



Useful Web Links

September 12, 2008



[Watch Shirley's latest video message](#)

[My website](#)

[BC Government Caucus](#)

[Ministry of Education](#)

[City of Prince George](#)

[Regional District of Fraser Fort George](#)

[Prince George Public Library](#)

[Two Rivers Gallery](#)

[Act Now! BC](#)

[2010 Commerce Centre](#)

[Spirit of 2010](#)

[Prince George Community Foundation](#)

[Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)

[The Exploration Place](#)

[Railway and Forestry Museum](#)

Hello Everyone,

Hardly a minute to spare this week! It was International Literacy Week, the BC Seniors' Games and my regular visit to the Robson Valley. I was happy to be able to take another cabinet minister, the Honourable Rich Coleman out to the Valley to meet with numerous constituency groups and elected officials. As always I was impressed and proud of my constituents who shared their concerns, ideas and suggestions in a thoughtful way. This is the 3rd cabinet minister in two months who has taken time to visit the Robson Valley with me, and my constituents appreciate that effort and attention.

Terry Fox is a Canadian Hero. His epic journey reminds us of the courage it takes to battle cancer! Each year thousands of people in BC and around the world remember and honour Terry and his mission. The Prince George Terry Fox Run is always well organized and attended. I urge you to join Bill and do your part to keep Terry's dream alive. You will be glad you did!

The 21st Annual BC Seniors' Games opened on September 10th right here in Prince George. Over 3,000 athletes, coaches and officials are competing and participating in the BC Seniors' Games. The enthusiasm for this event in Prince George is evident in the number of volunteers helping with the BC Senior's Games. 1,300 volunteers are lending their time from September 10th-13th to ensure the

Capital Report: [Sign up](#) to find out what is happening in 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

BC Seniors' Games are a success. Athletes from around the province will compete in games from badminton and cycling to darts and chess. Prince George has shown that it can host successful provincial sporting events in the past, such as The BC Seniors' Games in 2002. The 2008 BC Seniors' Games are building on this past success. More information can be found at <http://www.bcseniorgames.org/bcsgs/>. Be sure to attend the BC Seniors' Games this weekend and cheer on BC's senior athletes! You will be inspired!!

British Columbia's athletes are not only competing in Prince George this week, but at the Paralympic Games in Beijing as well. The Paralympic Games opened on September 6th and conclude on September 17th. There have been six medal-winners from BC in the first five days of competition. The athletes are continuing the success enjoyed by BC and Canadian athletes at the Olympics earlier this summer. This success will no doubt continue at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. We are proud of our paralympians and wish them continued success.

Another community event this week that I am proud to support is Paws for a Cause. I will join other animal lovers on Sunday, September 14th to raise money for the BCSPCA. The walk and registration begin at noon at Forests for the World. Paws for a Cause has done some great fundraising work this year, including a golf tournament where \$7,500 was raised. Hope to see you out to support this great event!

The public education system has been a top priority for our government was elected in 2001. One of the areas where this government has invested is scholarships to British Columbia's top students. On September 11th, the Province of British Columbia awarded \$70,000 for the Queen Elizabeth II British Columbia Centennial Scholarships to three of British Columbia's top students. The scholarships are awarded to students that will pursue graduate work in other Commonwealth countries. The money is broken down into one \$60,000 scholarship and two \$5,000 scholarships. The winner of the \$60,000 top-prize is Prince George's own Alexander Hemmingway, a Simon Fraser University student studying psychology and computing who plans to study global politics at the London School of Economics. I would like to personally congratulate

Alexander and the other scholarship recipients. What an amazing accomplishment. We wish you continued success!

September 11th brings memories that are painful for many! The tragic events of 9/11 were remembered around the world this week. For us as a family September 11th has another special event attached to it. Our twins Chris and Melissa celebrate their birthday on September 11th. Happy birthday guys...we love you and are proud of you both!

I look forward to seeing many of you out and about...

Until next week,
Shirley

Question of the week:

HOW HAS THE PLAYGROUND GRANT PROGRAM BEEN REVISED?

Eligibility requirements for playground grants offered through the community gaming grant program have been revised, allowing for more schools to take advantage of the new criteria.

Under the changes, schools that do not have a functioning parent advisory council (PAC) can now have a service club or organization apply on the behalf of the school's students. In addition, the matching funds requirement has been eliminated. Before these changes, only parent advisory councils were eligible to apply for funding and they had to match grant contributions dollar-for-dollar.

The maximum grant a PAC or service club can receive through the playground grant program is \$20,000. Grants must be used to develop new or renovate existing school playgrounds including replacing old or purchasing new equipment. In order to be eligible for the program, the school must teach the provincial curriculum to its students. Applications will be reviewed by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development's Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch. Priority will be given to schools that do not have existing playground equipment, or have playground equipment scheduled to be removed or replaced, and to schools that have the support of their local authority for the installation of equipment.

The application period for 2008/09 playground grants runs from Sept. 15 to Nov. 30, 2008. All grants will be awarded

by March 31, 2009. Application forms and information is available online
www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/grants/playground.htm.

News Around the Province

TOP STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES ABROAD

Three of B.C.'s top post-secondary students have won scholarships worth a total of \$70,000, which will help them to pursue graduate studies in other Commonwealth countries,

Investing in our province's best students by providing scholarships for their education in other countries broadens their contribution both globally and here at home. We all benefit from the international perspective students will bring as we compete in, and contribute to, the global economy.

The Queen Elizabeth II British Columbia Centennial Scholarships – one major worth \$60,000 and two minor at \$5,000 each – are awarded annually. Winners are based on academic achievement, demonstrated aptitudes, personal qualities and character, as well as interest and participation in institutional and community activities.

Alexander Hemingway, from Prince George, is an honours psychology major with a minor in computing at Simon Fraser University who plans to use his \$60,000 scholarship to study global politics at the London School of Economics. Gabriela Young, from Osoyoos, holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology and immunology with minor studies in international relations from the University of British Columbia. With her \$5,000 scholarship she is pursuing a master's in public health at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Kyle Jackson, from North Vancouver, graduated from Simon Fraser University with a major in South Asian history. He will use his \$5,000 scholarship to pursue studies in the religious history of Mizoram, India, at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

The scholarship program was established to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's visit to British Columbia in May 1971, during the province's centennial celebrations. The scholarships are administered by StudentAid BC at the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development. An advisory committee, made up of representatives from the ministry and B.C.'s public

universities, evaluates scholarship candidates and makes recommendations to government.
The Province provides \$730,000 each year for the Queen Elizabeth scholarships, the Premier's Excellence Awards and the United World College scholarships
The government has also invested \$38 million to create three more scholarships in perpetuity: for Aboriginal students, for students transferring from one B.C. public post-secondary institution to another; and for B.C. students gaining international experience as part of their education programs.

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

Darryl Hubble
25th Year in Business
Congratulations and thanks for all you do to support the community!

Community Announcements
Evening of Pink

Sept 20, 2008~ a community fundraiser event
In support of education and equipment in our community for the fight against Breast Cancer
Dinner, speakers, entertainment, door prizes
For tickets call Monica 250-552-4114

~~~~~

27<sup>th</sup> Annual United Way Campaign Kickoff Fashion Show  
Monday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Coast Inn of the North Ballroom  
Doors open at 6pm, show begins at 7pm  
You can purchase tickets now from the United Way office –  
1600 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Native Friendship Centre)  
\$30 for individual tickets, \$250 for a table of 10

If there are questions regarding the event contact United Way at  
(250) 561-1040

**Mark your calendar...**

- ❖
- ❖ 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 14th – **Paws for a Cause** – Go to Forests for the World park to register and walk through the Greenway to the UNBC parking lot. Begins at noon.
- ❖ September 14<sup>th</sup> - **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Terry Fox Run** – From his statue in Community foundation Park on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave participants can run, walk jog or wheel as far as they wish, travel 5km loop that brings them back to the start line. Run goes from 10am to 2pm, registration begins at 9am. Pledge forms available at the Citizen, Four Seasons pool; Gold's Gym or can be downloaded from the [www.terryfoxrun.org](http://www.terryfoxrun.org).
- ❖ 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)
- ❖ September 20 – **Northern Lights- Prince George Symphony Orchestra** featuring David Louie – to perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D, Opus 30. Tickets available online at [www.pgso.com](http://www.pgso.com) or at the PGSO Office-2880 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue~ for more info call ~ 250-562-0800
- ❖ September 20 – **Breakfast of Champions** – Come and support UNBC athletics at this breakfast held in the Ramada Hotel. The speaker will be Randy Gregg, five time Stanley Cup winner and orthopedic doctor. Call Kelly Sharp ([sharpk@unbc.ca](mailto:sharpk@unbc.ca)) at (250) 960-5335 for more tickets and information.
- ❖ September 21 – **Book sale** – Save –on-foods College heights – hosted by Kiwanis Clubs. For info call Glenn: 250-564-7138
- ❖ September 27<sup>th</sup> – **Mennonite Fair** – at the Civic Centre from 10am to 4pm. Wood crafts, baking, used books, clothes, and lunch. For more info call Wendy at 250-963-9276
- ❖ September 27<sup>th</sup> – **BC Rivers Day Music Festival**. Check out the line up of entertainment at [www.riversdaymusic.org](http://www.riversdaymusic.org). or for more info call Pattie at 250-961-9667

***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