

Northern BC Winter Games

The Town of Smithers has been invited to submit a bid application to host the 2013 or 2015 Northern BC Winter Games. Before further considering a project of such magnitude, the Town would need to determine whether or not there is sufficient interest and commitment within the community. According to the application package, approximately 1,000 community volunteers would need to be recruited and trained. As well, the anticipated 1,500 participants would require 250 to 300 billet homes. The Town would be required to contribute \$30,000 in cash, plus \$40,000 in in-kind contributions. Legacies from the Northern BC Winter Games include facility upgrades, sport and athlete development, volunteer skill development, enhanced community pride, and potentially, financial legacies from budget savings, realized through local fundraising efforts. Smithers played host to the Games in 1979, 1986, and 2002, with a total legacy disbursement in 2002 of \$38,252. We are interested in hearing from the community.

Lawn Watering and Water Conservation

Water your lawn only when needed! In hot weather two to three times per week for thirty minutes is usually plenty. Your lawn can only absorb 2.5 centimetres of water at one time. This is equivalent to thirty minutes of watering. Any more than thirty

minutes results in the water running off the lawn into the storm sewer, or evaporating. The time of day you water also affects absorption of water into the roots. By watering between 6 pm and 9 am, you are maximizing water absorption into the roots. If you water outside those times, you are losing much water to evaporation and may actually 'sunburn' your lawn. One way to keep your lawn green and healthy is to set your lawnmower between five and eight centimetres and leave the cut grass on the lawn as fertilizer. If everyone voluntarily conserves water, the Town of Smithers can continue without water restrictions as it has in the past.

Tax Sale

Outstanding tax letters went out to property owners in mid-August. If you received an outstanding tax letter and you owe three years worth of taxes (meaning you owe taxes for the 2010, 2009, and 2008 tax years), you should contact the Town Office as soon as possible to discuss what your options are, to prevent your property being sold in the upcoming annual tax sale on September 27 at 10 am. The Town will be placing ads in the newspaper in September concerning properties that may be coming up for tax sale.

Garage Sale Posters

If you post notices around town to advertise your garage sale, please remember to remove them once the sale is over.

Recreation Update

Fall Programs

Register now for fall recreation programs, online or by phone. Information is available on our website. Brochures will be direct mailed to past participants in late August and handouts will be delivered to local schools in early September.

Arena

The arena is now open. Regular user groups have finalized their schedules. Arena user groups include all eight local elementary and secondary schools. Local associations that use the arena include Smithers Minor Hockey, Smithers Figure Skating Club, Smithers Oldtimers Hockey, Christian Youth Hockey, Smithers Recreation Men's Hockey, two local women's hockey teams, and the Rubber-puckers (50+). The Steelheads CIHL team is another exciting weekly user group. The regular public skating schedule will be available in mid-September. Information is available on our website.

Clubs' Day: September 11 · 9 am to noon St. Joseph's School

This is an opportunity to register children and youth for local sports and recreation opportunities put on by local community groups.

September 2010

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■ = Council meeting at 7:30 pm

