

District of Barriere

# REPORT TO COUNCIL

<b>Date:</b> June 24, 2024	
<b>To:</b> Council	<b>From:</b> Department Managers
<b>Re: Departmental Highlights</b>	

## **PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:**

### **Parks**

- Old Red F350 fuel pump failed. New part was ordered and staff repaired in-house. However, we were without the use of this vehicle for over a week. Staff had to use their own vehicles.
- DOB will donate the old inoperable ride-on mower to Minor Ball.
- A cavity kiln for making Biochar was donated by the United Way in Clearwater. Will be able to use the charcoal product as a soil amendment in Community Garden, planters, etc.(see attached for information)
- We are seeing the effects of the heat dome experienced in 2021 as several maple trees in Fadear park are losing bark from their trunks. Staff treated the affected trees with a paste to promote re-growth of the bark and applied a wrap to the exposed trunks to prevent further damage from the sun.
- Staff were busy preparing Fadear Park for the Block Party held over the weekend.

### **Roads**

- Grad parade was held Saturday June 15 without incident. Rain cut short the parade route.
- Staff patched potholes and made some minor shoulder repairs on Dunn Lake Road. Met with our asphalt contractor on an approach to improve conditions on this road, which has seen a steady increase in traffic since it was paved last year. Residents have said traffic has doubled in the last year compounding the issue of pavement degradation.

### **Utilities**

- Staff installed a new water service on Birch Lane.
- Semi-annual generator inspections were conducted by our contractor last week. No issues were reported.

### **Integrated Seasonal Climate Bulletin (new)**

#### Summer Season Forecast (Province)

- Shifting towards La Nina (cooler waters in eastern Pacific). Will only be a factor for winter/spring of 2025.

- Summer temperature outlook looks to be trending above normal for BC's interior.
- No clear forecast for summer precipitation. Will be heading into the drier months.

#### BC Wildfire Service Outlook

- This could be a difficult wildfire season, primarily owing to the deep and persistent drought conditions in the northeast and the low snowpack from this past winter.
- Spring rains have been helpful in helping replenish our fuels but have not been sufficient to reduce the drought codes in many areas of the province including the Peace Country, western sections the Cariboo, and portions of the Southern Interior.

#### BC River Forecast Centre Update

- Although provincial average snowpack tracked substantially below normal almost all season, generally cooler spring weather has sustained mid- and high elevation snowpack in many areas. Despite early melt of the lower elevation snowpack, overall snowmelt is now trending towards a more seasonally typical pattern - a marked contrast with 2023, when record heat in May accelerated melt and caused rapid snowpack depletion.
- Snowmelt-driven flood hazard is decreased in much of the province this year due to lower snowpack. However, flooding driven by extreme heat and/or rainfall remains a possibility, even in drier areas with below normal snowpack.
- Drought hazard is elevated across most regions of the province. Persistent dry weather since summer 2022 continues to impact long-term stream baseflows in many areas, and low seasonal stream flows are already emerging in areas such as the Central Interior and Northeast. Decreased summer runoff is expected in watersheds with below normal snowpack. Summer weather is a critical factor in the occurrence and severity of drought, especially in a low snowpack year.
- Currently our area is at Drought Level 1 – adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are rare. Conservation is still desirable.

#### **RECREATION COORDINATOR:**

- BBC Grand Opening was held on Friday, June 21 – *Verbal update*
- The first Welcome Summer Block Party was held on Saturday, June 22 - *Verbal update*
- Reminder of our Canada Day event on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The ceremony will be at 2pm sharp. Mayor and Council are invited to join for the procession.
- The first Bandshell Friday is on July 5<sup>th</sup> with Butch Falk and Gord West. Our first Movie in the Park is scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> and the movie is looking like it will be Jumanji – Welcome to the Jungle that evening.
- The next scheduled Recreation Committee Meetings are: June 26<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am & July 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am. These will likely be my last committee meetings for the year as my maternity leave will begin at the end of July. Ms. Buchanan will be assisting the Committee during my leave.

## **CORPORATE OFFICER:**

- UBCM Ministry and Staff Meetings have been booked as per Council's direction. Chief Lampreau will be once again invited to attend these meetings as a joint collaboration in lobbying for our communities. This year's UBCM Convention is once again taking place in Vancouver and the District has 3 rooms reserved for September 15-24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The 2025 SILGA Convention will take place in Merritt from April 29 – May 2, 2025. Accommodation has been secured for up to seven attendees.
- Continuing to engage in conversations with the TNRD regarding the multi-municipality Housing Needs Report update collaboration. A survey will be distributed to the community and various stakeholders this week to our E-News subscribers and through direct email to appropriate stakeholders.
- Preparations of the 2023 Annual Report, 2023 Annual Water Report and 2023 SOFI Report continue with the goal to be presented for Council review at the next Council meeting.

## **Development Projects**

- Notification has been received by the Province that the application submitted by TRUE Engineering on behalf of the District for funding under the 2024 (LGDAP) Local Government Development Approval project – *Development Approvals Process and Policy Review* has been approved. The funding stream covers 100% of the project cost and Barriere was awarded its full asking sum of \$139,665.00. A preliminary project meeting was held with TRUE Engineering staff last week. This project will be an excellent compliment to the District's upcoming OCP review and Subdivision/Development Bylaw updates which once complete, will provide a solid foundation for modernized and sustainable development practices as our community grows.
- The first half of 2024, the District has received two (2) Development Permit Applications, three (3) Subdivision Applications, one (1) Board of Variance Application and two (2) Zoning Amendment Applications. The District's Building Department has processed twelve (12) Building Permits including two (2) permit renewals. The approximate building permit value so far for 2024, is just over \$900,000.

## **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**

- Attended group meeting with Water/Sewer team, the Public Works Manager, and TRUE Engineering to discuss options for the Wastewater treatment upgrades and to understand any potential risks and mitigation strategies. TRUE is attending the Council meeting to provide further updates.
- Along with the Water team, toured the various Well sites to get a better understanding of the system that's in place and to discuss potential high risks.
- The District is behind on some annual financial reporting requirements. The team is catching up though and are working with the District's auditors to achieve compliance. Some of this information is also required to complete the annual report, which is currently also behind legislative timelines due to these delays.

- Financial Accounting Package - The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) informed the District that this year's T4 reports were not accurate. We've determined that the software exported wrong values, but all payments were indeed made as required. As such, the finance team is working on updating the reports to CRA to achieve compliance. For clarity, there are no impacts to employee or Council 2023 income tax deductions or reporting.

\*submitted for information

Reviewed by: D. Drexler, CAO