

Town of Fort Smith News

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Volume 13

November 2010

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNICATION

Town Council has made a commitment to communicating with the citizens of Fort Smith and we wish this to be two-way communication. If you have concerns or suggestions, please contact Town Hall at 872-8400 or send us an email at townoffortsmith@northwestel.net. Check out our website at www.fortsmith.ca for additional town information.

Upcoming Meeting of Council

- ★ Tues, Nov 16 Town Council Meeting
 - ★ Mon, Dec 6 Committee of the Whole
 - ★ Tues, Dec 14 Town Council Meeting
- All meetings are held in Town Council Chambers at 7:00 pm

Upcoming Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, November 17

- ★ Human Resources 9:00 am
- ★ Municipal Services 10:30 am
- ★ Community Services 12:00 noon

Thursday, November 18

- ★ Finance and Audit 8:30 am
- ★ Corporate Services 12:00 noon

All meetings are open to the public

WELCOME TO NEW DIRECTORS

Two new directors have been hired by the Town of Fort Smith: Mr. Jean Soucy, Director of Municipal Services and Mr. Steven Wylie, Director of Corporate Services. Both bring a wealth of knowledge to their positions. Our new Director of Community Services, Tommy Phillips, will be joining the team at the end of November. The hiring of a new Senior Administrative Officer is in its final stages.

DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES - Jean Soucy

Jean is a long term resident of Fort Smith. He is married with four children. Jean is active with the Bison Hockey team and the Pelican Rapids Golf and Country Club. Jean is a certified Level 3 Water Plant Operator, the highest in all of the northern territories. A 24 year employee of the Town of Fort Smith, Jean is very knowledgeable about the workings of the Town and is looking forward to this new challenge.



The Director of Municipal Services is responsible for the following departments within the Town: Water and Waste Water, Public Works, Facility Maintenance, Fleet Maintenance, Environmental, and Protective Services.

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES - Stephen Wylie

Stephen joins us from Yellowknife where he worked with the NWT Housing Authority. Prior to coming North, Stephen worked as a public accountant in Ontario for 32 years. He and his wife have just moved here and are looking forward to meeting the residents. Stephen enjoys reading and is anxiously awaiting the opening of the golf course next season.



The Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the following departments within the Town: Finance, Human Resources, Lands and Economic Development, and Information Technology.

TOWN'S WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Jacques Van Pelt requested information about our water supply. We felt that this might be of interest to other residents. Here is Mr. Soucy's response to Mr. Van Pelt:

"The Town of Fort Smith's water treatment facility is one of the most technical and advanced systems in the North and provides a very good source of water supply to our customers. With due regards to all daily, weekly and monthly water sampling and analysis, we have to abide by local, territorial, and national standards and legislations. We sample on a daily basis for turbidity, chlorine residual, pH, alkalinity, fluoride and color both on raw and potable water. A weekly sample for total coliform and E-Coli is analysed in-house and a result is obtained within 24 hours. Monthly samples are collected from both raw water and potable water for coliform count, fluoride, pH, and trihalomethanes (THM) as well as a monthly sample is taken from the discharge lagoon for fecal coliform, ammonia, total suspended solids (TSS), biological oxygen demand (BOD) and pH and biannually a Bio-Assay is completed on the receiving water. You can access all the Town's monthly and annual water reporting on the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board website (<http://www.mvlwb.ca/mv/registry.aspx>) In here, you'll find all sampling results and all other issues relating to our water licence. Your questions with regards to the low water conditions and possible contaminants within, is a very real concern for our water shed (Mackenzie River Basin) for us and the rest of the north all the way to the Beaufort Sea. I've included 2 reports below that address cross border water issues that will shed some light on your concerns although both reports tend to raise more concerns.

http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf

<http://www.safewater.org/PDFS/reportlibrary/WateredDownOvercomingFederalInactionontheImpactofOilSandsDevelopmenttoWaterResources.pdf>

FIREWORKS



The annual First Night (Dec 31) fireworks show is in the final planning stages. Steve Bennett, Paul Wiedrick, and Rick Olsen are federally licensed fireworks display supervisors and volunteer their time to provide great shows for our community.

Should you be interested in assisting with the set-up for the show and security that evening, please contact Town Hall at 872-8400.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IN FORT SMITH

Many organizations in Fort Smith are planning their Christmas activities. The Town will be publishing a calendar of events. If you wish to have your event in the calendar, contact the Town Office at 872-8400 or email to townoffortsmith@northwestel.net

December 1 Lighting of the Christmas Tree and the start of the Santa Float

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Town Council has created Advisory Boards to provide community input into areas of Town Operations. Advisory Boards are formally created by Bylaw which outlines the mandate of each board as well as the composition & terms of office of the board.

The Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) is tasked with providing input on recreation issues. The major project for 2011 for RAB is the Master Recreation Plan which will review recreation facilities and outdoor spaces, programs, services, and fees. This includes short term and long term planning. The members of RAB are: Scott Shelton (Chair), Jessica Cox, Tracey Pope, Kirsten Bradley, Mike Vassal, Vern Rowe, Gail Hartop, Della Beck and Dean Cox. The Town Council representatives are: Cr. Kevin Smith and Mayor Janic Hobart. We value the work of these wonderful volunteers who work diligently to promote our town.

If you would like more information about this or the other advisory boards or are interested in sitting on one of the boards, contact Town Hall or send an email to townoffortsmith@northwestel.net

MEET THE TEAM

Town Council along with the Town Staff work as a team to provide services and programs for the citizens of Fort Smith.

Each month we will profile a member of this team.

Ronnie Schaefer - Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Ronnie Schaefer has been with the Town for seven years as the Bylaw Enforcement Officer. His duties are to enforce the provision of the various bylaws which have been authorized by Council and the NWT Motor Vehicles Act to ensure lawful conduct of the public. He also assists other protective services departments. Ronnie is married and enjoys outdoor activities. He is also involved in a species at risk research project about the whooping cranes.

