



Useful Web Links

December 5, 2008



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Hello Everyone,

Wow...what a week in Canadian Politics! I can honestly say that despite the frustration most of us feel with what happened in Ottawa, it certainly got people engaged. As I did my work at home and around the province there was no shortage of commentary. My biggest concern is that with all the debate and conflict it means a loss of focus on our number one issue...the economy. Interesting times ahead!!!

On Monday our government announced an investment of \$17 million in energy efficiency retrofits for low-income housing that will help put more money in the pockets of low-income British Columbians. This program will help BC families reduce energy costs and the carbon footprint. This is a timely announcement as we head into winter in Northern BC. The funding is part of the \$60 million, three-year LiveSmart BC: Efficiency Incentive Program, which supports residential energy evaluations and energy efficiency, retrofits. The funding for low-income participants will be available over three years and has set a target of 9,000 retrofits by March 31, 2011. We are also introducing a new regulation under the Utilities Commission Act to support adequate and cost effective energy conservation and efficiency. The new regulation requires and supports new utility conservation programs that are aimed at low-income households and those who rent.

In honour of BC150, we announced \$1.7 million to celebrate

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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

and recognize the significant role that heritage plays in the provincial economy and culture in BC. This funding is provided in partnership with the federal government's Department of Canadian Heritage. Funds will be allocated in two ways. The first is through one-time grants of up to \$20,000 and will be made available to registered non-profit societies, registered federal charities and local governments for the creation of heritage legacy projects throughout the province. The remaining \$700,000 will be provided to community-based managers of provincial heritage properties such as Barkerville. I know we have some wonderful heritage attractions in Prince George such as the heritage trails and downtown heritage walking tours. I hope that organizations take the time to apply for this funding to ensure we get a share of the grant money in Northern BC.

This week also saw new members appointed to the Forest Practices Board; among these new appointees was Prince George's Michael Nash. The Forest Practices Board is an independent, government-funded body that promotes forest stewardship by auditing forest practices of government and license-holders on public lands, auditing government enforcement of the Forest and Range Practices Act and investigating public complaints. Mike is a well-known writer, naturalist and public volunteer with extensive experience in forestry and wildland conservation and recreation matters in northern British Columbia. He was employed by Canfor for 20 years in both information and human resource services and has served as lay councilor for the Association of BC Forest Professionals. Congratulations Michael on your new appointment Mike!

Another forester Lorne Swanell was honoured at a ceremony in Victoria last week. Lorne was honoured on his 100th birthday with the creation of a \$1,500 scholarship to the University of Northern British Columbia's Ecological Science and Management Program in his name. Lorne spent many years in Prince George, moving here in 1939 to become the assistant district forester and later district forester. In 1965, he became the province's Chief Forester, holding this position until 1972. The \$1,500 UNBC scholarship is a wonderful way to honour someone who has dedicated his life to forestry and the public service.

It is with disappointment this week that we saw Prince George's Izaak Smith eliminated from "So You Think You

Can Dance Canada.” Izaak made it to a top six finish and we are all very proud of him. I voted many times for Izaak and I am sure many residents of Prince George did as well. Congratulations, Izaak. We wish you best of luck in the future!!!

Well winter arrived with a bang last night. I was on a late flight to Prince George and it came with the frequent winter weather advisory – not sure we can land! Not what you want to hear on the midnight flight.

Please drive carefully as we all adjust! Have fun with your pre-Christmas activities.

Until next week.

Shirley

Question of the week:

HOW IS THE PROVINCE PROMOTING THINK GREEN SHOP SMART THIS SEASON?

REUSABLE BAG GIVEAWAY IN BC LIQUOR STORES

BC Liquor Stores will be giving away new, reusable bags with any purchase in a B.C. liquor store on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, as part of their environmental awareness campaign – Think Green Shop Smart.

BC Liquor Stores are supporting the government’s goal of caring for the environment. Since Think Green Shop Smart store campaign began in early 2007, BC Liquor Stores reduced their plastic bag distribution by 4.8 million bags. In support of the event, 100,000 reusable bags have been purchased, and will be distributed as long as supplies last on Dec. 6. The bags will subsequently be available for sale in BC Liquor Stores for 89 cents each. Customers will be encouraged to bring them back to the stores on future visits. The 30 per cent post-consumer recycled content bags will hold two six-packs and two bottles each.

The Liquor Distribution Branch began its Think Green Shop Smart awareness campaign in April 2007. The 4.8 million bag decline marks a 23 per cent reduction in bags destined for landfills. As the program continues to gain momentum, the Liquor Distribution Branch anticipates that the BC Liquor Stores are on track for a 50 per cent reduction in plastic bag usage.

Cashiers in BC Liquor Stores routinely ask customers if they

are able to take their purchase without a plastic shopping bag, and offer customers the option of purchasing a reusable bag. BC Liquor Stores supports the Retail Council of Canada's initiative to reduce plastic bag use by 50 per cent in five years.

News Around the Province

FUNDING SUPPORTS WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Women in British Columbia's science and technology sector are receiving \$53,950 in funding from the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development.

According to the most recent Small Business Profile, 36 per cent of self-employed businesses are led by women. Ensuring female entrepreneurs are given access to programs such as Wired Woman will help increase the number of women working in British Columbia's vibrant science and technology sector, while encouraging awareness of this field and supporting our economy. Small business in British Columbia is dominated by high tech-related firms. The Province is pleased to support this mentorship program in partnership with Small Business and Revenue, to help women take advantage of these opportunities.

The Wired Woman Mentorship Program is currently in its second year of providing women who are entering or re-entering the science and technology sector with quality one-on-one mentoring relationships with executive-level technology professionals.

Key components of the program include mentoring supported through educational opportunities such as workshops and industry networking events. This funding builds on the \$60,375 provided in January 2008. These funds allow the program to enhance and expand their mentorship program by developing tools, such as an online mentoring initiative, to increase opportunities for women across British Columbia.

Since 1996, Wired Woman, a Canadian non-profit society, has created an open, nurturing, integrity-based environment that encourages women to explore opportunities in technology, science and new media and to build successful careers that will allow them to become a driving force in these growing sectors.

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

*Victoria and Phoenix Medical Building Staff members for their challenge competition to donate toy items to St Vincent de Paul
They contributed 400 items for Children
Thanks for all you do in our community!!!*

Community Announcements

Northern BC Business and Technology Awards

Call for Nominations

Deadline January 9/2009

**For More Information Call Michael Kerr
250-960-5938**

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ December 5 – **Winter wonderland Christmas Lunch** from 11:30 to 1:30 pm at the Civic Centre. \$19 per person for info call 250-561-7723
- ❖ December 6 – **Hart Pioneer's Craft & bake sale** 9am-4pm for info 250-962-6712
- ❖ December 6 – **Disney High School Musical**; the Ice Tour at the CN Centre – tickets go on sale call Ticket master
- ❖ December 6 – North Central Guide Outfitters Assoc Hunter **Banquet auction/Fundraiser** and dance at the Blackburn Community Centre, live and silent auction, door prizes, raffles, midnight lunch, 6pm - tickets \$35 at Northern Hardware.
- ❖ December 7 – **Kidney Foundation Christmas Capers** Luncheon at the Legion- All renal patients, families and caregivers and renal staff welcome. Please contact Karen 250-563-2998 if you wish to attend.
- ❖ December 7 – **PG Cougars** team up with Boston Pizza to help support Big Brothers Big Sisters. Drop by Boston Pizza all day long. For info call call 250-563-7410
- ❖ December 7- **Pancake Brunch with Santa** 9am to noon at the Hart Community Centre fundraising event for Muscular Dystrophy. \$10 for adults and

- \$5 for children.
- ❖ December 7 – **Borealis Chamber Choir** at St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 8pm tickets \$15 ea, available at Studio 2880, Books & co. and PG Conservatory of Music.
 - ❖ December 13 – Gospel concert at Prince George Playhouse – **Sacred songs of Elvis Presley**- tickets at Studio 2880 for info call 250-563-2880
 - ❖ December 13 – **Free Press Annual Food Drive**, 10am-4pm Bring a minimum of 6 cans of non-perishable goods or new unwrapped toys to 1773 South Lyon St. For more info call 250-564-0005
 - ❖ December 13 – **Latino Christmas** party at the Art Space above Books & Co. Cost to non-members is \$10; free to Members
 - ❖ December 13 – Special **Christmas indoor market** by the vendors of the Farmers Market at St Michael's Church Hall on 5th & Victoria between 9am-2pm
 - ❖ December 14- **Maureen Washington** at the Waddling Duck at 7pm tickets \$15 available at Books 7 Co.
 - ❖ December 15 – **Maureen Washington** at the Artspace (cash bar) at 8pm tickets \$15 available at Books 7 Co.
 - ❖ December 18-24 - **PG Railway Museum** is presenting its Celebration of Lights with Santa, a Christmas village and rides on the Cottonwood Railway. Chocolate and hot dogs around the bonfire- open 11-8pm.
 - ❖ December 19-21 – **Hansel and Gretel with UBC Opera**, tickets available at the PGSO office on 15th for info 250-562-0800
 - ❖ January 24 to Feb 1 – The **Coldsnap Festival**; six main stage events are \$25 or three for \$60. Tickets go on sale Nov15 at Studio 2880, Books and Co, and Meow Records.
 - ❖ February 12-15- **Disney High School Musical** ice tour at the CN Centre, tickets on sale at Ticket Master.

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