



Useful Web Links

December 14, 2007



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Hello Everyone,

What a week in Prince George! Since hearing of the ice dam and flooding, I have been working with John Les, our Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to ensure the Province is doing all we can to assist in the flood response. This is certainly a challenging time for residents and businesses alike and we will continue to work closely with the city, as they are the lead on the emergency response. Assistance from the Province to date includes the following:

- The gabion baskets that were successfully used during spring freshet are once again being deployed having been sent from Vanderhoof and Chilliwack.
- The Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) is activated to level 2 and is in contact with the City of Prince George staff to determine various emergency response needs.
- A Ministry of Environment flood specialist has been providing expert advice and assistance as well as other experts with significant flood response experience.
- 24 hr monitoring of ice and river conditions has been instituted by the City of Prince George, supported by the PREOC.
- The Regional District of Fraser Fort George is also monitoring ice jam conditions on the

Ask Your MLA.

Useful Phone numbers

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

PharmaNet 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

Blackwater River outside Prince George, with support from the PREOC.

- The City of Prince George has opened an Emergency Social Services (ESS) Reception Centre, for the people ordered to evacuate by the localized flooding, at the community Civic Centre.

We need to hope that the weather provides the right conditions to allow the water to recede. In the meantime we will keep working hard!

Last week, a unique project designed to engage thousands of British Columbians in the celebration of Aboriginal culture during B.C.'s 150th anniversary was announced. Conceived by the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) leadership and supported by the ministry's BC150 Years secretariat, the Cowichan 2008 Story Pole: British Columbians Carve a Moment in History tour will be led by a lead carver and his team who will transform a 20-foot western red cedar log into a story pole that commemorates the history of B.C.'s Aboriginal peoples.

The pole will embark on a 13-week tour, visiting over 45 communities across the province. In each community, people will be invited to try their hand at carving the log while learning about traditional carving methods and Aboriginal history. On June 30-July 1 the pole will be in Prince George – just in time for Canada Day!

Looking for a Christmas gift for a BC Parks enthusiast? You can now create and purchase personalized calendars featuring their favourite park scenes. The online calendar builder can be accessed through: www.bcparks.ca.

BC Parks has made available about 150 of the best photos from almost 80 different provincial parks. By following simple instructions, customers can choose their favourite photos and create customized, high-quality desktop or wall calendars.

The calendars retail for \$20 (desktop) and \$25 (wall), plus applicable taxes, shipping and handling. You can also purchase gift cards so your family and friends can create the calendars themselves.

Good news from the oil and gas rights sales. The Dec. 12, 2007 sale of oil and gas rights in northeast British Columbia capped a record-breaking year for the province. The \$401 million generated in bonus bids brought the year-end total to over \$1 billion in revenue.

It was my pleasure to announce this week that the Province will provide \$10.6 million in funding to enable school districts around the province to purchase new clean-energy school buses. In total, the funding will allow districts to purchase over 80 new buses and in some cases enhance their fleets to include propane and hydrogen injection systems. The cleaner burning new diesel buses will reduce exhaust particulate emissions by 90 per cent compared to the previous 1994 standard. We are also piloting 4 hybrid buses in the province and these are among the first in North America!

Not long now until Christmas! I hope you aren't feeling too frazzled with all the preparation and that you can take time to support some of the amazing agencies in Prince George who work every day of the year to improve the lives of those who may not be as fortunate as we are. I have enjoyed my time volunteering at the Salvation Army Kettle, providing gifts and treats to many events and Bill and I are looking forward to attending the HEARTS Seniors Dinner – an annual favourite as we serve and visit with some of our pioneers. We also hope to be able to toss our Teddy at the Cougars Teddy Bear Toss game on the weekend. So despite the hectic pace, take some time to share and be thankful for our blessings!

Until next week...
Shirley,

Question of the week:

What service can help increase cardiac arrest survival rates?

The BC Ambulance Service is reporting a 20 per

cent increase in cardiac arrest survival rates, attributed to improvements in the care given by BC Ambulance Service paramedics.

The BCAS is working in partnership with the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC) – a resuscitation research initiative, first responders, and the emergency medicine research team at St. Paul's Hospital – to improve survival rates of cardiac arrest victims. This is the first province wide cardiac arrest research report produced as part of the ROC Initiative. It shows that through focused dispatcher and paramedic training and education in new CPR techniques the BC Ambulance Service is saving more lives.

Known contributors to cardiac arrest survival include: early bystander CPR, rapid response times, quality professional CPR, and early defibrillation. To improve these known contributors, the BC Ambulance Service delivered targeted training to paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers throughout the province in new CPR techniques. This included holding around 300 CPR courses at locations throughout the province for approximately 3,000 paramedics and also supporting CPR instructions to first responders.

Early results from the report indicate that the increase in survival rates is primarily due to the BC Ambulance Service training on new and more effective CPR techniques, as well as an increase in bystander CPR through BCAS dispatcher coaching. The cardiac arrest outcomes report compares data collected between January and June 2006, the six-month period before improved paramedic training, and then between October 2006 and March 2007, the six-month period after training. The annualized number of survivors from cardiac arrest in the communities covered by the ROC research (which covers 75 per cent of all British Columbians) increased from 108 to 130, a 20 per cent increase in survival rates. If this effect is sustained, approximately 30 more victims of cardiac arrest will be resuscitated and discharged from hospital each year across British Columbia.

The report also showed that instances of bystander CPR increased, with bystanders now performing CPR in 41 per cent of cardiac arrest cases, often

through the help and instruction of a BC Ambulance Service dispatcher.

The best chance of survival for someone in cardiac arrest is still to have a bystander perform early CPR until paramedics arrive and can provide state of the art professional CPR and defibrillation.

That is why the BC Ambulance Service is committed to promoting and educating the public through initiatives such as the Vital Link Award and High School CPR program. We see the value of CPR every day and have more and more evidence that demonstrates that good CPR works.

The significant success so far achieved is not the ultimate goal but only the beginning. Continued focus on the primary determinants of survival will further increase the number of citizen survivors from sudden, unexpected death.

News Around the Province

ACTNOW BC HIGHLIGHTED IN NATIONAL HEALTH REPORT

A national report released today profiles ActNow BC as a leading-edge program with a comprehensive approach to improving health in B.C., announced Gordon Hogg, Minister of State for ActNow BC.

The Health Council of Canada's report, *Why Health Care Renewal Matters: Learning from Canadians with Chronic Health Conditions*, highlights B.C.'s role in leading the way in chronic disease prevention through the ActNow BC initiative.

The acknowledgement from the Health Council of Canada for the work we are doing with ActNow BC further supports the accolades already received for British Columbia's efforts.

It is known that chronic health disease prevention is a crucial issue with respect to today's health-care demands, and this report reinforces the province's approach. The report states that one-third of youth and adults in Canada have one or more chronic health conditions such as arthritis, cancer, diabetes and heart disease. ActNow BC is highlighted in the report for its government-wide approach and strong partnerships in addressing the issue of chronic disease risks.

The goals of ActNow BC are to encourage British Columbians to increase physical activity, increase their daily intake of fruits and vegetables, reduce or eliminate tobacco use and ensure healthy pregnancies.

As British Columbians work to improve their health through programs like ActNow BC, British Columbia will continue to be recognized as one of the healthiest provinces in Canada.

The Health Council of Canada is comprised of members across the country and is accountable to the regions it represents. It was created in 2003 as part of the First Ministers' Accord on Health and provides an independent assessment of health-care renewal in Canada.

For more information on ActNow BC, visit www.actnowbc.ca.

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

Spee-Dee Printers for their beautiful window display in the annual downtown business Christmas light-up competition. Great Job!!
Congratulations!!

Community Announcements

New exhibits at Two Rivers Gallery
Debutante and Crossroads
Now until February 17

There is still a few Family Sundays before the New Year at the gallery. This weekends' program is Snowglobes, mini winter wonderlands that won't melt indoors. Dec 16 is Angels, dec 23 is Perfect Poinsettias and Dec 30 is Music Makers. Sunday sessions are from 2-4pm, free for members or included with admission. For more info call 614-7800

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ Nov 28 – Jan 1 - **FREE PARKING DOWNTOWN**
- ❖ Dec 14-SPCA Food and Supplies Drive- Bring donations to the Cougars game tonight against Kamloops Blazers.
- ❖ Dec 15- Annual Teddy Bear Toss – Cougars game against Kamloops.
- ❖ Dec 16 – The Prince George Band Jeremy Stewart and the Rest performs with the Evert Street Choir at a Christmas concert at 7pm at Artspace. Admission \$10
- ❖ Dec 19 – Christmas Improv Ad Nauseum at Artspace. Doors open at 7:30 pm show at 8pm. Tickets \$8 advance and \$10 at the door.
- ❖ Dec 20 - 22 – Bel Canto Choir presents A Christmas Carol at Prince George Playhouse tickets \$15 at Studio 2880 or Call 962-1663
- ❖ Dec 21 –23 - The Nutcracker- presented by Judy Russell' Enchainment Dance Centre at Vanier Hall. Tickets available at Studio 2880
- ❖ Dec 31 – A New Years Night at the Museum – family sleepover at the Exploration Place on December 31. For more info call Jennifer at 562-1612 ext 242

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](#).

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