

# Council Highlights



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

**May 26, 2014**

## County Council and Staff Set Priorities for the Next Four Years –

The County of Grande Prairie Council and administration recently held a strategic planning session, identifying 13 short- and long-term priorities aimed at supporting a sustainable future for the County. The process guides municipal activities and budgets and sets focused direction for Council and employee planning and decision-making. See news release, “County’s Strategic Plan Sets Out Future Direction.”

## County Study Reveals Citizens’ Recreation and Social Needs

– Transportation around the County, senior and youth programming and services and assisted living facilities for seniors are among the top emerging needs of County residents identified by a recent County of Grande Prairie needs assessment. Results showed that 97% of those surveyed feel the County is a good place to raise a family, 95% consider their community a safe place to live and 93% say that people are willing to help out their neighbours. See news release, “County Study Reveals Citizens’ Recreation and Social Needs.”

**Seniors and Special Needs Transportation Grants** – Council approved \$93,322 in grants to 14 seniors and special needs groups including:

- Disabled Transportation Society of Grande Prairie- \$45,500
- Hythe & District Pioneer Homes- \$11,000
- Grande Spirit Foundation- \$8,000
- Golden Years Club of Bezanson- \$4,937
- Twilight Club of LaGlace- \$4,500
- Sexsmith & District Seniors Association- \$3,000

- Town of Beaverlodge \$2,985
- Grande Prairie and District Golden Age Centre-\$ 1,500
- Beaverlodge Seniors Citizens Association- \$ 2,700
- The Silver & Gold Pioneer Club of Wembley- \$2,000
- Sexsmith Sunset Homes & Tenant Association- \$1,000
- Beaverlodge Hidden Potential Society - \$2,000
- Wolverine Wheelchair Sports Association - \$2,200
- Hythe Golden Age Craft Centre - \$2,500

**Resources Road Speed Reduction** – Council approved reducing the speed limit along Resources Road from the Wedgewood intersection to south of the Hwy 668 intersection to 70 km/h. The speed reduction from 80 km/h was promoted by local law enforcement officials.

**Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum Update** – Brian Brake, executive director of the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative (PCDI), updated Council on the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum project. On the morning of May 26<sup>th</sup> the PCDI and Mighty Peace Harley-Davidson (MPHD) announced the Mighty Peace Harley-Davidson Aykroyd Family Ride – a fundraising motorcycle ride taking place on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The ride will go from the MPHD dealership to the Museum site, arriving in time for the facility’s Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at 1:30 pm. Registration can be done online at [www.curriemuseum.ca](http://www.curriemuseum.ca) under ‘Events.’ All proceeds go to the museum project. The ride will be led by Dan Aykroyd, riding a ‘dino-customized’ 2014 Softail Breakout donated by the MPHD. This bike will later be autographed by Dan Aykroyd and raffled off at the Amber Ball fundraising gala on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are being sold at the MPHD, the Royal Canadian Legion and the PCDI offices. Nine palaeontologists are coming from around the world to work with Drs. Philip Currie and Eva Koppelhus excavating fossils in the area from July 28 to August 11. A draft agreement between the

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River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society and the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 is presently under review, with the next meeting scheduled for June 3. Discussions are ongoing regarding the contract for the restaurant for the Museum. Local firm Image Design was chosen to create the museum's website, which will be launched Nov. 15, 2014. The contract for the museum's gift shop furniture was issued to Foothills Systems. Preparations for a Key to the Region ceremony for the Aykroyd family on August 7 are ongoing, with 16 communities confirmed to participate. The museum project now has over 30 volunteers regularly participating in its palaeontology program. ABC TV's Born to Explore has confirmed they will return for the events of August 7-9 to create a show based on dinosaurs in Alberta. W5 will also be sending a film crew. Brian Brake updated Wayne Drysdale, provincial Minister of Infrastructure, on the museum project, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Parks & Recreation Month** – Council proclaimed June as Parks & Recreation Month. The County will host Parks and Recreation Day at Bear Lake campground on Saturday, June 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the addition of their new “nautical” themed playground. Activities such as nature interpretation sessions, yoga in the park, craft making, kite flying, a scavenger hunt and bouncy castle, and a free barbecue have been planned. A free barbecue will be held on Saturday, June 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Hommy Park campground to celebrate the new “tree house” themed playground.

**Sandy Ridge Estates Sanitary Sewer Services** - Council approved the installation of sewer services on a cost share basis with landowners for a portion of Sandy Ridge subdivision in the amount of \$181,786.20.

In 2013, Council approved entering into a cost share agreement with a local developer to install and extend a water line in the subdivisions of Jersey Meadows, Sandy Ridge and Lawra Estates. The water line is oversized to accommodate further growth in the area in the future.

**Non-Truck Route on Several County Roads** – Council passed a motion to initiate a non-truck route on the following roads:

- West of Southwest of Section 8, Township 72, Range 5, West of the Sixth Meridian and West of the Northwest of Section 5, Township 72, Range 5, West of the Sixth Meridian (starting at 0.5 miles south of Hwy 43 on RR 55 for 1.6km)
- West of Section 4, Township 72, Range 5, West of the Sixth Meridian (starting one mile south of Hwy 43 on RR 54 to S.H. #670)
- West of Section 3, Township 72, Range 5, West of the Sixth Meridian and West of Southwest of Section 10, Township 72, Range 5, West of the Sixth Meridian (starting at 0.5 miles south of Hwy 43 on RR 53 to S.H. 670)
- West of Section 2, Township 72, Range 5, West of the Sixth Meridian and West of Southwest of Section 11, Township 72, Range 5, West of the Sixth Meridian (starting at 0.25 miles south of Hwy 43 to S.H. 670 on RR 52)
- First two miles on RR 51 north of Hwy 43.

**Road Closure Bylaw** – Council gave second and third Reading to Bylaw 2999 to facilitate the closure and disposal of a portion of Road Plan 4351EO within part of NW-29-72-10-W6M.

**Stompede Week/Day of the Honeybee Proclamations** – Council proclaimed May 27-June 1, 2014 as Stompede Week. Council proclaimed May 29, 2014 as “Day of the Honey Bee”.

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County of Grande Prairie No. 1

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**Sponsorships**– Council approved a \$150 sponsorship of the Investor Groups Memory Walk for Alzheimers being held June 21, 2014 on the Wapiti Dunes Trail and a \$150 sponsorship of the Senior’s Luncheon at the Wellington Resource Centre.

**Staff Introduction** – County Council and staff welcomed all new and returning seasonal staff to the Agriculture department. As well, Sherry Green was introduced as the new Corporate Records Coordinator. Legislative Services also welcomed Shashi Travasso and Tatiana Catana as the new Administrative Assistants. Planning & Development Services introduced Francis Boomgaarden, Tina Gaylard, and Tara Blake who are all Planning Clerks. Brenda Walsh returns as a Recycling Operator and Aaliyah Rowland as a Scale Operator at the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management. Robert Dejonge is the GIS summer student.

**Next Council meeting is June 9, 2014. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.**

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