



Useful Web Links

August 8, 2008



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[Railway and Forestry Museum](#)

Hello Everyone,

Wow - what a summer week around the province. Virtually every part of the province enjoyed sunshine and very warm temperatures. It couldn't have come at a better time with many of us trying to find some time with family and friends to relax and re-energize for the frantic Fall ahead. We can only hope that sunny skies will continue for some very special events this weekend.

The PG-X began yesterday and is celebrating its 96th year this year! The PG-X is one of the best in the province. This is why our Minister of Agriculture and Lands awarded our PG-X the title of "Provincial Fair" as a result of coming in first place in a very competitive agriculture-related challenge in 2007. Also, given that this year is our province's 150th anniversary the PG-X is registered as an official BC150 event. Visit www.pg-x.com <<http://www.pg-x.com/>> to find out what fun events and activities are in store this year!

One of the local groups that have been at every PG-X is the 4-H club. This year, as the gates to the Prince George Exhibition have opened, a special 4-H ambassador is inviting families to come see what the youth leadership and development group is all about. 4-H asks its members to choose from a menu of pre-approved projects, some are animal related but there are many that are not animal-based (such as woodworking, crafts, foods, small engines,

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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

outdoor living, marketing and many others). 4-H also offers travel opportunities, scholarships, public speaking training, career mentoring and many other personal growth options. It is open to people aged six to 21. There are only two ambassadors allowed per region, and there aren't always members who apply each year. So make sure you stop by and see what the ambassador program is all about.

Our government has always been a big supporter of the 4-H community. Through leadership and training programs, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Youth and Community Development Programs enables youth and volunteers like 4-H members to increase their contribution to communities and society. It helps enhance the skills, development and technology transfer of volunteers. It enhances the profile of youth development and the 4-H Program and its contribution to the community as well as increases agriculture awareness in the 4-H Program and community. For more information visit www.gov.bc.ca/al <<http://www.gov.bc.ca/al>> .

An exciting announcement this week for all of you between 55 and 70 years old. Only half of our seniors over 65 are active enough to reap the health benefits. This week our government has invested \$75,000 in Boomers Plus Boot Camp to help seniors train for sports featured in the 2008 BC Senior Games in Prince George, and allow them to participate in recreational activities. The camp is designed for people who do some physical activity but need the confidence and increased fitness to get into sport, or to get back into a sport they had to let go (like tennis). Boomers Plus Boot Camps can help seniors train for sports featured in the 2008 BC Senior Games in Prince George, and also allow them to participate in recreational activities including walking, stretching, strength, mobility and other activities. The day-long camps are held over a six-week period throughout B.C. and are designed for men and women aged 55 to 70 years. Each camp will include 10 to 30 participants. The camps were developed through a one-time \$75,000 grant from the government to the BC Recreation and Parks Association to design and implement the program throughout the province. They support healthy, active lifestyles for seniors, as well as the Province's physical activity goals through ActNow BC. To sign up people need to contact Shannon Johnson at the PG Family YMCA who will be leading the boot camps (562-

9341). The BC Seniors Games will be held in Prince George from September 10-13 - visit their website at www.bcseniorgames.org <<http://www.bcseniorgames.org/>> for more information.

I am sure that many of you will be finding time to tune into the Olympic TV coverage and cheer on our Canadian athletes. Just think the next opening ceremonies will be in BC!! I am hoping to hear the national anthem many times during the next few weeks.

We'll be sure to drop by the PG-X this weekend and take your friends and family with you. It will have great activities for fair-goers of all ages.

Have fun this weekend and think FireSmart as you are out and about.

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT NEW OVERPASS MAKES BUSY INTERSECTION SAFER FOR HAULING?

A site tour of the Bobtail Forest Service Road overpass marks substantial progress on a \$5.2-million construction project to improve traffic safety and support economic diversification.

More than 14,000 trucks per year crossing Highway 16 at this location and it's an area prone to poor weather and visibility, so this major investment will dramatically improve the safety of truck drivers and the traveling public. With the bioenergy opportunities in the region, it will also encourage further economic development.

The overpass construction project is on Highway 16 near Bednesti Lake, about 50 kilometres west of Prince George. The Bobtail Forest Service road provides an off-highway haul route to Canfor's Isle Pierre sawmill. With an estimated 600,000 to 700,000 cubic metres of wood being hauled along the Bobtail each year, road user groups identified the crossing as a significant safety concern. This project is a great example of the kinds of actions the

BC Forest Safety Council recommended for improving road safety for logging trucks and the public.

Construction began in January 2008, and the work is expected to be completed this October, weather permitting. The cement abutments and overpass are in place, safety railings are being installed and large-scale earth moving is in progress for the construction of the approaches.

A large percentage of the timber trucked via the Bobtail Forest Service road is beetle-attacked pine. Maintaining high safety standards to protect forest workers and public safety is a key objective of the provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan. The Province has committed more than \$120 million since 2006 to mitigating impacts of the beetle infestation on highways, roads in rural municipalities, and addressing safety concerns on forest service roads.

News Around the Province

GOVERNMENT SETS STAGE FOR VOTE ON ELECTORAL REFORM

A public consultation on the proposed distribution of funding for registered groups who support or oppose the single transferable vote (STV) electoral system is underway. Government has committed \$1 million for groups who support or oppose the STV system. The Province will make \$500,000 available to each side of the STV debate to provide information and educational material about their positions. Government will also fund a neutral referendum information office, as it did in 2005. British Columbians will vote on whether to adopt the STV or keep the current, first-past-the post system during a referendum to be held in conjunction with the May 12, 2009 general election.

This is the second time British Columbians will have the opportunity to vote on the STV system. The threshold for success will be the same as it was in 2005 – with at least 60 per cent of the province wide popular vote needed, along with majority support in at least 60 per cent of the province's electoral districts.

The consultation is aimed at individuals and organizations on both sides of the debate who may be interested in applying for funding. The consultation paper is available for viewing at:

http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/public/spl/Referendum_Group_Co

nsultation_Paper.pdf

The document includes information on the proposed application and registration process, duties and responsibilities of groups and their financial agents and permitted uses of funds. Groups and individuals have until Sept. 5 to give their feedback on distribution of the funds. Funding is scheduled to be distributed in January 2009.

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

Helen Domsby , Community Literacy
Coordinator for Prince George
Congrats on the Amazing Literacy
Event at Fort George Park
Thanks for the Great Job you do!!

Community Announcements

Come out and meet your Friends at
the PGX all weekend long.

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### **BC 150 Awards Banquet**

August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm

Ramada Hotel

Come with Friends and Family  
Take part in a multicultural event  
that includes diverse cultural foods  
and entertainment.

Dinner tickets: Adults \$20; Children  
\$9.95

For more info:250-562-2900

## **Mark your calendar...**

- ❖ August 7-10<sup>th</sup> – **PGX General Admission** is \$10, Senior \$8.50, Youth \$7.50, Children under 5 free, Gates open 8-10pm. Thursday is Pioneer Day-Senior special \$2.00 all day, Friday – kids day, 12 and under FREE,
- ❖ August 9<sup>th</sup> – **Peacekeepers Day Parade** – United Nations Peacekeeper annual parade leaving from

the legion at 10:40 am marching to the cenotaph for a short service. Call 250-962-4684 for info.

- ❖ August 17 – **Pamper Me Golf Tournament** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tournament held at Ness Wood Golf Course. Funds raised will go to equipment and education for women’s cancer issues in our community. For info call Brenda Lothrop (562-4433)
- ❖ August 21-**IMSS BC 150 Awards Banquet** at the Ramada Hotel. Tickets \$20 for more info -562-2900
- ❖ August 23- **Carefree Society Seniors Fashion** show & Luncheon, 1-4pm at 950 Kerry Street – Help raise funds for new bus. Entertainment, door prizes. Admin \$20, Srs-\$15
- ❖ August 24 – **A Summer Night of Seasonal Delights**-join local food producers, chef and food artisan for a taste of summer. Afternoon Tastings and Explorations 4pm to 6pm -\$25. Dinner at 6:15pm -\$55. Community Garden 1540 Milburn Ave. Info-564-3859
- ❖ August 24 – **BC 150 Rivermania** - Come celebrate the culture and Peoples of the Fraser River. Every BC community is invited to take part in this event. The launch in Prince George takes place August 24. Visit <http://www.bcrivermania.com/index.html> to find out what’s going on in Prince George and to see how you can be part of the flotilla
- ❖ September 5<sup>th</sup> - **Cops for Cancer-Tour de North** Starting Line Event at Re/Max Centre City, 1679 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Prince George. Event is on Friday, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> starting with a Pancake Breakfast by donation at 8:00 AM hosted by Re/Max Realtors. Everyone invited to come out and meet the RCMP Tour de North Riders and see them off as they begin the 7 day cycling tour to Prince Rupert.
- ❖ September 12<sup>th</sup> – **Spirit of the North Radiothon** – Join 101.3 the River during a full day broadcast fundraiser in the atrium of PGRH. Come and make a donation to generate much needed funds for our hospital. Contact Debie Byl at 565-2522 for info.
- ❖ September 20 – **Evening of Pink** – A community fundraiser to support education and equipment in our community for the fight against breast cancer. For info call Monica Peacock (552-4114)

***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.



**My second e-newsletter, People, Places & Projects showcases great people and projects in our area. To subscribe to People, Places & Projects, [click here](#). To read past editions to go: [People, Places & Projects online](#).**

Toll Free: 1-866-612-7333  
Phone: 250-612-4181  
Fax: 250-612-4188

[www.shirleybondmla.bc.ca](http://www.shirleybondmla.bc.ca)  
[shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca)

1350 5th Ave,  
Prince George, BC  
V2L 3L4