

From the “Bear Pit”

Highlights of the October 26, 2015 Council Meeting

Also of note...

- Regional Council pre-approved an expense to print copies of the [Northern Rockies Travel Guide 2016](#).
- The Memorandum of Understanding ([MOU](#)) that Northern Health maintains with the Regional Hospital Districts was renewed. The MOU clarifies responsibilities and mandates of each party concerning communications, reporting and long term financial investment in health care facilities and capital projects in our region.
- [Business Walks](#) is a program aimed at business retention and expansion to support existing businesses in a community. Council supported the coordination of a Business Walks program in 2015.
- Haida-Gwaii has had low-risk non-surgical [maternity services](#) in place for the past three years. Council and staff from the NRRM, Fort Nelson Hospital and Northern Health will be participating in a teleconference on October 28, 2015 to discuss the program and investigate its applicability to our region.
- The [2016 NRRM Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 118, 2015](#) was adopted, granting a total of 29 properties partial exemption from property taxation.
- Mayor Streeper conducted a round table poll to determine whether any Council members wanted to amend their Animal Control Bylaw to allow pit bull breeds back in the municipality. All Regional Councilors [agreed](#) to retain the existing ban on pit bulls in the municipality.

Rural Fringe Area Strategy Policy

The [Rural Fringe Area Strategy Report](#) was endorsed as policy by Municipal Council. The purpose of the report was to take a more comprehensive look at the rural land base. The study identified that 75% of future growth would be within the urban area and 25% within the rural area. One of several important issues raised was the need for the NRRM to be much more proactive in identifying where we see future land sales occurring as well as the development of future infrastructure such as roads and water, and communicating municipal land planning goals to the Crown prior to land sales.

Zoning 101 Information Session

Council heard an engaging presentation from Jake Hughson of Urban Systems, covering the fundamentals of [community zoning regulations](#) and the relationship between the Zoning and the Official Community Plan. Zoning is one of the tools used to accomplish goals established in community plans, and striking a balance between permissiveness and effectiveness is always challenging.

Vermicompost Farming Presentation

Wilf Hoath and Frank Anderson made an absorbing presentation on vermicomposting (worm composting) as a viable waste diversion strategy for organics and paper products. Mr. Hoath has been using paper waste collected from the post office and other organic material in both outdoor and sheltered worm composting with success. The request to Council was for the use of enough land and funds to engage in composting on a larger scale, with the goal of diverting waste from the landfill. Worm compost is a very fertile medium for growing that could be used locally, saving the cost of transporting recyclable materials to major centres



Things to Do this Halloween

SPOOKERAMA Rec Centre Saturday October 31st 5:30-8:30 pm
Bring the whole family to the SPOOKERAMA Festival this year! There is something for everyone!

FIREWORKS Art Fraser Park Saturday October 31st 8:45 pm
Afterward checking out Spookerama, head outside to enjoy the fireworks and hot chocolate!

2015 PUMPKIN PLUNGE Art Fraser Park November 1st 3:30-4:30 pm
The 2015 PUMPKIN PLUNGE event will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2015 from 3:30-4:30 pm at Art Fraser Park and features a prize draw. Council approved the use of the Quint fire truck so that pumpkins may be dropped from the top of the fire ladder. Pumpkins will be harmed during this event, but the remains will be composted.



Don't forget to "like" the Northern Rockies on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.