



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The District of Vanderhoof Recreation Department is looking for Expressions of Interest from Early Childhood Education qualified instructors for before school, after school and preschool programs. If you are a certified Early Childhood Educator and would like more information, please contact Ashley Kuznak Raby at the District of Vanderhoof Municipal Office at 250-567-4711 or by email at [recdir@district.vanderhoof.ca](mailto:recdir@district.vanderhoof.ca).

## SUMMER RECREATION POSITIONS

The District of Vanderhoof is currently seeking a Summer Program Coordinator, Summer Program Leader and a Special Needs Assistant. Job details and deadlines can be found by going to [www.vanderhoof.ca](http://www.vanderhoof.ca) and clicking on Career Opportunities. For more information contact Ashley Kuznak Raby, Recreation Director at 250-567-4711 or [recdir@district.vanderhoof.ca](mailto:recdir@district.vanderhoof.ca) with subject line reading "Summer Employment". Apply via mail, email or fax.

## FREE GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE

The District of Vanderhoof and the Northern Development Initiatives Trust have come in partnership to provide a grant writing consultant to assist local non-profit organizations. If you have upcoming projects or needs, Janice Baker can assist in positioning your organization to qualify for funding and:

- Identify potential funding sources.
- Assist with writing the funding proposal.
- Determine project eligibility.
- Assist with donor reporting requirements.

Contact Janice Baker at 250-570-8321, or [grantwriter@district.vanderhoof.ca](mailto:grantwriter@district.vanderhoof.ca).



## NECHAKO HEALTHY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

*Working toward sustainable living*

The Nechako Healthy Community Alliance is an 'umbrella' non-profit society for groups working towards sustainable living in the Nechako Valley. At present, the society provides support for two groups/committees: Nechako Waste Reduction Initiative; Nechako Valley Food Network. The alliance is currently in the process of developing polices on reducing waste and supporting local food producers that will be available to the community.



### Nechako Waste Reduction Initiative

This group works to reduce the amount of garbage that goes to our landfill through: education on recycling; and bringing more recycling options to Vanderhoof. Through initiatives of this group, 100 tonnes of paper, cardboard and milk jugs was diverted from our landfill in 2010. That is enough garbage to fill the ice arena two feet deep. Visit [www.nwri.ca](http://www.nwri.ca).

### Nechako Valley Food Network

The food network is committed to empowering the community to grow and eat locally produced foods by: promoting the growth and distribution of local agricultural products in the Nechako Valley; and, educating and aiding individuals to grow and eat their own produce in an environmentally sound way. The food network is seeking local food producers as well as individuals interested in local food security to sign-up as members - its free! **The second annual Local Food Producers Guide is set for publication in May, all local food producers are welcome to be included.** Visit the food network at [www.nvfoodnetwork.ca](http://www.nvfoodnetwork.ca).

# UPDATE



Ice on the Nechako River. Photo by Annerose Georgeson.

## PREPARING FOR 911 SERVICE

In preparation for the start-up of 911 Services in our area, planned for September 2011, the District of Vanderhoof is reviewing housing numbers. There are a few cases in our community where the house number used on a tax notice or other utility bill does not match the house number of the residence the bill pertains to. We are asking all residents to check for any discrepancy between their house number and what it says on their tax notice or other utility bill.

**Should you find that there is a difference between your house number and what it says on your tax notice or utility bill please bring the documents showing the inconsistency into the District of Vanderhoof Municipal Office at 160 Connaught Street.**

For more information, please call the District of Vanderhoof at 250-567-4711. We appreciate your help with this.

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## COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

### January 12, 2011

**Bi-Annual Trade Show:** Council approved that the Vanderhoof District Chamber of Commerce be permitted to use the Vanderhoof Arena at no charge for their Bi-Annual Trade Show from May 12–15, 2011.

**Facilities at Riverside Park:** Council supported an application to the Provincial Government's Town's for Tomorrow funding program for a grant of \$378,000 towards a total project of \$473,000 to upgrade Riverside Park with a mobile stage and lighting, multi-purpose sports field, outdoor fitness equipment and a portable washroom facility. No guarantees that we will be approved for funding. We hope to receive a decision by mid March 2011.

### January 26, 2011

**Revenue Anticipation Bylaw:** Council passed the Revenue Anticipation Bylaw, which allows for the temporary borrowing of funds to cover operations until payments from tax notices start coming in. There is often a cash shortage at this time of year, although the District of Vanderhoof has not needed to borrow funds for the last few years. The funds are paid back as soon as taxes are collected.

## SWEETHEART DANCE

A fun night out for couples, or take the kids too! The Sweetheart Dance is for all the sweethearts in your life - spouse, kids and friends. Make a date to attend the Sweetheart Family Dance on Saturday February 12 at the Elks Hall. Dance starts at 6:00 pm and goes to 11:00 pm. Tickets available at the District of Vanderhoof office (160 Connaught Street) or at the door and are only \$2 each. Drinks are non-alcoholic, and there will be desserts and appetizers too! *The District of Vanderhoof is also looking for volunteers to serve drinks and food. Call Ashley Kuznak-Raby for more details at 250-567-4711.*



## Saik'uz and Settlers

### A WEAVE OF LOCAL HISTORY

*a play by Lisa Striegler and the Good Neighbours Committee*

... a dramatic (and sometimes comedic) weave of (some of) the history of the people of the Nechako Valley

part of the Spirit of Vanderhoof Diversity Project

**PERFORMANCES**  
MARCH  
18 & 19, 2011

Rehearsals have begun, and the Good Neighbours Committee is looking for people interested in volunteering with the production of the *Saik'uz and Settlers* play. People are needed to make props, do makeup and help backstage. A great opportunity to get involved with arts in our community. Contact Sylvia Byron at 250-567-9125.

## UPCOMING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

District Council Chambers  
5:00 pm Wednesday

**FEBRUARY 9**

**FEBRUARY 23**

**MARCH 9**



If you are over 18 years old and can commit to at least 20 hours per week including evenings, weekends and holidays, apply now.

Rates of pay (\$14.72 to \$18.04 an hour) vary by assignment. The work period is early March to the end of July 2011, depending on assignment.

To download and submit an online application, visit the website at [www.census2011.gc.ca](http://www.census2011.gc.ca).

### • FREE WORKSHOPS •

**Making Sense of Your Retirement**  
Saturday, February 12, 2011

**Searching For Your Roots**  
Saturday, February 26, 2011

Call the Vanderhoof Public Library at 250-567-4060 for more info.

### • PRO-D DAY •

March 4, 2011 - Contact the District of Vanderhoof for details.

## UPDATER

The UPDATER is produced once a month and distributed to all Vanderhoof mailboxes.  
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160 Connaught Street  
PO Box 900  
Vanderhoof, BC, V0J 3A0

## COUNCIL MESSAGE *All Hands on Deck*

We have made it through the Christmas season, and now it is time to get on with the challenges of the coming year.

In the last *Updater* I spoke of some of the projects Council worked on in 2010 as well as looking forward to 2011. In this issue, I would like to speak about how Council makes decisions and the role that the community can have. Council is faced with many issues during the course of a year; many are fairly complicated requiring a fair amount of research and discussion. It is our job and obligation as Council members to make decisions on behalf of the citizens of Vanderhoof taking into account the needs and wants of the community at large. We do this while trying to be fiscally and socially responsible. We as members of Council enter each Council meeting ready to have an open discussion and make an informed decision. Our personal agendas remain at the door and our minds are open to making decisions that are in the best interest of the community.

While we get a lot of information from a variety of sources, there is real value in listening to the public's concerns on the issues we face at the Council table. Not everything we do is a repeat of the past; today's Council faces issues that Councils twenty or even ten years ago did not face. The Provincial Government is looking for more input from local government than ever before on a wider variety of issues. We are making decisions about economic development, recycling, health care, forest recovery and a myriad of other issues.

This past year provided several good examples of Council responding to valuable feedback and input from residents of our community. When we introduced changes to the Hunting and Firearms Bylaw, a number of people attended a Council meeting and provided their concerns. Council listened to these concerns and as a result, through consultation with the public we now have a better Hunting and Firearms Bylaw. In another instance we received about seventy e-mails when we were considering what type of activities/facilities should be at Riverside Park. Once again Council listened and a better decision was made.

We particularly appreciate and value when a member or members of the community offer their time and expertise to make our community better. On a larger scale the BMX Bike Park is a good example, and the new picnic tables on the north bank of the Nechako River is an example of one man's dedication.

This next year we will be seeking your input on issues which will help determine our future. They include but are not limited to: diversifying our economy through college education; establishing new local services; building an aquatic centre; taking advantage of the mining industry boom; the future of court services in Vanderhoof; and the development of the local airport.

I encourage you to get involved. When open houses or public meetings on specific issues are held please take the time to attend, Council values your input. You may not want to come to every Council meeting but I would recommend that you take the opportunity sometime this year to attend a Council meeting and see how local government works. If you have a topic that is important to you and you think it should come to the attention of Council, please write or email us, we welcome your opinions.

*Municipal Council is the closest level of government to you the citizen. At no other level are you able to have your concerns heard as easily and directly as at the municipal level.*



Mayor Gerry Thiessen

## COUNCIL FACTS:

An act or proceeding of a Council is not valid unless it is authorized or adopted by bylaw or resolution at a Council meeting.

Any member of Council may introduce a resolution for consideration by the rest of Council. Each resolution requires another Councillor to second it.

Once the Mayor accepts the seconded motion Council then debates the merit of the resolution.

Once the Mayor feels that each Councillor who wants to speak to the resolution has, he calls the question. First the Mayor asks for those in favour, then for those opposed. Councillors express their vote by raising their hand. If a Councillor does not indicate a vote he or she is considered to have voted in favour of the resolution. Should there be a tie vote the resolution is considered defeated.

Mayor Gerry Thiessen