

Council Highlights



An initiative Designed to Keep **YOU** Better Informed of Council Decisions and Initiatives

December 2, 2013

LaGlace Recreational Community Facility – Dan Richards of the LaGlace Agricultural Society presented an updated business plan which included a detailed funding list, and program and membership list, and fundraising opportunities for the rebuild of the LaGlace Recreational Community Facility (arena) to Council. The County funded a Structural Assessment on the existing La Glace Arena. This information guided the La Glace Agricultural Society in developing a business plan to support their initiative to rebuild the facility. Council approved an additional \$4.5 million to the previous \$1 million which totals \$5.5 million of funding to go to budget deliberations.

County Annual Open Houses – Council approved the motion to hold the 4th Annual County Open Houses June 24-26, 2014. Three open houses will be held at three separate times and locations throughout the County. Council made a motion to have one open house held at the South Peace Centennial Museum for the west location; and the Bezanson Memorial Hall for the east location. The Open House in the central location will be decided at a future Council meeting.

Information Systems department Update – Information Systems department manager Natalia Madden made a presentation on the success of two County initiatives: the County's recent adoption of the Canadian Open Government License; and

the County's nomination for a Government Technology and Exhibition Conference (GTEC) Award.

The County of Grande Prairie is the first municipality in Alberta to adopt the Canadian Open Government Licence. The County's Open Data being licenced opens many more doors for its users and application programmers. With the adoption of this licence, they will be able to use the County of Grande Prairie's Open Data Catalogue under the same verified and consistent legal framework as those applied by the governments of Canada, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario.

The GTEC Awards Ceremony recognized the County's excellence in public service delivery, transforming the business of government, IT operations and collaboration, and exceptional leadership in the Broadband Challenges in Rural Areas: County of Grande Prairie's Action Plan (high speed internet tower project). This project placed in the top 3 in Canada in the municipal category.

Peace Country Historical Society – Local historian Dr. David Leonard and Daryl White of the Peace Country Historical Society made a presentation to the County in regards to a new database for the Peace Country Historical Society. Council made a motion to contribute \$7,000 to partially fund the development of this new database.

Harold Bulford
Division 1
C 780-876-9009
E hbulford@
countygp.ab.ca

Daryl Beeston
Division 2
C 780-933-3464
E dbeeston@
countygp.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre
Division 3
C 780-814-3121
E lbeaupre@
countygp.ab.ca

Ross Sutherland
Division 4
C 780-512-5385
E rsutherland@
countygp.ab.ca

Bob Marshall
Division 5
C 780-933-2053
E bmarshall@
countygp.ab.ca

Peter Harris
Division 6
C 780-933-3074
E jpharris
countygp.ab.ca

Brock Smith
Division 7
C 780-296-1973
E bsmith@
countygp.ab.ca

Richard Harpe
Division 8
C 780-831-5156
E rharpe@
countygp.ab.ca

Corey Beck
Division 9
C 780-831-6394
E cbeck@
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This database will contain detailed information on settlers who applied as homesteaders, script holders, or veterans of WWI in the Peace River Country including the County of Grande Prairie from 1915 to 1930.

County of Grande Prairie Logo – Council approved a revision of the County’s existing logo and made a motion for the communications department to move forward with the development of a standardized visual identity guide based on the revised logo. The County’s current logo has posed challenges for Administration as well, has enabled external agencies to manipulate the County’s visual identity. This guideline will ensure the proper use of the County logo and allow for easy application to internal and external clients.

Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum Update – Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum Executive Director Brian Brake provided Council with a progress report on the Museum’s construction and interior design and displays; and their fundraising. Brian also presented options on management model for the Museum once it is fully operational. Council made a motion to approach the River of Death & Discovery Museum Society (non-profit organization) to manage the Museum; and for County Administration to draft an Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the details of how this partnership will operate.

Aquatera Update – Aquatera Utilities Inc. CEO Bernd Manz provided an update to Council on the various ongoing and future utility development projects in the region including the Clairmont industrial park lift station, and wastewater treatment projects. He also addressed questions put forward by Council.

Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership Update – Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP) Coordinator Jennifer Wood provided Council with an overview on the role and purpose of GPREP in the region. She also answered Council’s inquiries.

GPREP is a partnership that provides a coordinated response to large emergencies or disasters affecting GPREP and/or any of the individual municipalities in the partnership which include the County, City of Grande Prairie; Towns of Beaverlodge, Wembley, Sexsmith; and the Village of Hythe. Under the GREP agreement, participating municipalities together as one now have powers under the *Emergency Management Act of Alberta*.

Regional EMS Foundation Wine Fair and Auction- Council approved the contribution of \$1,000 to the Regional EMS Foundation Wine Fair and Auction which will be taking place at the ENTREC Centre in Evergreen Park on February 7, 2014. All funds raised at this event will go towards Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for schools and businesses in northern Alberta.

Harold Bulford
Division 1
C 780-876-9009
E hbulford@
countygp.ab.ca

Daryl Beeston
Division 2
C 780-933-3464
E dbeeston@
countygp.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre
Division 3
C 780-814-3121
E lbeaupre@
countygp.ab.ca

Ross Sutherland
Division 4
C 780-512-5385
E rsutherland@
countygp.ab.ca

Bob Marshall
Division 5
C 780-933-2053
E bmarshall@
countygp.ab.ca

Peter Harris
Division 6
C 780 933-3074
E jpharris
countygp.ab.ca

Brock Smith
Division 7
C 780-296-1973
E bsmith@
countygp.ab.ca

Richard Harpe
Division 8
C 780-831-5156
E rharpe@
countygp.ab.ca

Corey Beck
Division 9
C 780-831-6394
E cbeck@
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County of Grande Prairie No. 1

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Pursuit of Excellence Committee – Council approved the City of Grande Prairie’s request to elect County Councillor Daryl Beeston to be a member of the Pursuit of Excellence Committee. The Pursuit of Excellence Committee administers funds to assist athletes, coaches, officials and sport organizations in the Grande Prairie Region to achieve the next level of performance.

Budget deliberations are taking place on December 4 and 5. Next regular Council Meeting is December 16, 2013. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.

Harold Bulford
Division 1
C 780-876-9009
E hbulford@
countygp.ab.ca

Daryl Beeston
Division 2
C 780-933-3464
E dbeeston@
countygp.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre
Division 3
C 780-814-3121
E lbeaupre@
countygp.ab.ca

Ross Sutherland
Division 4
C 780-512-5385
E rsutherland@
countygp.ab.ca

Bob Marshall
Division 5
C 780-933-2053
E bmarshall@
countygp.ab.ca

Peter Harris
Division 6
C 780 933-3074
E jpharris
countygp.ab.ca

Brock Smith
Division 7
C 780-296-1973
E bsmith@
countygp.ab.ca

Richard Harpe
Division 8
C 780-831-5156
E rharpe@
countygp.ab.ca

Corey Beck
Division 9
C 780-831-6394
E cbeck@
countygp.ab.ca