



Peace River Regional District Board Newsletter

Highlights from the Peace River Regional Hospital District Board and the Peace River Regional District Board Meeting, held July 12, 2007

Mountain Beetle Conference

A conference regarding the impacts caused by the influx of Mountain Pine Beetle in the Peace will be held on Tuesdays, July 24, 2007 at the Grande Prairie Inn. Dr. Allan Carrol, Research Scientist, Canadian Forest Service, Natural resources Canada will speak on the scientific effects and Ms. Donna Barnett, Mayor of 100 Mile House and Chair of Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition will speak, relating some of their experiences learned in the Cariboo and Chilcotin areas.

The Electoral Area Directors have been authorized to attend the conference, which is being sponsored by Northern Alberta Development Council, community Futures and Grande Alberta Economic Region.



Wildlife / Agriculture Conflicts

Through a letter addressed to Mr. J. E. Harris of Montney, from Nancy Wilkin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship Division, the Board was advised of new mule deer harvest strategies for agricultural land in the Peace Region including increased seasons for both bucks and antlerless deer and increased limits. Increased harvests for whitetail deer are also expected this year. The harvest target for antlerless mule deer is two thousand.

The Ministry is funding inventories for elk this coming winter and is completing a new population estimate for whitetail deer. These decisions came about through a structured decision-making process involving representatives from the Peace Problem Wildlife Committee, the BC Wildlife Federation and staff from the Ministry of Environment.



Railway Safety Act

The Board supports the proposal put forward by the Town of View Royal to have the *Railway Safety Act* amended to include provisions for the construction of trails along active rail lines. However, there are some concerns about the trails crossing private properties in the rural areas.

It is suggested that this will be a benefit to local residents and tourists. Currently there are successful trails along active lines in BC, such as those in Whiterock, Nanaimo and Victoria.



Other Highlights

- ★ The Hospital Board approved a \$36,000 grant-in-aid in support to the construction of a helipad at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Grande Prairie through the STARS not-for-profit charity.
- ★ The Recycling Contract has been awarded to Eco-Depot of Fort St. John for a one-year term.
- ★ All Directors have been authorized to attend the Oil and Gas Commission Meeting on July 30, 2007 in Fort St. John.
- ★ The Fort St. John Airshow will be held on Wednesday, July 25, 2007; gates open at 4 p.m.
- ★ The Board is requesting a review by both Northern Health and the Ministry of Health of the current practice of placing residents that originated from the Riverview facility in seniors' care home facilities.



Next Regional Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Regional Board will be held Thursday, July 26, 2007 at 10 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Peace River Regional District office at 1981 Alaska Avenue in Dawson Creek



For Further information, please contact the Peace River Regional District at:

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