



Useful Web Links

September 26, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

Well I had a super weekend with all the activities happening around Prince George. It's such a great place to live, with so many organizations and groups hosting events. I was able to attend the Timberwolves Athletic Association Breakfast of Champions on Saturday morning. Saturday evening Bill, Cristina and I put on the "Pink" for the fourth annual "Evening of Pink". It was great to see a lot of you out enjoying this fabulous fundraising event for such a valuable cause.

The beginning of the week I was able to spend time in my constituency office, keeping on top of upcoming events and current constituency issues. I was able to meet with constituents and have planning sessions for the upcoming Healthier You Expo at the Civic Centre. The Expo includes a Health Forum, Trade Show and Awards night and provides an opportunity for innovators, educators, pharmaceutical and health care companies to come together to meet their customers. It is also an opportunity to showcase new technologies, innovative solutions in health care trends, enhancement and diagnostic products, lifestyle health plans and career opportunities. This year we will be partnering with IMSS and merging two very successful health events. More about that in the weeks ahead.

Another exciting upcoming local event is the Today's Woman Conference. It will be held on Friday, October 3, at

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

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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

the Coast Inn of The North. There will be a number of workshops available, and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to meet and learn with other woman. Vijay Basden will be doing a session on Embracing Leadership, Pattie Nitsch, along with Jan Marston, Meagon Harrington and Nancy Fowler, speaking on Women in Technology. The last session will be Heather Martin – Navigate your way to Success. I am honoured to be the luncheon speaker for the event. Together, they will share experiences on how to get started, the challenges involved, the personal fulfillment and rewards of leadership. For more information, pick up a brochure at Special Events Creator or my constituency office. You can also visit www.todayswomanshow.com. Registration is required, so please call 250-564-3737, or fax your information to 260-563-1616.

Despite chilly weather Wednesday morning we found dozens of enthusiastic volunteers on the streets of Prince George selling newspapers to raise funds for children and family literacy programs. As always, Prince George residents were generous and supportive and the morning was very successful. All the money raised stays in Prince George and will be matched by my ministry. A huge thank you to the Prince George Citizen, the organizing committee and all the volunteers – great job everyone!

This week I also attended the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) convention. The day was filled with many meetings for both me and my colleagues, as we worked with local mayors and councilors from around the province to make progress on issues that matter to communities, municipalities and local governments. The Premier also introduced the Climate Action Revenue Incentive for local governments, whereby one hundred percent of the carbon tax will be returned in the form of a grant if municipalities agree to become carbon-neutral by 2012. We are currently working on a similar model for boards of education. This is an exciting policy initiative that will help British Columbia reach its goal of leading the world in sustainable environmental management.

This weekend I will be up at UNBC for a coaches week recognition luncheon and will attend the roundtable to see how we can work together to revitalize our downtown. Why not attend this event? We are also attending the River's

Day Fundraising at Vanier Hall on Saturday night as part of the BC Rivers Day Festivities. Please come out for this amazing event on Sunday at Fort George Park, where we will be celebrating "History of Living and Working on the rivers of BC - the past 150 years." This family event hosts educational displays from government agencies, industry and community groups, as well as children's activities, guest speakers and four musical acts. See you there at Noon - 5pm on Sunday, rain or shine!

Finally, I am also attending the United Way fashion Show on Monday, where I will be helping greet all of you as you come through the door. Hope to see many of you there!"

Whew...a hectic week and weekend ahead. I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Until next week,

Shirley

Question of the week:

WHAT AWARD DID PRINCE GEORGE RECEIVE AT THE UBCM -2008?

On Sept. 24, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the recipients of the 2008 LiveSmart BC Green Cities Awards. Staff from various provincial ministries and an expert panel of specialists in sustainability and green development chose the 18 finalists for the 2008 LiveSmart BC Green Cities Awards. The categories, community finalists, and cash award amounts allocated to the winners are noted below.

Regional District (Regional)

- Capital Regional District (winner, \$50,000 award)

Population of 0-1,499

- District of Taylor (winner, \$25,000 award)
- Village of Pouce Coupe

Population of 1,500-4,999

- City of Grand Forks (winner, \$25,000 award)
- District of Chetwynd

Population of 5,000-9,999

- Town of Smithers (winner, \$25,000 award)
- District of Sechelt

Population of 10,000 to 24,999

- City of Dawson Creek (winner, \$50,000 award)
- City of White Rock
- City of Langford

Population 25,000 to 99,999

- City of Prince George (winner, \$100,000 award)
- City of North Vancouver
- City of Kamloops

Population 100,000+

- City of Surrey (winner, \$100,000 award)
- City of Kelowna

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Partnership Award

- City of Victoria and Dockside Green Ltd. (winner, \$50,000 award)
- District of Sechelt and Sunshine Coast Association for Community Living (winner, \$50,000 award)
- City of Burnaby and Simon Fraser University Community Trust

The LiveSmart BC Green Cities Partnership Award, a new addition for 2008, recognizes local governments and non-government organizations that have collaborated to address climate change and sustainability issues in innovative ways. The \$100,000 award was divided between two winners this year.

Premier Campbell launched the LiveSmart BC Green Cities Awards in 2006 to support local governments in their efforts to create greener, healthier and more livable communities. The Province allocated up to \$500,000 annually to the program.

For more information about the LiveSmart BC Green Cities Awards and this year's finalists and winners, visit www.greencitiesawards.gov.bc.ca/.

News Around the Province

PREMIER LAUNCHES INITIATIVES TO BOOST RURAL ECONOMIES

Premier Gordon Campbell announced a host of new initiatives to support rural communities today, including a major expansion of the Towns for Tomorrow infrastructure program, extending cell phone and Internet service, a new medical accommodation assistance program and a commitment to help communities utilize industrial resource roads to create better transportation networks.

Every community I visit has a vision of what they want their town to look like and how they plan to make it better for their children," said Premier Campbell, who made the announcements at the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention. "Today we are making a commitment that we will do the small things that make a big difference and work hand-in-hand with communities across British Columbia so they can realize their vision." The Province will expand the Towns for Tomorrow community infrastructure program to communities with a population up to 15,000 and extend the program for an additional two years for a total commitment of \$50 million; \$10 million for the remainder of this year and \$20 million for each of the next two years. Previously, the program was only available to communities with a population up to 5,000.

Unlike traditional government infrastructure programs that provide matching funding up to one-third of the total project costs, Towns for Tomorrow provides up to 80 per cent of the funding for approved projects up to \$500,000, with communities funding the remaining 20 per cent. Towns under 5,000 will continue to cost share with the Province on an 80/20 basis. Towns from 5,000 to 15,000 will share on a 75/25 basis. A new streamlined application process will also be introduced for Towns for Tomorrow, cutting down on the amount of preparation work small communities need to apply for funding.

Applications will be no more than two pages, and communities will have an answer within 60 days.

Other rural and remote initiatives announced by Premier Campbell include:

- A BC Family Residence Program to help provide accommodation for family members who need to travel to regional health centres. It will start at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

The medical travel assistance program will also be increased.

- The extension of cell phone and Internet service directly to homes and businesses. Over the next three years, the Province will use procurement policies to leverage "last mile" Internet connections. The Province also plans to work to expand cell phone service.

- A new one-stop Rural Secretariat within the Ministry of Community Development will directly assist municipalities and regional districts in applying for provincial and federal government infrastructure funding programs.

- An initiative to open access to resource roads for

residents and ensure they are properly maintained. The Province will work with the UBCM executive to develop a plan that ensures resource roads across the province meet the needs of communities.

- A task force composed of representatives from remote communities and farmers will be formed to develop strategies to get fresh food grown in B.C. to remote communities.
- Support for the designation of Wells Gray Park as a United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

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

Bo Hedges

Congratulations on your Silver Medal in Beijing!

We are so proud of you!

Community Announcements
27th Annual United Way
Campaign Kick off Fashion
Show

Monday September 29th, 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 3rd Avenue (5th 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

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Celebrating the Paralympic and the Olympic dream at a Special Breakfast!

Robert "Bo" Hedges, is returning from his Silver Medal performance in Beijing.

Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 10:30 am

Coast Inn of the North

Tickets- \$25/ea or table of 8/\$175

RSVP by October 1 ~ 250-960-5346

**Mark your calendar...**

❖ September 27 – Downtown Community Rally,

- 12 noon – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue at George Street.
- ❖ 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
  - ❖ September 28 – **Jaydee Bixby** and his band play at Vanier Hall and Sunday at Fort Goerge Park, tickets at ticketmaster.ca
  - ❖ October 1 – **Jason Scotts**- A solo tribute to Neil Diamond at the Prince George Playhouse – Door open at 6:30pm Show at 7:30 tickets \$22.50 available at Studio 2880
  - ❖ October 3 & 4 - **Stuart McLean** on CBC Vinyl Café tour at Vanier Hall – tickets at Ticketmaster.ca
  - ❖ October 5 – **Breakfast** celebrating the Paralympic and the Olympic Dream – Coast Inn of the North at 10:30 am, tickets \$25 ea or table of 8/\$175. call 250-963-5346, RSVP by Oct 1.
  - ❖ October 3-25- **Theatre North West** first play of the season–“The Number 14” call 250-563-6969
  - ❖ October 10 – **AiMHi’s Community Living Pancake Breakfast** – 8am – 10am – 950 Kerry Street. Cost \$2.00 per person.
  - ❖ October 15- **AiMHi’s Healthy Living Fair** – 1pm - 7pm Held at AiMHi- 950 Kerry Street, admin by donation.
  - ❖ October 17-19 – **West of the Rockies Pro Rodeo** finals at CN Centre. Rodeo dance, Sat Oct 18 at the Roll-a-dome, tickets at ticketmaster.ca
  - ❖ October 17- **Shattering**- Forum Theatre created and performed by people who have struggled with addiction at the Prince George Civic Centre, pay by donation, 7pm for info 250-565-6332
  - ❖ October 19 - Child Development Centre’s 20<sup>th</sup> **Annual Dutch Auction**, for info call 563-7168
  - ❖ November 8 – **Wine Festival** – Come out and support theatre North West while enjoying a fun evening of delicious wine tasting, appetizers, silent auction and new for 2008- mini wine tasting lessons. 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm Tickets \$35 available at Books and Co. and TNW office.

***If you are a non profit organization and would like to advertise an upcoming event or share a story please email [Shirley](mailto:shirley@shirleybondmla.bc.ca)***

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](#).**

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