



Useful Web Links

January 11, 2008



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Hello everyone:

Well the ice jam challenges continue. This has been an almost unbelievable situation in the North and continues to garner provincial and national attention. I was born here and cannot remember a circumstance like this. I continue to be impressed and grateful for the hundreds of volunteers and staff that are working tirelessly to try to win this battle. I have been in continuous contact with the City, PEP, government staff and ministers to make sure we have the resources we need sometimes even before they are requested! While there are certainly frustrations and issues that have to be worked on - for the most part everyone who is involved has one goal and that is protecting people and their property and ultimately the city as best we can. Thanks so much to each of you and rest assured that we will continue to work hard to deal with short term issues and create a long term mitigation strategy!

Good news on the education front this week as our outstanding results continues. BC students who take part in Advanced Placement courses placed first in North America according to the latest exam results. These programs allow students to earn credit for first-year college or university courses while still in high school. More than 4500 BC students wrote the exams. Choice programs like this one provide important options for students within the public education system. Thanks and

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

congratulations to all the hardworking students, teachers and staff that made these results possible!

Do you know a student that could benefit from some additional tutoring?? Then why not have them visit LearnNow BC!! Today in partnership with the Virtual School Society we announced an expansion of services for BC students. Grade 11 students will now be able to access online tutoring for 5 additional subjects on the LearnNow BC website. Almost 25,000 students have used this service in the last year and it is continuing to increase in popularity. Grade 11 courses include Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Math and Physics. These new student services will help us increase each student's possibility for success.

Do you have a story that you would like to share as part of "The People's History Project"? These stories can be told in text form, photographs, video and audio presentations and are part of an ad to help celebrate BC's 150th anniversary as a Crown Colony. Everyone has a story to tell so why not share yours! Visit the Royal BC Museum website for details on how to participate. More about this and other exciting events in future editions of AYMLA.

Well a weekend full of work and events. I will have a number of meetings related to the ice jam situation and Bill and I also plan to attend the memorial service for Shelley Zenzen. There are also a couple of Cougar games that we will try to catch and many other great activities to choose from. So have a good weekend and let's keep our fingers crossed that Mother Nature will give us a bit of a break with our ice jam!!

Until next week,
Shirley

Question of the week:

WHO IS #1 IN COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMS?

British Columbia students taking college-level

courses while still in high school placed first in North America according to the results of the latest advanced placement exams. BC students' average score for advanced placement exams is at an all-time high and exceeded those of every other Canadian province and American state. These exceptional scores again show that the education system in B.C. is among the best in the world, and that the Province is making progress in its goal of becoming the best educated, most literate jurisdiction in North America.

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program allows students around the world to pursue college level studies while still in secondary school. Students with high AP exam results receive credit for first-year college or university courses, which can save them time and money when they start their post-secondary education.

Internationally, more than 16,000 schools participate in the AP program, including 145 B.C. secondary schools. Worldwide, close to 1.5 million students wrote more than 2.5 million exams. In B.C., 4,554 students wrote 7,175 exams, comprising more than 37 per cent of all the AP exams written in Canada. Other highlights from the May 2007 AP exams include:

- B.C.'s average score for all AP exams is 3.65 (out of 5), an all-time high for British Columbia and the highest average of any Canadian province or American state.
- After B.C., Alberta had the next highest average score, 3.45.
- Canada's average score was 3.40, compared to 2.88 in the United States.
- Massachusetts had the highest average score in the United States at 3.35.

The AP Program currently offers 37 advanced placement courses in 22 subject areas to students in Canada, the United States and more than 100 other countries.

Canada is one of the top performing AP jurisdictions in the world, and B.C. students, in particular, are proving that they are receiving a top-notch education.

The College Board, a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity, runs the Advanced Placement program. It is composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrolment, and teaching and learning. BC's Advanced Placement students are number one in North America and are among the very best in the world. These young people have laid the groundwork for a strong educational future. The Advanced Placement results follow two other recent international tests in which B.C. students excelled. British Columbia placed among the top international achievers in the 2006 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), and is a world leader in literacy according to results from the 2006 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS).

News Around the Province

FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES IN KAMLOOPS AND 100 MILE HOUSE

A joint investment of \$3.4 million from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia will help to build a new library for Kamloops and help to upgrade the library in 100 Mile House. The funding is provided through the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CBCMRIF), which supports the continued growth of communities across B.C. as healthier, greener and more sustainable places to live.

The Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) will receive \$2 million to build a new 1,850- square-metre library, which will include a computer lab, reading garden and art gallery space. The new library doubles the size of existing library facilities and consolidates Kamloops' library services into one location. In addition, the Cariboo Regional District

(CRD) will receive more than \$1.4 million to expand the existing 100 Mile House Library. The upgrades include a new mezzanine, multi-purpose rooms, reading lounges, parking stalls and online public access catalogue stations. The library expansion will fully integrate the existing facility into one building that will better serve the public. This investment will enable the residents of Kamloops and 100 Mile House to have access to library facilities that meet their communities' growing needs. These infrastructure improvements ensure families have access to modernized, accessible libraries. These funds that will double the size of the facilities and support literacy, as a result, meeting the needs of vibrant and growing communities. These infrastructure improvements support education and enhance community services while contributing to the vitality of the areas.

The new library will be a vibrant facility which will be more accessible and will provide more programming and book collection space. It will assist in the revitalization and redevelopment of the City of Kamloops' north shore and will also serve the regional population as the new headquarters for the regional district's bookmobile service. This new facility will also help meet one of the province's top social goals – literacy.

The expansion of the CRD's 100 Mile House Library is an important project to all residents of the South Cariboo on many levels. The facility will be built from mountain pine beetle-killed trees in a log house style, and will be a welcoming centre for learning and entertainment as literacy continues to improve across the region.

The majority of the program funding from the CBCMRIF, which was launched in June 2006, supports communities of fewer than 250,000 people in minimizing the costs to taxpayers of local infrastructure upgrades or new construction projects. At least 60 per cent of the funding will assist with "green projects" that are geared towards enhancing environmental sustainability, such as water and waste-water systems, public transit and environmental energy improvements. Other infrastructure projects will support local roads, cultural and recreational facilities, infrastructure to

support tourism and broadband connectivity. The funding for this project is conditionally approved pending the successful completion of an environmental assessment.

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

Prince George biathlete Megan Tandy, capturing three gold medals and one bronze in her last four races. Megan has earned herself a spot representing Canada at the World Junior Championships in Germany, slated to start in late January.

*Congratulations Megan!
We're proud of you!*

Community Announcements

BC Natural Resource Forum & Trade Show January 17th & 18th at the Prince George Civic Centre
Reserve your tickets call 564-3737

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Jan 26 – Prince George Construction Association 50th Anniversary “Gala Evening to Remember” at the Civic Centre – tickets \$75 – for tickets and more info call Jeanette at 563-1744
- ❖ Jan 26 – Feb 2nd- Coldsnap 2008 – The Prince George Winter Music Festival- For Venues and artists performing call Books and Company phone 563-6637
- ❖ Jan 31-Feb 2 – Dinner Theatre at the Ramada Inn, Play is called Self HELP. For tickets call Books and Co. or Studio 2880. For more info call 961-0615
- ❖ Jan 31-Feb 2 – Theatre North West at Parkhill Centre presents Hockey Mom Hockey Dad. Tickets at Books & Co. or

- Studio 2880 Call 614-0039 or 563-2880
- ❖ Feb 1 – Northern BC Friends of Children 10th Anniversary Gala at the Coast Inn of the North. Tickets available at The friends of Children office phone 564-2271
 - ❖ Feb 1 – “The 2010 Winter Games- Celebrating the Possible” Speaker John Furlong. 11:45 am to 1:30 pm at the Civic Centre- tickets \$25. info call Mary Graydon at 614-3766
 - ❖ Feb 2 - Feb 9 – Le Cercle des Canadiens Francais. Presents the 23rd annual Festival d’Hiver. Call Prince George French Community centre 561-2565 for info on scheduled events.
 - ❖ Feb 3 – The 17th Annual Sweetheart Bridal Extravaganza – Prince George Civic Centre 11 am – 5 pm
 - ❖ Feb 8 – 23 – Prince George Mardi Gras presents Snow Daze.

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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