

# Council Highlights



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

**December 1, 2014**

## **Regional Enforcement Services Third Quarter Update –**

Superintendent of Regional Enforcement Services, Stuart Rempel and Sergeant Stuart Fry presented Council the 2014 third quarter report for the County's Regional Enforcement Services and RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit.

*Regional Enforcement Services Report* – A total of 2156 violation tickets were issued in the third quarter.

*Park Patrol Study* – The County assigned a Peace Officer and a Bylaw Enforcement Officer to patrol County parks, trails, campgrounds and green spaces during the summer. Officers patrolled these areas by ATV, vehicles, and mountain bikes. Only one per cent of the violations occurred in County parks with the majority of violations happening in the Dunes with 132 warnings and 63 charges laid. Violations ranged from driving without a license/ insurance/ registration to liquor offenses and starting fires in restricted areas. As a result of the study, Regional Enforcement Services will recommend this patrol become a full-time unit.

*RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit* – A total of 158 traffic and safety violation tickets were issued in the third quarter of 2014.

All sectors of Regional Enforcement Services remained active in delivering several crime prevention initiatives such as special events coordinating, various patrols, checkstops, Rural Crime Watch, and Report-A Drug House; and traffic safety programs and presentations to various schools throughout the County.

**Economic Development Update** – Economic Development Officer Chris King provided an update on various projects and initiatives including;

*Growing The North Conference* – The *Taste of the Peace* taking place at the Pomeroy Inn on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> to kick off the two day conference will feature cuisine from several local restaurants. The conference itself will be held at the Evergreen Park Entrec Centre on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Growing the North organizers have already confirmed some impressive speakers and presenters in store for this year's conference including the award winning Jay Ingram, Science broadcaster and writer, and former co-host of Discovery Channel's Daily Planet; Siegfried Kiefer, Power & Utilities Chief Operating Officer for ATCO Gas and Pipelines; Dick Brown, Ferus Liquids President & CEO; JP Gervais, Farm Credit Canada Economist; Jim Ellis, Alberta Energy Regulator Deputy Minister; and many more. Tickets can be purchased at a cost of \$249 plus GST for the entire conference, or \$179 for single day online at [www.growingthenorth.com](http://www.growingthenorth.com) or by contact the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce at 780-532-5340.

*Partnerships* – The County is working collaboratively with the City of Grande Prairie on many projects including the 2015 Tour of Alberta and on joint retail marketing efforts to attract investment in the municipalities.

EDO Chris King outlined the a few of the department's priorities which include securing a regional water supply, economic diversification, the multi-modal site, and improved marketing presence.

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County of Grande Prairie No. 1

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**Medical First Response Program** – Fire Chief Everett Cooke presented a report to Council about the challenges of a new provincial model for medical first response. Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Alberta Health are developing a provincial model for medical first response that aims to formalize what medical care is provided by medical first response agencies. To maintain the current level of service to ratepayers, Council made a motion to pay \$10,625 to renew the registration of 35 members who currently hold the Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) certification, to register EMR's in the County's rural fire halls, and ensure an adequate number of personnel at the urban stations are registered. Council has written a letter to Health Minister Stephen Mandel expressing their concerns with the new initiative.

**Sexsmith Fire Hall Replacement** – The Town of Sexsmith sent a letter to County Council requesting officials enter into discussions about capital costs of building a new fire hall in the town. Council formed a committee of County representatives and requested call statistics from the Sexsmith fire department.

**Evergreen Park Update** – Evergreen Park President Rob Clayton, Vice-President Bridget Hennigaar and General Manager Dan Gorman provided Council with an update on Evergreen Park/Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural & Exhibition Society. Usage of Evergreen Park has steadily increased and upgrades have been made to several areas of Evergreen Park improving the users' overall experience.

**SPARKED** –Tanis Harms, SPARKED Administrator, presented County Council with a framed Northwest Children's Charter to thank them for their support and proclamation of this year's National Child on November 20<sup>th</sup>. National Child Day is an annual event that celebrates the children in our communities.

**Big Hearts for Big Kids** – Council deferred the \$5,000 sponsorship request for the fundraiser to budget deliberations. Council has contributed \$2,500 annually to the Sunrise House Big Hearts for Big Kids annual concert fundraiser for youth at risk of homelessness in the region.

**The preliminary budget meeting is being held December 3-5, 2014 in Council Chambers.**

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