

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: April 9, 2018	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: C. Hannigan, CAO
Re: CAO Update	

Mountain Rd. Rockfall Event: Overnight on March 22nd/23rd a large boulder and associated smaller rocks rolled down the slope of Armour Mountain to the edge of Mountain Rd. An Emergency Task Number was received by the TNRD Duty Officer from EMBC for our purposes and a Geotech, from Westrek Geotechnical Services, was dispatched on the 24th. His report has now been received.

Recommendations included flagging off the area and posting signs for people to stay clear of the area. This has been done. Suggestions were also made to increase the length of the berm and swale that was created by the contractors when they moved the rock from the road edge on the 24th to help prevent any further rockfall from reaching the road. Posting permanent rockfall area signage was also recommended for this stretch of Mountain Rd.

Further recommendations around rock scaling and field reviews of the rock further up the mountain are under discussion with EMBC and TNRD with respect to possible funding sources for as much of this work as possible.

Smart Cities Challenge: A group of interested tech people met to discuss the ways high tech could be leveraged towards a solution of one of Barriere and Area's main issues, getting people to stop and inject dollars into a small community that is located so close to a larger centre. We have many existing attractions, small and large, such as the Wildfire Monument, the Museum and the multitude of events at the NTFRA/Agriplex as well as the idea to create Barriere as a destination through the further development of a Natural History museum/interpretive centre. The following week a small focus group with an interest in working on wording for an appropriate Challenge Statement for the first stage of the competition sat down with the following result (still draft), which is limited in the application to a maximum of 50 words. The rest of the application questions are being worked on.

"Spellbinders and Yarns: our community will create a mesmerizing, sustainable, joint venture destination spurring economic and social impacts utilizing virtual/augmented reality, apps, and experiential learning, spreading environmental awareness through storytelling about local indigenous culture, natural history and artisan's works, while it doubles as an emergency command/work training centre."

A resolution from Council is required to accompany the application due April 24th. There is no monetary commitment required from the District for this Smart Cities Challenge grant application or the resultant projects should it be successful.

Solar Aquatics Water Reclamation Centre: Staff have been noticing more FOG (fats, oils and grease) than is desirable and have completed a survey of the existing grease interceptors in the local restaurants. It appears that some are missing a flow limiting component that slows down the water and because of this the grease is not being intercepted in the quantities it should be. Owners have been asked to rectify this issue and hopefully we will see a further decrease in FOG moving forward.

The dewatering of solids at the Septage Receiving Station is working well allowing one staff person to handle this task once or twice a week.

Green Sky Labs Request for Extension on Offer to Purchase: Green Sky Labs feels they are close to getting required approvals to move forward on their Medical Marihuana production facility on Lots 4 & 11 in the Louis Creek Industrial Park. They are in the process of completing their final business planning and design and are asking for an additional 6-month extension to their existing offers. Currently they have provided the District with a non-refundable deposit of \$25,000 on each of these properties.

Wellhead Protection Committee: Jessy Bhatti, a Specialist Environmental Health Officer with Interior Health, has offered to sit on the Wellhead Protection Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2018 at 3pm in the Council Chambers.

Composters: The TNRD now has composters available for sale at the Louis Creek Eco Depot during the hours they are open. Due to its close proximity to Barriere, the limited storage space at the District office, and the fact the composters we have sold in the past from the office are procured from TNRD's supply, it is felt that going forward, it makes more sense to let residents know of the availability of the composters at the Eco Depot and discontinue selling them from the office.

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) Regional Seasonal Hazard Preparedness Conference:

Local members of Search & Rescue, ESS, and Fire, along with the Mayor and CAO attended the day-long EMBC session on April 5th in Kamloops. Environment Canada is forecasting near to possibly lower than average summer temperatures for 2018 but are warning that risks of floods and wildfires are increased due to a tendency towards more intense large scale rain events, extreme heat swings with accompanying dry spells and an increased number and intensity of summer thunderstorms. They are growing more confident with their success at predicting the 10-day forecasts and that these are extremely helpful for potential hazard preparedness. The North Thompson is currently sitting at 109% of the average snowpack while it is as high as 146% in some parts of the Okanagan and Kootenays.

The 2017 wildfire season, particularly the Elephant Hill fire, was reviewed noting many learnings. A larger number of firefighters are on standby for this coming season. If June is a dry month we could be looking at another bad fire season.

There was a presentation around what works are allowed in and around watercourses during an emergency event. There are heightened concerns in areas affected by the 2017 wildfires around erosion, landslides and flooding during heavy rain events. Disaster Financial Assistance is available for restoration of damaged infrastructure as part of recovery. There are many new toolkits available on the various emergency services websites. Clean-up kits and other useful handouts for the public are available upon request.

Other topics included the increased coordination and partnerships between EMBC and BC First Nations for all aspects of emergency management, the growing role of the Red Cross and United Way in disaster response and recovery as support systems and gap-fillers, and the role of the Disaster Psychosocial program in Emergency response to take care of the responders and support workers themselves during an emergency.

Recommendations:

- 1) **That Council approve the submission of an application to the Smart Cities Challenge Infrastructure Canada program in the category of a "population under 30,000".**
- 2) **That Council approve a further 6-month extension of the Green Sky Labs offers on Lots 4 & 11 in the Louis Creek Industrial Park.**
- 3) **That Council appoint Jessy Bhatti, Specialist Environmental Health Officer, Interior Health, to the Wellhead Protection Committee.**
- 4) **That Council accept the report for information.**

Prepared by: Colleen Hannigan, CAO