

# The Regional News



## 2016 Meeting Dates:

### Board Meetings:

- January 28<sup>th</sup>
- February 25<sup>th</sup>
- March 24<sup>th</sup>
- April 28<sup>th</sup>
- May 26<sup>th</sup>
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>
- July 21<sup>st</sup>
- August 18<sup>th</sup>
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- October 20<sup>th</sup>
- November 24<sup>th</sup>
- December 15<sup>th</sup>

### Committee Meetings:

- January 14<sup>th</sup>
- February 11<sup>th</sup>
- March 10<sup>th</sup>
- April 14<sup>th</sup>
- May 12<sup>th</sup>
- June 9<sup>th</sup>
- September 8<sup>th</sup>
- October 6<sup>th</sup>
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>



## Holiday Hours:

The RDBN will be closed  
Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>,  
Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>,  
2015 and Friday, January  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

## Connecting Consumers and Producers

There is a growing movement in our region towards eating locally produced food. Locally produced food often is grown without pesticides or fertilizers. We, as consumers, want to purchase high quality food but may have a difficult time finding a place to purchase locally. *Connecting Consumers and Producers* is a regional economic development project. It promotes local food producers and provides resources about how to eat locally produced food all year round.

The 2015 *Connecting Consumers and Producers* project saw numerous successes.

- 82 producers listed in the Agriculture Brochure
- 900 Agriculture Brochures distributed
- 8 community events hosted
- \$6,830 locally produced food purchased for the 8 events
- 20,000 consumers reached



Events included interactive farming education for kids at

two of our fall fairs, three harvest dinner celebrations, support for our future producers, and two Farmers' Market events.

*"It was great to see so many aspects of country life, vegetables, eggs, the animals...plus the Agriculture Brochure from the RDBN, I found to be an excellent source of where to get local food from and how to preserve and store it."* Ruth Lloyd on the Bulkley Acres Farm at the Bulkley Valley Exhibition.

This was the second year the RDBN has run this project. To download the Agriculture Brochure click [here](#).

*Happy Holidays to you and yours from the Directors &  
Staff of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako*

## Topley Referenda Official Results

On Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako held referenda at the Topley Community Hall. It was to determine if the voters in a portion of Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural), and also a portion of Electoral Area “G”, (Houston Rural), were in favour of replacing the existing Topley Emergency Response Service with the Topley Rural Fire Protection Service and the Topley Road Rescue and Medical First Responder Service. A public meeting was held at the Topley Community Hall on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed services. The results of the referenda are:



### **Topley Rural Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1743, 2015 and Topley Rural Fire Protection Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1744, 2015:**

Yes	No
82	21

### **Topley Road Rescue and Medical First Responders Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1745, 2015:**

Yes	No
97	15

### **Is your family prepared for an emergency?**

Emergency preparedness is everyone’s responsibility. The public is encouraged to develop a personal emergency plan and prepare an emergency kit - including battery operated radios and analogue phones (that do not require power to work). By taking a few simple steps, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies—anytime, anywhere. For more information regarding personal and family preparedness please visit [www.getprepared.ca](http://www.getprepared.ca).



## Fort St. James Seniors Helping Seniors Transportation Service

The District of Fort St. James currently provides a transportation service called Seniors Helping Seniors. This service provides transportation for seniors in both the municipality and the surrounding rural area that need to travel to a medical appointment in Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake and Prince George. It is operated and funded by the District of Fort St. James, supplemented by grants and donations.

The existing service incurs operating costs that are currently manageable, but funds are required for capital expenditures to replace the existing vehicles on a rotational basis. Since rural residents also benefit from the service, an expansion of the tax base is being proposed as a means of accessing the additional funds. A Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako service is being proposed that would tax properties in both the District of Fort St. James and the surrounding rural area. The resulting funds would be contributed to the District of Fort St. James to enable it to continue to manage the Seniors Helping Seniors Service and fund the capital expenditures needed to replace vehicles from time to time.

Pursuant to the *Community Charter*, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako will be seeking the assent of the electors in the defined portion of Electoral Area “C” by means of the Alternative Approval Process.

The total net cost of the service, including annual contributions to a reserve for vehicle purchases, is currently about \$38,000. To allow for future cost increases, the limit on annual taxation for the service would be \$43,000. This is equivalent to a residential tax rate of \$0.115 per \$1,000 of assessed property values (\$11.50 for a \$100,000 property), based on 2015 assessments in both the District of Fort St. James and the surrounding portion of Electoral Area “C.” This amount excludes the 5% fee that the Province charges to collect property taxes for regional districts in the rural areas.

The bylaw will be deemed to be approved by the electors unless at least 10% of the electors submit a signed Elector Response Form indicating their opposition to the bylaw by 4:30 pm on January 15, 2016. More information on the Alternative Approval Process can be obtained by contacting the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako or at [www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca).

## Initiation of RDBN Landfill Operations

In early 2015, the RDBN Board of Directors made a decision to transition the operations of the Knockholt and Clearview Sub-Regional Landfills from contractor based to internal RDBN operations. This decision was made following the completion of a detailed financial analysis comparing RDBN internal costs to those of contractor bids obtained in December 2014. The financial analysis indicated that there were significant cost savings if the landfill operations were internalized.

The RDBN took over operations at the Knockholt Landfill on September 1, 2015 following the hiring of three new employees to work at the facility and the purchase of a landfill compactor, an excavator, a crawler dozer, a roll-off truck and a dump truck. The RDBN will be taking over the operations at the Clearview Landfill beginning December 1, 2015. Equipment for use at the facility has been purchased, including a landfill compactor, excavator and crawler dozer. One new staff member has been hired to work at the facility.

A grant application was submitted in April 2015 to the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund in an attempt to receive grant monies for some of the capital costs of taking over the landfill operations. To date, the RDBN has not received any notice on the success or failure of the application.



### Backyard Composting Promotion Program

Organic waste, including kitchen scraps and yard trimmings, makes up 32% of the waste stream in the RDBN. In an effort to encourage the diversion of this waste from landfill, the RDBN continued with its backyard composting promotion program in 2015. A limited number of composting kits were made available to residents in each area of the RDBN. The kits, which were sold for \$40, included an Earth Machine compost bin, instruction manual and a compost mixing tool (an \$80 value). A total of 100 composting kits were made available across the RDBN and these were sold out in a short order with waiting lists established in many areas.



### Planning Department Update

RDBN's Planning Department is undertaking a comprehensive review of its zoning by-laws. Zoning by-laws regulate how land and buildings are used, the location of buildings, lot coverage, building heights and other provisions necessary to ensure proper development. Watch for advertisements in your local newspaper spring, 2016 for information and notice of public hearings. Please call the Regional District Planning Department for more information at 250-692-3195 or [www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)

## Manson Creek Landfill Upgrades

### Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

#### Municipalities

- Town of Smithers**
  - Mayor Taylor Bachrach
- Village of Telkwa**
  - Mayor Darcy Repen
- District of Houston**
  - Mayor Shane Brienen
- Village of Granisle**
  - Councillor Thomas Liversidge
- Village of Burns Lake**
  - Mayor Luke Strimbold
- Village of Fraser Lake**
  - Mayor Dwayne Lindstrom
- District of Fort St. James**
  - Mayor Rob MacDougall
- District of Vanderhoof**
  - Mayor Gerry Thiessen

#### Electoral Areas

- A - Smithers Rural**
  - Director Mark Fisher
- B - Burns Lake Rural**
  - Director Bill Miller
- C - Fort St. James Rural**
  - Director Tom Greenaway
- D - Fraser Lake Rural**
  - Director Mark Parker
- E - Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural**
  - Director Eileen Benedict
- F - Vanderhoof Rural**
  - Director Jerry Petersen
- G - Houston Rural**
  - Director Rob Newell

The Manson Creek Landfill site is located on unsurveyed crown land approximately 6 kilometres north-northwest of Manson Creek, British Columbia at kilometer 65.5 on the Finlay-Manson Forest Service Road. The site has been operated as an unattended landfill since 1987 and land-filling is conducted in excavated trenches. The site contractor is required to compact and cover the disposed garbage at least once per month from June through October. There are separate piles for wood and metal wastes.

In 2015, upgrades to the facility were completed including new site signage and the installation of an electric fence and cattle guard to minimize bear access to the exposed garbage. If the weather and metal prices cooperate, the RDBN is hoping to have the accumulated metal removed from the site and recycled in 2015.



### Questions or Comments:

**Mail:** P.O. Box 820  
Burns Lake, B.C. V0J 1E0

**Phone:** 250-692-3195

**Toll Free:** 1-800-320-3339

**Fax:** 250-692-3305

**Email:** [inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca)

**Websites:** [www.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca)  
[www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca](http://www.mining.rdbn.bc.ca)  
[www.visitbulkleynechako.com](http://www.visitbulkleynechako.com)

### The Regional News

If you wish to be included in the distribution list to receive the "Regional News" please send an email to [inquires@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:inquires@rdbn.bc.ca) or phone the Regional District Office at: (250) 692-3195 or 1-800-320-3339

## Wildfire Workshop

In response to community concerns about wildfire trends and the potential consequences for community safety and forest resources, the Regional District hosted an information and discussion workshop. Approximately 55 people attended. Participants included a cross section of perspectives, including local government, industry, and staff from the wildfire management and resource departments of the provincial government.



# Winners of the "Give Us Your Best Shot" Regional 2015 Photo Contest

## Adventure in the Region

1st Place - Betty Bandstra



2nd Place - Anna Marie Douglas



## Our Animal Friends

1st Place - Dyanne DiMassimo



2nd Place - Linda Cutsforth



## Experiencing the Arts

1st Place - Dyanne DiMassimo



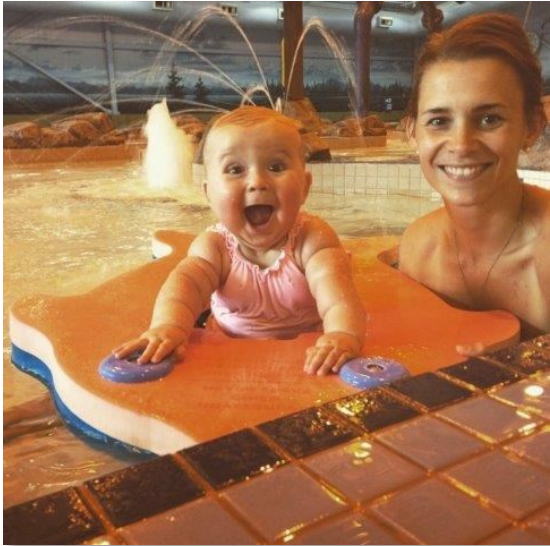
2nd Place - Linda Cutsforth



# Winners of the “Give Us Your Best Shot”

## People in Action

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Emily Dekens

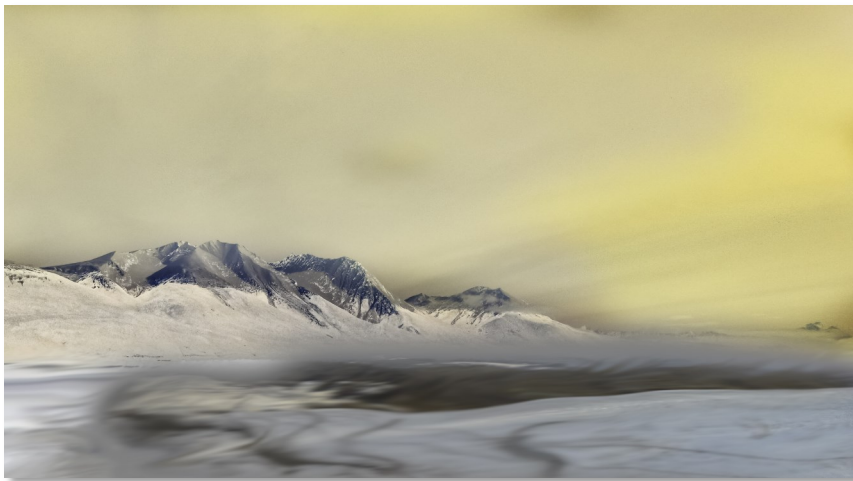


2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Patricia Kolida



## Creative Photography

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Patricia Kolida



2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Linda Cutsforth



## People’s Choice Award - Most “likes” Photo

Jennifer Hols

321 Likes on our Facebook Page

