



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Water supplies are not endless, even in Vanderhoof where we are surrounded by water. During the hotter months water demand is high and everyone can play a part at home, work, school, and in the community to protect and conserve our water.



Outdoor Tips for Water Use at Home

(taken from http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/reseau/watertips/watertips_flash_e.html)

1. In the summer, lawn watering and other outdoor uses can account for up to 50 percent of home water use. Studies show that as much as half of this is wasteful. As a general rule, 2–3 cm of water per week is adequate.
2. Don't over water your landscape. It can cause yellowing leaves or poor plant health. Give plants only the amount of water that they need.
3. Use low-angle or pulsating sprinklers that produce large fat droplets of water. Sprinklers that spray the water high into the air or produce a mist or fine spray lose much of the water through evaporation.
4. Set sprinklers to water the lawn, not sidewalks and driveways. Check your sprinkler or irrigation systems regularly for any leaks, and fix them.
5. Be sure your hose has an automatic shutoff nozzle so water is not wasted when the hose is left unattended.
6. In the garden, plant native species as these plants need less water than non-native plants. Use peat moss to cover the flower beds to keep in extra moisture.

The Good News about Rain Barrels

Utilizing rainwater for watering your plants is better for your plants, as it is at an ambient temperature and free of chlorine (which is now added to the municipal water). To collect and use rainwater in your garden, use an old barrel or other large container that is outfitted with a spigot and a suitable cover to collect the rainwater off your roof. Keep your rain barrel covered to prevent mosquitoes breeding and for safety reasons. For more water conservation tips visit <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>.

RECYCLING OPTIONS IN VANDERHOOF

The list is growing of all the things you can safely recycle in Vanderhoof. Please call the location for hours of operation.

Nechako Waste Reduction Initiative Bins	Mixed Paper and Cardboard
Between Co-op Mall and railway tracks	
Vanderhoof Transfer Station	Appliances, Auto Batteries, Scrap Metal, Propane Tanks, Tin Cans, and Glass
End of Dump Road (250)567-4699	Reuse Shed
Nechako Valley Secondary School Bottle Depot	Beverage Containers, Milk Containers, and Paint Cans
294 East 3 rd Street (250)567-4069	
Co-op Grocery Store	Plastic Grocery Bags
Co-op Mall (250)567-4406	
Act II Thrift Shop	Clothing and Furniture (in good condition)
127 West Stewart Street (250)567-9018	
Kal Tire	Tires
429 West 1 st Street (250)567-4224	
Rexall Drug Store	Medication
Co-op Mall (250)567-2281	
Municipal Compost Site	Grass Clippings and Branches less than 2" diameter
End of Recreation Road (250)567-4711	



KJ adds his yard clippings to the piles at the Municipal Compost Site.

UPDATE

COUNCIL MESSAGE

"Pool, Recycling, Taxes and more!"

Council is working on several initiatives at present, and here is a quick overview of some of the high profile projects.

During the last municipal election one of the hot topics was the possibility of an aquatic centre in Vanderhoof. The new Council responded by forming a committee of two Councillors and nine members of the public, and on recommendation by the committee, hired a qualified consultant, PERC Consulting, to investigate this possibility. Next month, PERC will present to Council the features that citizens have indicated they want in an aquatic centre, plus the building and annual operating costs of such a facility. In September there will be an open house where you can come and see what is being proposed and provide comments. Council will then decide about a referendum.

In the past 17 months Council has supported the efforts of the Nechako Waste Reduction Initiative (NWRI), who work to provide recycling options in Vanderhoof that divert solid waste from the landfill at Clearview. The Regional District of Bulkley Nechako is responsible for solid waste management and this year has made diversion of waste from the landfill a priority. The Board provided funding to each community for this task. With the support of Council, the NWRI received some of this funding and with it setup cardboard and paper recycling bins behind the Co-op (who generously provided the space and the use of their cardboard bailer). Other initiatives of the NWRI include milk jug recycling, education in schools, and college courses on topics from composting to water conservation.

For the second year in a row, Council has passed a budget that does not require an increase to the tax rate. We feel that we can still accomplish several new projects at the current tax rate. A freeze on the tax rate cannot continue forever, but we hope that by being fiscally responsible and maintaining a strict budget we will encourage businesses to consider us and residents to stay.

Other initiatives that Council has been working on include: joining the Medical Trust Program at UNBC; working with Northern Health on the hospital renovations; fighting for the sturgeon hatchery; lobbying for changes to forestry constraints; opposing the downgrading of our Forestry Office; and, reviewing the firearms and hunting bylaw. If you would like to speak with Council, on these or any topics, please give us a call or drop by our bimonthly meetings.



Mayor Gerry Thiessen

The pool project and the recycling initiatives have been highly supported by businesses, residents, and Area 'F' Director Jerry Peterson. It is good to see the Municipality and the Regional District working so well together.



IN THIS ISSUE

Council Message
Council Meeting Notes
Upcoming Council Meeting Dates
Recreation & Leisure Guide Correction
Water Conservation Tips
Recycling Options in Vanderhoof
Recreation Update
2010 Property Tax Notices
National Aboriginal Day
Hooterville Hoot

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

April 14, 2010

Council gave permission to the Nechako Valley Motorsports Association to hold a drag race at the Airport. The three day event will run from July 16 to 18, 2010.



Council awarded the contract for the Fourth Street improvements at a cost of \$3,528,000. Any homes along Forth Street effected by the construction will be contacted and updated personally on the construction schedule. It is hoped that the project will be completed with as little inconvenience to the residents of the area as possible.

Council approved a letter to Minister of Forests and Range Mr. Pat Bell regarding the changes to the Vanderhoof Forest District Office. The letter resulted in Mayor Thiessen meeting with Minister Bell in Prince George.

April 28, 2010

Several concerned citizens addressed Council regarding the proposed Hunting and Firearms Bylaw changes. The current Hunting and Firearms Bylaw was put into place in the late 1980's and Council believes the municipality has grown since then and it may be appropriate to expand the restricted areas. Council agreed to form a Select Committee of Council to review the Bylaw and provide Council with feedback on their findings. Mayor Thiessen will select the members of the committee, which will include two members of Council, a conservation officer, and at least two members from the general public. Council appreciates hearing the concerns of the public and looks forward to the report back from the Select Committee.

Mr. Pete Rodseth generously offered to construct and install two picnic tables on the north shore of the Nechako River just across from Riverside Park Campground. Council gave Mr. Rodseth permission to go ahead with this project. Look for the new tables sometime in June.

Council made a formal request to be a founding member of the Northern Medical Program Trust. The Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT) is an important partnership of northern communities with UNBC to support the Northern Medical Program (NMP) and its future students. Over 20 northern communities have become partners with UNBC, with an understanding that training and retaining health care professionals in the north, for the north, is the best strategy for ensuring a long-term solution to the physician shortage in northern communities.

Council requested that administration prepare a policy that restricts the use of the new kiosk sign at Riverside Park to District of Vanderhoof approved content. It was felt that the kiosk would be used to educate and inform citizens of Vanderhoof on the activities of Council and the municipality.



UPCOMING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

District Council Chambers
5:00 pm Wednesday

MAY 26

JUNE 9

JUNE 23



HOOTERVILLE HOOT

Sunday, June 6, 2010
11:00–3:00 pm

Starting at Riverside Park, the Classic Cars, hot rods, custom cars and motorcycles will parade down the streets of Vanderhoof in this show and shine event for the whole family.

For more information contact:
Dave Funk at 250-567-0821

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

Come join us at Riverside Park on June 21 for National Aboriginal Day! A day full of activities and culture await you!

UPDATER

The UPDATER is produced once a month and distributed to all Vanderhoof mailboxes.

Editor: Michelle Roberge
Production: Tom Clement

Send inquiries to
updater@district.vanderhoof.ca

250-567-4711

District of Vanderhoof
Municipal Office
160 Connaught Street
PO Box 900
Vanderhoof, BC, V0J 3A0

2010 PROPERTY TAX NOTICES

You should have received your District of Vanderhoof 2010 Property Tax Notice last week. If you have not received your notice please call the District Office at (250)567-4711.

The due date for 2010 Property Taxes is July 2nd at 4:30 pm. Any outstanding current taxes after that date and time will be subject to a 10% penalty. This includes your Home Owner Grant amount if you have not claimed it on time.

The District has **two new options** for property tax payments.

Apply for your Home Owners Grant Online

If you pay property taxes to the District of Vanderhoof, and are eligible, you can apply for your annual Home Owners Grant (HOG) online. You will need your 2010 tax notice. On the top left corner you will find your Roll Number and the eHOG Password. Go to www.vanderhoof.ca and click on the link to access your online HOG, this will take you to a new page where you will use your Roll Number and eHOG Password. You are then taken to a secure page where you can complete your information and apply for your HOG. If you claim your HOG online you **do not** need to complete and send us the HOG form attached to your tax notice. Remember that property taxes are due July 2nd by 4:30 pm. You must claim your HOG prior to the due date and time to avoid paying a 10% penalty.

Pay your Property Taxes Online

This year you will be able to pay your property taxes online with either CIBC, Royal Bank or Integris Credit Union. You must set-up the District of Vanderhoof as a **payee** to be able to pay online. Follow your financial institution online banking methods to do this. There are two payee accounts available for the District of Vanderhoof — to pay property taxes, select the Vanderhoof (District) Tax payment option. Use your Roll Number from your Property Tax Notice as the account number. If you have arrears or delinquent taxes you will owe interest that is not on the tax notice, so please call us at (250)567-4711 and get the exact amount that you need to pay.

Online payments give you the luxury of paying your District of Vanderhoof bills at your convenience. We are pleased to be able to offer these new online services this year. If you have any question please call us at (250)567-4711 or email us at accrec@district.vanderhoof.ca.

RECREATION UPDATE!

The SunSational Summer Program for 2010 is set to come out in mid-June! Here are a few sneak peeks for you!

- **Kids in the Kitchen** – join an instructor and whip up something fun and yummy!
- **Day at the Spa** – Mary Kay will be here to help you enjoy a relaxing day with your sister, mom or friend!
- **Waterslide Days Vanderhoof Style** – need we say more?
- **Drop-in Sports** – beach volleyball, basketball, soccer, we just love them all.
- **2010 Street Banner Project** – bring your imagination!
- **Biking** – we will be having certified instructors come out to the new Vanderhoof Bike Park to run a day camp including a mini-competition at the end of the day! Get your gear on!

That's just a sneak peek, wait till you get the program in June! Look for it to arrive at schools, the Public Library and the District of Vanderhoof Municipal Office.



Jorja Bangs seen here having fun at the Riverside Park playground during that hot spell in April. The weather as of late has been up and down. In the last week Vanderhoof has seen thunder and lightning storms, hail, lots of rain, cold winds, some frosty mornings, and hot sunny afternoons. Along with the leaves and tree blossoms, the mosquitoes are out in full force, so remember your sunscreen and bug spray when you head out.

RECREATION AND LEISURE GUIDE - CORRECTION

Please note that the Recreation and Leisure Guide for Vanderhoof set to come out in June 2010 has been moved to September 2010. If you have any events, information, clubs, etc that you would like to have in our Recreation Guide, please forward your information to recdir@district.vanderhoof.ca. Sorry for any inconvenience.