



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT *Board Newsletter*

Highlights from the Peace River Regional Hospital District Board and the Peace River Regional District Board Meetings, held April 23, 2009

BC-STV

Ms. Sandra Hoffman and Mr. Wilf Chelle, volunteers with Fair Voting BC, attended the meeting to explain the BC Single Transferable Vote (STV), a proportional type of electoral reform as recommended by the Citizens' Assembly on Election Reform.

Ms. Hoffman demonstrated how the vote worked and why it was considered a fair manner by which to vote. Mr. Chelle further explained that this system of voting is a system of preferential voting designed to minimize wasted votes and provide proportional representation while ensuring that votes are explicitly expressed for individual candidates rather than for party lists. Each eligible elector has the option to vote for only one candidate or to rank some or all of the candidates on a ballot, depending on the elector's preference. A candidate is then chosen in accordance to the popular vote, which would give smaller parties or independent candidates an opportunity to represent the people. Mr. Chelle noted that in 2005 STV was approved by a fifty-seven point six percent (57.6%) vote; however, the government of the day required that the vote pass by a sixty percent (60%) margin. For more information and further explanations visit the BC Single Transferrable Vote website at www.stv.ca.



Alta Gas

AltaGas representatives Mr. Marc Boucher, Manager Projects and Ms. Adrienne Hartley, Team Leader Communications and Community were in attendance to update the Directors regarding the Bear Mountain Wind Park, a 102 megawatt wind farm located approximately 15 kilometres southwest of Dawson Creek. The park is a single row of 34 turbines, covering approximately 25 hectares. The turbines take five teams twenty-three days to construct and at a rate of two turbines per week, it is scheduled to be completed by November 2009.

Turbine components are shipped from Germany to Thunder Bay, where they are loaded onto trucks and railcars. Five hundred truckloads will begin to arrive in May and continue until mid-July. The trucks will by-pass Pouce Coupe by using Highway 49 from Alberta and by-pass Dawson Creek by using the Dangerous Goods Route. They will then be taken to the park using Radar Lake Road, which will be a radio-controlled, one-way route.

Peace Island Park

Mr. Bill Rapanos, Consultant for the District of Taylor, explained the development plans for the Peace Island Park. He broke the park into five areas:

- the gateway with forty camp sites, a boat launch and a playground activity area with improved waterfront views;
- the island camping area as a prime family activity area;
- the natural undeveloped part, the largest area of the park that offers a place to walk through with plenty of wildlife viewing;
- an agriculture area that could be developed as allotment gardens or leased for farm-use; and
- a motorized recreation area developed for such recreational vehicles as quads, motorcycles, bicycles and snowmobiles.

An area for swimming was considered; however, there are strong currents in some areas so a safe swimming area would have to be constructed in a manner that would protect swimmers while allowing the river to flow through.



Other Highlights

- ★ The following Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) applications were supported and authorized to proceed to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC):
 - Subdivision - 38/2009 (Thompson);
 - Subdivision - 40/2009 (Beattie) and
 - Non-farm Use - 41/2009 (Loiselle Investments Ltd.) on the understanding that the project will trigger an Environmental Assessment Review.
- ★ Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision application No. 39/2009 (Beattie) was refused.
- ★ The Directors were authorized to attend the ConocoPhillips Community Update to be held April 29, 2009.
- ★ The Board will be submitting a late resolution to the North Central Municipal Association regarding the inadequacies of the BC Product Stewardship Recycling Program.
- ★ The Directors were authorized to attend the NCMA Annual General Meeting on May 6 to 8, 2009.



Next Regional Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Regional Board will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 10 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Peace River Regional District office, at 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.



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

P.O. Box 810 (1981 Alaska Avenue) Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8,
Telephone: (250) 784-3200; Fax: (250) 784-3201

9912 106 Avenue Fort St. John, BC V1J 2N9
Telephone: (250) 785-8084; Fax: (250) 785-1125

prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Toll-free Telephone: [800] 670-7773 - Web site: www.prrd.ca

prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca