



Useful Web Links

March 14, 2008



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Hello everyone:

We were pleased recently to be able to deliver \$41,000 to support BC150 events in Prince George. Some of the events the money funded are:

- The Prince George Exhibition - \$9,000 for the event on August 7-10, 2008.
- Rivermania - \$15,000 for the event on August 24, 2008.
- Rivers Day - \$2,000 for the event on September 28, 2008.
- West of the Rockies Championship Pro Rodeo Finals - \$7,500 for the event on October 17-19, 2008.
- Alexander Mackenzie Days – \$7,500 for the event on June 7-8, to organize BC150 events, which are all about bringing the community together and 2008.

BC150 is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858. Every community in B.C. is invited to participate in this yearlong celebration of B.C.'s cultural diversity, community strength and widespread achievement. In celebration of this monumental occasion we are encouraging communities taking pride in our diverse heritage and culture. It's really exciting to see how many great events are being

government.

Ask Your MLA Archive: [Click here](#) to read past editions of Ask Your MLA.

Useful Phone numbers

BC Nurse line: 24 hour,
Toll free 1-866-215-4700

Pharma Net Hotline: Mon-Fri
(8:30-4:30pm) 1-800-387-4700

Health Info Line: Mon-Fri
(8:30-4:30pm) 1-800-465-4911

Victim Link: 7 days a week,
24 hours, 1-800-563-0808

planned for our celebration this year.

In fact, I had the privilege of being able to attend one very special BC150 event this week. The Royal BC Museum has created an exhibit that captures the stories and photographs of our first 150 years in British Columbia. The name of the exhibit is Free Spirit: Stories of You, Me and BC. One of the most unique displays in the show is called "The Party" and features the faces and photos of 132 amazing British Columbians. I am thrilled that a number of Northerners are included. Bob Harkins, Ben Ginter and Dr. Peter Newberry are featured as well as Dr. Charles Jago. Dr. Jago and his wife Mary attended the opening and it was fun to see Charles and his portrait together. This very special exhibit showcases BC's history through the eyes of ordinary and extraordinary British Columbians. Congratulations Charles and thanks for attending the event in Victoria. The Free Spirit exhibit will be on the road this fall so that British Columbians across the province will be able to enjoy the celebration of people and events in our 150-year history. I look forward to our own Prince George event.

This week we also had the opportunity to meet with numerous Professional Firefighters in Victoria. Prince George was well represented by Al Leier and a group of Northern BC's bravest. Thanks to Blake, Fred and John for meeting with me and also helping to celebrate the great work you do through the Burn Fund. We were very proud to announce a second contribution of 2 million dollars for the Burn Fund Building that is being built by the BCPFF. This building will provide housing for burn survivors and their families, research and educational opportunities. It is being seen as an innovative model in North America that will revolutionize the care and treatment of burns. We are proud partners in the building having now provided 4 million dollars. I am very proud of President Leier and the terrific team from Northern BC for the leadership role they have taken on. Great job guys!

Today I visited the PG Regional Hospital to "welcome" the newest piece of equipment that will

improve the quality of life for all of us. Prince George will become the first city in BC and the second in Canada to become home to a volumetric scanner. We currently have a temporary scanner in place, but when the advanced scanner actually arrives it will allow for shorter wait times for some diagnostic tests and perhaps most importantly will reduce the need for patient transfer to the Lower Mainland. It will also reduce the degree of radiation and give improved data on which to base treatment decisions. The excellent team of professionals at the hospital shared their excitement and experience with us as they explained the importance of the new technology. Thanks to all of the great people who work so hard in our health care system – without you, the technology would have little benefit.

A very busy weekend ahead, but I hope to catch up with family a little bit. There are lots of great events in our community and region and I look forward to seeing all of you out and about.

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT NEW INITIATIVE WILL IMPROVE SERVICES TO LANDLORDS AND TENANTS?

Landlords and tenants will have improved access to information and dispute resolution services with a \$2.7-million investment to expand Residential Tenancy Branch services.

More tenants and landlords than ever before are looking for information about renting in British Columbia. The Province is responding by increasing the number of people available to help them. This means landlords and tenants will get the information they are looking for faster and dispute resolution hearings will be held sooner.

The Residential Tenancy Branch will add 16

information officers to provide information to tenants and landlords and eight dispute resolution officers to help tenants and landlords resolve conflicts. The majority of these new staff will work in Kelowna, where a new office space will provide longer hours of service to landlords and tenants in the Central Okanagan area, one of the fastest growing regions of B.C. The rest of the new staff will join existing Residential Tenancy Branch offices in Victoria and Burnaby where they will provide information and dispute resolution services to people across B.C. The rental market is an important housing option for many British Columbians. By strengthening the Residential Tenancy Branch, the Province is protecting the rights of tenants and landlords and ensuring the rental market functions effectively. The Residential Tenancy Branch is currently hiring staff and finding a suitable location for the expanded Kelowna office, which is expected to be operational by the fall. More information on Residential Tenancy Branch services is available online at www.rto.gov.bc.ca/.

News Around the Province

LIVSMART BC LOGO CONTEST

British Columbia design students are being invited to compete to create a new logo for the government's LiveSmart BC climate action programs.

The goal is to tap into the creative energy and talent of our province's people to empower British Columbians to take action on climate change.

LiveSmart BC will be an overarching, recognizable brand that will inspire the public to get involved in climate action and promote healthier, more eco-efficient ways of living.

The winning logo design will receive a prize of \$10,000 with four runners-up receiving prizes of \$2,500 each. The challenge is to design a LiveSmart BC logo that is:

- Unique and inspirational.
- A public symbol of British Columbia's commitment to sustainable growth and climate action.
- Inclusive of the brand name "LiveSmart BC."
- Suitable for use on government websites, on

resource and marketing materials, in print and animated forms, and in conjunction with government services and programs as well as partners and external stakeholders.

LiveSmart BC will be launched this spring and will reward smart choices that save energy, water, fuel, time and money. The new LiveSmart BC programs will help to contain urban sprawl and reward development that creates affordable housing, new green spaces and more people-friendly neighbourhoods.

Entry Requirements

- Entrants must be students, 19 or older and currently enrolled at a recognized post-secondary institution or design institute in British Columbia.
- Design teams may include one or more persons (one entry per person).
- Entrants must complete a submission form, including the institution they are attending and a brief description of how the design represents the LiveSmart BC brand.
- The winning entrant(s) must agree to sign a waiver of rights before claiming the prize.
- **Deadline for submissions is April 28, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. PST**

To learn more about the government's commitment to sustainable growth and climate action, and to enter the contest, please visit:

www.climateactionsecretariat.gov.bc.ca

This week's bouquet of recognition goes to...

Breanna Siemens of John McInnis Junior Secondary for winning 2008 CanWest Can Spell spelling Bee.

Good Spelling Breanna!

We're proud of you!

Community Announcements

2008 WOODSTOVE EXCHANGE
PROGRAM

City of Prince George – Regional district of
Fraser Fort-George

March 1-April 30th , 2008

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ Mar 14-16 Home and Garden Show, Free admission, Friday 5pm -9pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm
- ❖ Mar 18 – Patrick LaForge, Chair of Edmonton Chamber, President and CEO of Edmonton Oilers. Guest speaker at chamber luncheon at Coast Inn, for more info 562-2454
- ❖ Mar 25 – Bluegrass Show at Art Space 7:30 pm, John Reischman and the Jaybirds, \$15, tickets available at Books & Co.
- ❖ Mar 28 –Prince George Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting 5pm to 7pm and Inauguration Dinner 7pm to 10pm. For more info call 562-2454
- ❖ Mar 30 – A Tribute to Elvis at the Prince George Playhouse, starring Steve Elliott- Tickets at Studio 2880 \$27.50
- ❖ Apr 1 –7PM Prince George Playhouse- the Mystique Variety Show to support the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada
- ❖ Apr 4- The Sting at the Coast Inn of the North. The Kiwanis Club and Child Development Centre have teamed up for this fun evening. For more details call CDC 563-7168

If you are a non profit organization and would like to advertise an upcoming event or share a story please email [Shirley](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. If you would like to see something specific in the next edition of Ask Your MLA, please [email me](#). If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, email their name so we can add them to our list.



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