million-dollars to replace aging infrastructure. Most municipalities were doing what many of us do and that is living paycheque to paycheque and not putting money into our savings account.

So how do you come up with \$50 million to repair the aging infrastructure? This is obviously not something that happens quickly. We must find infrastructure grants, advocate for support from both Provincial and Federal governments and put funds into reserves and leverage that to apply for more. We will keep advocating for more funds and the Village was incredibly lucky to receive 2.6 million dollars from the Province in 2019 and another \$777,000 last year and received an announcement 2 weeks ago that the federal government is doubling the gas tax contributions to our municipalities. This will now be called the "Canada Community Building Fund." Every contribution we receive like the one above makes a difference on how much we can accomplish.

Potholes? Drainage? Frost Heaves? The roads sinking and heaving is a priority for all of us in the Village. While not an easy fix we cannot waste money replacing asphalt until we replace the aging infrastructure underneath. This is a priority for Council, and we have received another grant for \$50,000 to finish the asset management plan which will help with long-and short-term funding opportunities.

Each year our Village looks for opportunities to reduce our energy costs. This saves money and helps reduce our carbon footprint. This year we replaced all florescent light fixtures with new LED ballasts and lights in the Visitors Centre, Village Office, Public Works and the Firehall. This project has created a bright, welcoming, and energy efficient and safer environment in our facilities.

In the month of April there will be construction activity on the Wharf to repair damage that has been caused by beavers and ice over the past several years. Completing the repairs will allow the Village to safely reopen this iconic landmark for this spring. Such repairs include replacing 16 of the damaged pilings, worn out deck boards and hand railings, and the end platform. Watch for reopening details in the upcoming months.

Some of the projects that are in the planning and design stage for this year are: self-watering planters; installation of the "Richard Cannon Way Interactive Trail" and concrete ping pong and chess tables; purchase of a new fire engine and garbage truck; phase 1 of the cemetery leveling and repairs; library energy upgrades; water plant upgrades; Community Signage including Mouse Mountain Trail signage; refurbishment of the tennis courts at FLESS in partnership with SD91 and the Village which will have one tennis/pickle ball court and one road hockey and basketball court. We also received a grant to update and add an addition to the Curling Rink. This year will see the planning and design of the space and 2022 will be the construction phase. When the project is done the Curling Rink can be used as a Community Hall in the off season.

We hope the Community bus will be back in action sometime in April and while we won't have a recreation coordinator this year, we will be supporting activities and events where we can.

Dates for the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic are April 13 to 24, 2021, and the number to call to book your vaccine appointment is 1-866-481-2175 (new number), this information and updates can be found on Northern Health Website.

On behalf of Council, we know that this has not been an easy time for anyone, but we are here to listen, if you have thoughts, concerns or ideas please reach out! Please remember to be kind to yourselves and each other.

Mayor Storey

Fraser Lake Business Façade Program

Do you have a Commercial Business, Not-For-Profit, B&B or Home-Based Business in Fraser Lake that needs some revitalization or wayfinding signage? The Fraser Lake Business Façade program will match up to 50% of the project costs. Call Dave @ 250-699-6257 or stop by the Village office for specific program details.

Fraser Lake Public Library News

Attention All Parents:

Our Library has a subscription to TumbleBooksLibrary, and your family can access it from home! It is UNLIMITED and FREE for you to use from home.

There are over 250 animated, talking picture e-books. The site also features Spanish and French Books, read along chapter books, non-fiction books and exciting games and puzzles.

tumblebooklibrary.com Username: fraserlake Pswd: libra

You can use your computer, Tablet or Mobile Phone! All you need is an internet connection. There are no downloads: books are streamed right to your device at the click of a button

Happy Tumbling Everyone!!!!

AREA "D" TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday &
Friday
8 am - 6 pm

Thursday
Closed

Statutory Holidays
Closed

Saturday & Sunday
10 am - 6 pm

Questions? Please
contact the
Regional District at
1-800-320-3339.

♥ LOVEFRASERLAKE.COM

Love Fraser Lake is a program to support local independent business with an online presence, which showcases the owners, location, and product or services offered. Lovefraserlake.com has 28 local businesses currently enrolled. If you have not visited lovefraserlake.com, I highly recommend it.

Fraser Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

Did you know that the Fraser Lake & District Chamber of Commerce supports local business through a variety of avenues such as staff training and the Chamber Dollar program. In 2020 just over \$50,000 of Chamber Dollars were purchased and spent at 15 local businesses.

The Fraser Lake and District Chamber of Commerce meets once a month to network, discuss Fraser Lake initiatives, and brings in speakers. The Chamber offers individual or business memberships, and all the members are eligible for exclusive benefits such as 3.5 cents off a liter of fuel just to name one. The meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm, in the Fraser Lake Professional Building – 298 McMillian Avenue. Come on out and network with area members.

Our Equipment – Your Adventure

Did you know that the Village of Fraser Lake has canoes and paddleboards? The equipment is available for a low fee through Canada's Grocery Store. For a very minimal fee you can use this equipment to write your own adventure. Stop by Canada's Grocery Store for more information.

Support Local and Shop Local

4 Reasons to shop local:

1. Your spending will boost the local economy, every dollar spent locally, 63 cents stays in the local economy.
2. They sell unique gifts. Take a look in any local business, and you will find something very unique.
3. You support local Fraser Lake entrepreneurs; small local businesses make their livelihood from their business. Often, they put everything on the line to make a go of it. Help support these small businesses.
4. Small business builds communities. Small business contributes to community markets, community gardens, craft shops and other local clubs. Without this support these community fundamentals would disappear. Small business have community value.

