



Coming or Going
Enjoy the Ultimate Journey

Image Courtesy of NRRM Visitor Centre/Bev Vandersteen



From the Bear Pit

Regional Council Newsletter

December 11, 2017

Municipal Lease Renewals

SEVERAL MUNICIPAL LEASE RENEWAL RATES were approved by Council:

Toad River Community Centre ([more information](#))

The Toad River Community Centre is owned by the NRRM and operated/maintained by the Toad River Area Club (TRAC).

Term: January 1, 2018—December 31, 2022

Rate: \$100/year plus applicable taxes

Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce ([more information](#))

Term: January 1, 2018—December 31, 2020

(2.5% annual lease rate increase)

2018 Annual Rate: \$6,414

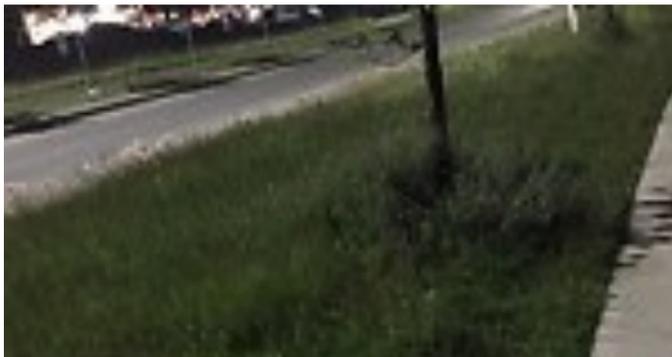
2019 Annual Rate: \$6,574

2020 Annual Rate: \$6,739

Fort Nelson Public Library ([more information](#))

Term: January 1, 2018—December 31, 2022

Rate: \$100/year plus \$26,900/year in lieu of utilities



Boulevard Maintenance Changes

PURSUANT TO PROPOSED CHANGES to the Property Maintenance and Unsightly Premises Bylaw to clarify property owner responsibilities for boulevard maintenance, Regional Council has approved a communications plan outline to notify the public of these upcoming changes in January 2018.

There is currently an inequity between property owners, some of whom are required to maintain boulevards fronting their properties, while others are not. The NRRM will also recognize significant operational efficiencies if boulevard maintenance is undertaken by property owners, as is the case in most other communities. Regional Council also recognizes that there are some areas where it would be unreasonable for a property owner to maintain boulevards. As part of the proposed change, a procedure will be put in place for property owners to seek exemptions on certain areas.

[More information](#)

For the most up-to-date information Find us on 

Fort Nelson Chamber of Commerce 2017 Visitor Information Centre Budget Presentation

THE FORT NELSON AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE has very successfully operated the NRRM Visitor Centre for many years. Executive Director Bev Vandersteen provided a review of the 2017 Visitor Information Centre operations and budget that included a variety of interesting statistics.

- 78% of visitors have traveled the Alaska Highway before
- 62% are traveling as single/duo
- 40% are of US origin
- 73% are camping (RV or tent)

Most travelers spend one night in Fort Nelson, although there was a very slight increase in the number staying two or more nights. The Alaska Highway 75th Anniversary did not lead to the increased numbers anticipated; Visitor Centre numbers were actually down approximately 200, but as was pointed out, not all travelers make use of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC).

The mobile Visitor Information Centre trailer has proven to be very popular and once again spent the summer at the Liard Hotsprings, where park staff were happy to provide upkeep. Bailey Helicopters has volunteered to store the trailer for the winter months and employee Glen Vandersteen has donated mechanical repairs of the 1973 trailer.

The VIC has an active presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The consignment sales of the work of local artists has proven to be extremely popular, as there is no similar local venue for their work.

The VIC is ending the year with a very small surplus and the VIC budget request for 2018 is unchanged from 2017 at \$91,200. Regional Council opted to consider the VIC budget during the regular 2018 Budget process. [More information](#) •

Also of note...

- REGIONAL COUNCIL OPTED TO DISSOLVE the Forestry Roundtable committee until such time as Regional Council determines that it should be reinstated, with "Forestry" replacing the "Forestry Roundtable" as a standing agenda item. [More information](#)
- REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE SUBMISSION of a grant application to the Rural Dividend Fund in the amount of \$73,980, to carry out a Sustainable Community and Economic Development Strategy for the NRRM. [More information](#)
- REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTED [NRRM Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 144, 2017](#). [More information](#)
- CORRESPONDENCE FROM MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS and Housing Minister Selina Robinson was received for information. [More information](#)
- CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MINISTER of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth regarding 911 service provision in the region was received for information. [More information](#)
- [NOVEMBER RECREATION CENTRE stats](#) were received for information.

Learn more about what is happening in and around the community on the [NRRM website](#):

Engage Northern Rockies

