



Useful Web Links

December 14, 2007



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[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](#)

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

Hello Everyone,

Who can believe it?? 4 more sleeps to Christmas 2007. I am hoping that today finds most of you with your shopping and Christmas preparation complete or just the last minute things to do! I always regret that we spend so much time at a frantic pace and miss the opportunity to pause and reflect on the really important things about the Christmas season.

We have spent the last week dealing with the impacts of Mother Nature. The ice jam and consequent flooding that has resulted in a local state of emergency being declared is something I have never seen to this degree in my 50+ years here. This morning I participated in another tour of the area. It was amazing to see how much work had been done since my last visit to the site. It was very difficult to see the damage to residences and meet with some of the families who have been very significantly affected. Along River Road there was much improvement and in fact in some areas where water had been standing at 3 feet deep, the water is now gone and there are vehicles and people moving throughout the yards. The one message that we heard as we toured was how grateful everyone is for the hundreds of people who have been working 24 hours a day to make sure we start to get a handle on the situation. The challenge we face continues to be with the weather and in fact the cool temperatures last night have added some new water flow and that

Ask Your MLA
Archive: [Click here](#) to read
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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

is the priority to deal with at the moment. I want to say how impressed I have been with the coordination and teamwork that is making a difference. Thanks to everyone who is contributing – I can't imagine where we would be without all of you!

My staff and I would like to express our sincere sympathy to the family of Regional District Director Shelley Zenzen on her tragic death. We have worked closely with Shelley on numerous projects in the areas of our constituency that we shared with her. We were shocked to hear about her death and will always remember her as an incredibly passionate and capable representative for the people who elected her. We know that she will be deeply missed by her family, her friends and her colleagues. As you spend time with your loved ones this Christmas please join us and take a moment to remember her family and others whose circumstances make this Christmas a very painful one. Shelley, thank you for the work you did – you made a difference and we will miss you.

This will be our last Ask Your MLA until 2008. Dorothy, Dustie and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the cards, calls, visits and treats that have been delivered to our office in December. Your support and encouragement make our jobs much more enjoyable. Our team wants to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and healthy 2008. We all plan to spend some quality time with our families who support us in the work that we do. Without them, we don't get to spend the countless hours necessary to do a good job representing our constituents. So have a very safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to connecting with you out and about in the community.

Until January 2008,
Shirley



Watch Shirley Bond's
Christmas Greetings

Click on link to watch

<http://www.shirleybondmla.bc.ca/2721/60145/>

Question of the week:

What Can You Do To Plan A Safe Road Trip This Holiday Season?

Before highway traveling this holiday season, the Ministry of Transportation recommends motorists plan a safe trip by checking the DriveBC website (www.drivebc.ca) for the latest road and weather conditions. Travelers may also call the toll-free DriveBC line (1-800-550- HWYS).

Drive BC has more than 100 highway webcams throughout the province that show current road conditions with links to Environment Canada weather forecasts for the highway to be traveled. DriveBC also provides road reports, travel advisories, road closure information, winter driving tips, toll-free phone numbers for the ministry's road maintenance contractors - which also provide local road condition information - and other important links.

The ministry's road and bridge maintenance contractors will be patrolling highways and plowing and sanding where needed. Motorists are advised to stay well back of a plow truck, do not pass when its lights are flashing and never pass it on the right. Plow trucks will move to the side of the road to allow travelers to pass when it is safe to do so.

Drivers should make sure their vehicles are ready for winter driving. Most important is a good set of winter tires. Motorists should plan more travel time for trips, slow down and allow more following distance between vehicles. For long distance travel, drivers are encouraged to pack an emergency kit including blanket, flashlight, emergency rations, and warm clothing and footwear.

Other winter tips include:

- Carry chains suitable for your vehicle and practice installing them
- Fill your gas tank to avoid gas line freeze-up
- Replace worn windshield wiper blades and top up windshield fluids, as road spray may reduce visibility

- Do not use cruise-control or overdrive
- Watch for wildlife, which may be feeding along roadsides
- Take extra care in shaded areas, bridges and intersections, which are more vulnerable to black ice
- Reduce your speed; remember that the maximum posted speed is intended for ideal road and weather conditions

The ministry has been working with other partners including ICBC, RCMP, BCAA, the BC Trucking Association, highway maintenance contractors and WorkSafe BC to help promote winter driving preparedness. Other web sites with winter driving information include:

- ICBC <http://www.icbc.com>
- BCAA <http://www.bcaa.com>

News Around the Province

PERSONALIZED BC PARKS CALENDARS AVAILABLE ONLINE

BC Parks enthusiasts can now create and purchase their own personalized calendars featuring their favourite park scenes, Environment Minister Barry Penner announced today.

“The BC Parks system protects many of the most diverse and beautiful wilderness spaces in British Columbia,” said Penner. “By building your own calendar, you will be able to enjoy scenes from your favourite provincial parks on your desktop or wall throughout the year.”

BC Parks has partnered with micalendar.ca to bring this special opportunity to parks fans. The micalendar.ca 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. British Columbia has the largest provincial parks system in Canada, with almost 900 parks and protected areas.

Since 2001, the provincial government has established 46 new parks, 65 conservancies, one ecological reserve and eight protected areas, and expanded almost 50 parks and six ecological reserves, protecting more than 800,000 hectares. Today, almost 14 per cent (or more than 13 million hectares) of British Columbia land is protected – more than any other province in Canada.

To make the province's world-class parks system even better, the B.C. government has made a capital investment of more than \$65 million over the past three years to improve park facilities and acquire new lands. A portion of calendar sales proceeds will be directed towards education and interpretive programs in B.C.'s provincial parks.

In addition, to help fund the development and delivery of outdoor educational and activity programming for children and youth, four limited-edition wildlife prints by renowned B.C. artist and naturalist Robert Bateman are being offered for sale at all Canadian Tire stores in British Columbia. The prints sell for \$299.95 for the set of four, or \$79.95 each. For more information, visit www.bcparks.ca.

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

The generous people of Prince George, for your generosity all year long but especially stepping up to the plate this Christmas Season. Give yourself a big pat on the back for reaching out to the community.

Community Announcements

Visit Santa

Dec 18 to 24

Railway & Forestry Museum

5 pm to 9pm

Skate on the Pond

Make Christmas Cards

See the Fantastic Miniature Village

Shop at the Gift Store

Ride the Mini Rail

Guest correct number of lights to win prizes!! For info 563-7351

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ Nov 28 – Jan 1 - **FREE PARKING DOWNTOWN**
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Dec 31 – Blackburn Community Assoc New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance; Prime Rib/Seafood /Party favors. Music by Absolute Sound DJ Service; tickets \$35 for more info call 963-3292
- ❖ Dec 31- Royal Canadian Legion New Year's Eve Ball; \$30 per person; for more info call the Legion at 562-1292
- ❖ Jan 10 – Chamber luncheon with Mayor Colin Kinsley at the Ramada Hotel – for more info call the Chamber at 562-2454
- ❖ Jan 19 – Ralph Klein to Speak at 2008 Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture, Dinner and Dance. Tickets \$100.00 ea for more info call Rob van Adrichem, 960-5622

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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