

2009 Annual Report





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

A Look Back at 2009

Following the general election in 2008, which realized many new members on Council, the focus of the Smithers Council in 2009 was on our Strategic Priorities. In order to facilitate moving these priorities forward, we streamlined many of our procedures for efficiencies while maintaining our paramount customer focus. We used Committee of the Whole in a more effective manner and fully engaged the community, business and industry for input in decision making. Our budget process placed a focus on minimal impact to the taxpayer, while maintaining our high standard of service delivery, delivering a responsible budget. Council publicly declared a commitment to customer excellence and will look at everything we do through this lens.

Recognizing the economic viability of our community and surrounding service area, the Town will be implementing a regional economic development initiative with our partners the Regional District and local First Nation Government. The Bulkley Valley Economic Development Office is well on target for implementation in late 2010 and Council is very positive about the economic benefits of this initiative to our region.

Along this economic development theme, the Town continues to focus on the business strategy development of our regional airport as one of our strategic priorities. Our airport is integral to our region's economic success and specifically the success of the mining and exploration industry of the north. Our expanded runway has Smithers poised, ready and open for business.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR CONTINUED

A Look Back at 2009

Many new projects were initiated and completed in 2009 due primarily to our success once again in acquiring grant funding opportunities. Members of Council have made a significant effort in acquiring best practices from outside of Smithers for new ideas, technologies and products that we may apply in our community, again demonstrating the constant search for efficiencies.

Into 2010, Council will continue to focus on customer excellence, fiscal responsibility and diversity and economic development.

I am very proud of the significant achievements of this Council in 2009 and look forward to an equally productive 2010.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cress Farrow".

Cress Farrow
Mayor



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

A Look Back at 2009

Over the course of 2009, Smithers Council established a number of key strategic priorities:

- Finalizing a new Official Community Plan (OCP)
- The Bulkley Valley Economic Development Initiative
- Infrastructure Priorities
- Multiplex Feasibility

Council, in the first year of its three year term, engaged in a thorough review of the draft OCP and finished the year with a finalized Draft to bring to the public. Council encouraged administration to view all projects through the lens of excellence in customer service and organizational efficiency and cost-saving. New efficiencies were realized in labour/management through the amalgamation of two CUPE Collective agreements into one, and budget cost savings were realized by careful evaluation of organizational needs.

The Town of Smithers focused additional efforts on its communication with the public with news releases to the media on special projects. New Gateway signs were also developed as a legacy project for the 2010 Olympic Games, as another communication tool to market the Town and ongoing community events. New websites were launched for both the Town of Smithers and Tourism Smithers.

In May of 2009 the Town conceptualized, coordinated and hosted “**The Northern Sustainability Summit**”, a 2 day event attended by approximately 100 delegates, focusing on northern solutions to making our communities more sustainable.

Infrastructure priority projects completed in 2009 included the signalization of Highway 16 and Tatlow Road, the final details of the Airport runway extension, First Avenue red brick pavement, the completion of the perimeter trail section from Queen Street to Toronto Street, and the Main to Fulton Street walkway.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER CONTINUED

A Look Back at 2009

In the fall of 2009, the Town began working with Bruce Carscaden Architects on a multiplex feasibility study to establish a business case for additional recreational facilities in the Town including a second sheet of ice as the first phase of the multiplex.

The year 2009 laid much of the foundation work for the establishment of a standalone Economic Development office for the Bulkley Valley. In April of 2009, the Town coordinated the startup workshop of the Bulkley Valley Economic Development Initiative, with the initial signatories being the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, the Village of Telkwa, Electoral Area "A" of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, and the Town. The initial signatories worked closely with Lions Gate Economic Development consultants to develop an interim report in November providing background information, an overview of socio-economic conditions and the planning context.

Deborah Sargent
Chief Administrative Officer



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Smithers has a population of approximately 5,200 with another 15,000 people in the surrounding area. Smithers offers a greater variety of amenities and services than other towns similar to its size because of the central location and excellent transportation options. Highway 16, the Smithers Regional Airport, Canadian National Rail, VIA Rail, Bus-lines and close proximity to the Port of Prince Rupert keep Smithers globally connected.

The Bulkley Valley is well known for its diverse economy. Agriculture, forestry, mining, guide/outfitting, recreation, tourism, Local, Provincial and Federal Government offices, transportation, health care, education, service and small business ventures all provide many employment options. With the recent port expansion in this region, Smithers is well situated to tap into international trade opportunities.

The Town of Smithers is nestled in the Bulkley Valley between Hudson Bay Mountain, Babine Mountains, the Telkwa Range and the Hazelton Range. Proximity to these mountains offers outstanding outdoor recreational pursuits for both residents and visitors. Popular activities include downhill and cross country skiing, golfing, mountain biking, kayaking and canoeing, camping, world-class fishing, hiking, and snowmobiling, along with a wide range of indoor recreation opportunities. Smithers also boasts a rich culture in music and the arts.

The aboriginal people of this area are the Wet'suwet'en, a Carrier people of the Athapaskan language group, whose oral history recounts a story of their origins in the Village Dizlegh, on the Bulkley River just east of Hazelton.

The combination of services, recreation and cultural experiences creates an influx of people to the Valley. This phenomenon is termed 'amenity migration.' Smithers will continue to be a place to live by choice, in a beautiful mountain valley inhabited by friendly, vibrant people. For more information on Smithers, please refer to www.smithers.ca for an expanded community profile.



OVERVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT PROCESS

The *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* are the pieces of provincial legislation by which local governments obtain their authority to create bylaws, collect taxes, conduct elections and perform services for their citizens. This legislation also requires that municipalities develop annual reports as a means of informing the public on the activities and functions that are achieved throughout each year. Municipalities are also required to identify objectives, strategies and measures to report on the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal programs.

As these objectives, strategies and measures are refined and reporting practices are improved over the years, a comprehensive picture of municipal operations will be available to the public, funding agencies, partners and any other organization that seeks the information. The information contained in this year's Annual Report depicts the comprehensive progress report for the year 2009 and includes our objectives, for 2010.



CORPORATE SERVICES

2009 Summary

Building on the Human Resource Management framework developed in 2007/08, the year 2009 saw significant activity in the Human Resources department. Programs such as the Employee Performance Evaluation, Service Recognition, New Employee Orientation and standardized recruiting procedures continued to prove their value in achieving a culture of trust, transparency and consistency. With only one grievance (withdrawn) in the year, the Town demonstrated the ongoing commitment to solid labour management relations. The amalgamation of two collective agreements and subsequent housekeeping amendments brought the organization closer together. Sixteen competitions were completed and only one of the new hires came from outside of Smithers. Professional development of our employees continued to be an ongoing focus in order to achieve our desire to be a 'learning organization'. Three local workshops were held in Smithers with 72 Town employees attending.

The Town has a strong commitment to organizational safety as is demonstrated by the successful implementation of the Safety Management System (SMS) developed in 2008. Achieving a Certificate of Recognition (COR) in Safety is a very realistic goal for 2010 and already we are seeing the benefits of the new SMS. Working closely with the BC Municipal Safety Association to achieve this goal, the Town has been recognized as a leader in northern municipalities in terms of our commitment to safety.

Corporate Services continued to work on the refinement of our Council, Committee, and Administrative processes. Significant operational efficiencies were realized in 2009 through this consistent review of what we do. Our 2008 Annual Report was recognized with Honorable Mention in the UBCM Award of Excellence for Best Practices in Annual Reporting.

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CORPORATE SERVICES CONTINUED

2009 Summary

Corporate Services took the lead in the coordination of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay Celebration Event taking place January 30, 2010. Planning began in May 2008, but activity significantly ramped up in the latter half of 2009. Logistics planning for this event was a partnership between the Town of Smithers, the RCMP and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. A Community Task Force was engaged to plan the entertainment and worked closely with members of Council and staff. New Gateway signs for Smithers were designed, produced and installed through 100% grant funding from the Federal Government as a legacy project to the Olympic Torch Relay.

Coming up in 2010 for Corporate Services is the Olympic Torch Relay Celebration Event, North Central Local Government Association AGM & Convention, Job Description Review, iCompass (paperless technology) implementation, COR Certification and Collective Bargaining.

Susan Bassett
Director of Corporate Services



SMITHERS REGIONAL AIRPORT

2009 Summary

In April 2009, the Smithers Regional Airport became a wholly owned entity of the Town of Smithers with the final transfer from Transport Canada now complete. This significant milestone was complemented by the strong focus on improving and upgrading facilities and infrastructure positioning our regional airport as a viable economic development entity into the future.

The 2009 projects included final details to complete the runway expansion, café renovations, landscaping and beautification, installation of a more reliable and customer friendly parking meter, assistance in the installation of Nav Canada's Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS), and various other moderate capital expenditures.

The projects accomplished and improvements made to infrastructure will not only make flying to and from our airport a more positive experience for passengers, but will ready the airport for future development and expanded aviation activity.

Patricia Berg
Airport Manager



SMITHERS REGIONAL AIRPORT

2009 Major Objectives and Results

- ✓ Runway Extension—completed July 2009
 - ✎ Runway now capable of handling jet/turbo-prop aircraft
- ✓ Terminal Concession Upgrades—completed February 2009
 - ✎ Modernized, expanded and improved the visual aesthetics of the concession area
- ✓ Business/Land Use Plan—completed October 2009
 - ✎ Worked with consultant to complete a Business Plan to present to Council
- ✓ Air Navigational Aid Improvements—Ongoing into 2010
 - ✎ Work with Nav Canada for improvements
- ✓ Town Ownership of Airport —Completed April 2009
 - ✎ Successfully concluded the Airport Transfer Agreement

SMITHERS REGIONAL AIRPORT

2010 Major Projects and Strategies

- ⇒ Business/Land Use Plan—Ongoing work towards future development
- ⇒ Air Navigational Aid Improvements—ongoing work with Nav Canada for Flight Service Station and automated Weather Observation System
- ⇒ Equipment Storage Building—Construction to commence in Summer 2010 for new storage building to house airport heavy equipment



WORKS AND OPERATIONS

2009 Summary

The Works and Operations Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Town's infrastructure as well as construction of specific capital works projects. The areas of responsibility include: streets and sidewalks; snow removal and sanding; sanitary sewer collection and treatment; storm water collection; potable water supply and distribution; parks and trails; cemetery; arena; garbage collection; composting; municipal fleet vehicles and buildings.

In addition to regular operation and maintenance, in 2009 the department responded quickly and efficiently to well over 300 requests for service from Smithers residents. In order to keep residents informed of the timing of works or special events (ie. holiday garbage pick-up schedules, spring cleanup week, garbage cart and composter sales, snow clearing operations, water and sewer main flushing), information ads were placed on the local radio, website and in the newspaper at the appropriate times.

2009 proved to be challenging for the Works and Operations crews in terms of snow removal and sanding. The winter snowfalls continued well into the spring, using up almost all the years budget in the first half of the year. From spring through fall, our parks crews and summer students did an amazing job keeping the downtown area, highway boulevards, and parks and trails looking beautiful. This was attested by the many positive comments received from residents and visitors alike.

Wilf Taekema
Director of Works and Operations



WORKS AND OPERATIONS

2009 Major Objectives and Results

- ✓ Replacement of four fleet vehicles per Five Year Fleet/Equipment Replacements—completed 2009
 - ⇒ New vehicles purchased and old vehicles sent to auction
- ✓ Civic Centre (Arena) Light Upgrade—Completed July 2009
 - ⇒ Tendered replacement of existing lights with energy efficient and higher level light fixtures
- ✓ Sewage Treatment Plant Lagoon Aerator Maintenance System Installation—Completed 2009
 - ⇒ Installed system for retrieving aerators from lagoon middle to shoreline for regular maintenance
- ✓ Fall Fair Grounds Improvements—Completed in 2009
 - ⇒ Building roof repair, improved roadways

WORKS AND OPERATIONS

2010 Major Projects and Strategies

- ⇒ Replacement of Town Garbage Truck and Ice Resurfer per the Five Year Fleet/Equipment Replacement Program—Tender and delivery of new equipment by September 30, 2010
- ⇒ Replace Civic Center Boiler with new high efficiency mode—Replacement boiler installed by July 31, 2010
- ⇒ Asphalt Resurfacing of Town Roads and Streets—Funding to come from Capital and Operating Budgets—Complete by July 15, 2010



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2009 Major Summary

The Development Services Department includes these municipal services: Planning, Engineering, Building Inspection, Bylaw Enforcement, Animal Control and Community Policing.

While there were fewer major construction projects in 2009 than in 2008, preparations were made for the major 2010 projects, such as the \$2.4M South Trunk Storm Sewer. A downtown red brick paving stone sidewalk was constructed under a Local Area Service (LAS) project and a new concrete walkway built in a green space buffer to continue enhancing the Town's pedestrian routes and promote healthy living.

Much work was completed on the Official Community Plan update, with an expected early 2010 Public Hearing and subsequent bylaw adoption.

Building Inspections:

- ✓ 8 new homes started
- ✓ 103 building permits issued for a total construction value of \$9,223,785

Development Projects:

- ✓ 3 development permits
- ✓ 5 development variance permits
- ✓ 7 rezoning applications
- ✓ 5 subdivision applications

Mark Allen
Director of Development Services



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- ✓ Update of Official Community Plan (OCP) - Formal adoption process to begin in early 2010
 - ✎ Town Council and Steering Committee reviewed OCP at multiple 2009 Committee of the Whole Meetings. Public Open House held December 2009
- ✓ Willowvale Subdivision Phase 2 Development—On hold
 - ✎ RFP for developers to purchase, construct and market the next phase issued in May 2009 with no responses
- ✓ Building Canada Fund—South Trunk Storm Sewer—Preliminary design completed. Geotechnical investigation, final design and contract documents and tendering to be completed in March with construction to begin in summer 2010
 - ✎ Design base information obtained from Ministry of Transportation and Consulting Engineering firm selected
- ✓ Towns for Tomorrow—Riverside Campground Sewage Lift Station and Washroom Facility—Final design and construction delayed to 2010 due to difficult soil conditions and budgetary issues
 - ✎ Acquired the grant and initiated design
- ✓ Perimeter Trail Expansion on Railway Avenue: Queen to Toronto Street—Completed in August 2009
 - ✎ LocalMotion grant funding received and completed the trail design and construction with Town resources and local contractors
- ✓ Strata Conversion Policy Development—For Council approval in early 2010
 - ✎ Input received from apartment managers and local realtors; benchmarked against other similar sized communities. Public meeting held November 12, 2009
- ✓ Planning for a Healthy and Sustainable Community—Ongoing into 2010
 - ✎ Awarded \$20,000 funding from Ministry of Community and Rural Development to create a Corporate and Community Sustainability Plan. FCM grant application submitted in February 2010 for remainder of funding

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CONTINUED

2009 Major Objectives and Results

- ✓ Fulton Avenue to Main Street Walkway—Completed October 2009
 - Local contractors constructed a 2.5m concrete walkway and cleaned up green space park using gas tax funds
- ✓ 1st Avenue Sidewalk Downtown Local Area Service Project—Completed August 2009
 - Successful LAS petition and construction by local contractors of entire side of the 3700 Block
- ✓ Public Library Expansion Concept Development—Design concept completed, project cost estimate to be completed in 2010
 - Library Building Committee and Architect/Consultant developed a LEED-qualified design concept, held public and stakeholder meetings and presented concept plans to Council

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

2010 Major Projects and Strategies

- ⇒ Official Community Plan—Adoption in Spring 2010
- ⇒ Strata Conversion Policy—Draft policy to Council by May 2010
- ⇒ Corporate and Community Sustainability Plan—upon successful FCM grant award, GHG reduction inventory, reduction targets, and strategies—Complete by November 2010
- ⇒ South Trunk Storm Sewer—Tendering of design and contract documents in March with construction commencing in the summer—Complete by 2010 year end
- ⇒ Riverside Campground Sewage Lift Station and Washroom Facility—tendering of design and contract documents in Spring with Construction commencing in the summer—Complete by 2010 year end

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PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

2009 Major Objectives and Results

- ✓ DARE Officer Training—Completed in October 2009
 - ☞ Graduated from Fall 2009 training
- ✓ Bylaw Officer Level II Training—Course is under redesign
 - ☞ Justice Institute will advise next course offering
- ✓ BRAVE Training for Elementary Schools—Completed 2009
 - ☞ Provided training in spring and fall semesters for grades 4-6 students. RCMP and Victims Assistance incorporated into program delivery
- ✓ Asset Model Strategies for Crime Prevention—Deliver training to new RCMP recruits in Summer 2010 upon request
 - ☞ Asset model training not delivered due to staffing changes at RCMP. Positive ticketing program now in its second year and new sponsors acquired
- ✓ Bylaw Enforcement and Monitoring—Attended LIBOA training in June 2009
 - ☞ Bylaws being revisited to address enforcement issues. Not pursuing MTI process for ticketing.

PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

2010 Major Projects and Strategies

- ⇒ Complete DARE training for all Grade 5 students in School District 54—Complete by June 2011 teaching 4-6 classes per year sharing the training with other Officers
- ⇒ 2 Hour Parking Requirement for Downtown Avenues—amend the current bylaw to allow 2 hour parking on Avenues in C1A zone—Bylaws ready and signs erected by May 2010
- ⇒ Animal Control Bylaw—Updated existing regulations and introduced ‘standards of care’ and procedures for dealing with dangerous dogs—Bylaw adopted March 2010

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PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONTINUED

2010 Major Projects and Strategies

- ⇒ Youth Crime Prevention Initiatives Development—attend Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design training and establish Block Watch programs within the community. Have at minimum 1 active Block Watch neighbourhood by January 2010 and complete training by summer 2010
- ⇒ Crime Prevention and Community Safety Programming—maintain existing programs and enhance effectiveness through research of community crime trends and develop preventative programming accordingly. Seek out opportunities to market programming and educate public. Evaluate new programming and public use by winter 2010



SMITHERS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2009 Summary

Smithers Fire Rescue has been able to retain a volunteer force of 42 firefighters consistently over the years without needing to recruit continually. The commitment of these firefighters, many with tenures over 15 years, speaks to the dedication to the protection of their community and its citizens. Organizationally, Smithers Fire Rescue fosters the Town's commitment to a positive, trusting and collaborative environment.

Firefighters provide services beyond structural firefighting such as: First Responder (pre-hospital care); Highway Rescue; Aircraft Firefighting; Fire Prevention; and, Public Fire Safety Education.

Fire prevention focuses on areas such as code enforcement and fire inspection services. Public fire safety education provides general information on preventing accidents in the home and workplace through lectures, tours, printed materials and fire extinguisher demonstrations. We have seen significant success in our education of children in the elementary school setting. They absorb our information like sponges and in turn take it home to the dinner table and educate their families.

2009 saw the completion of the comprehensive Fire Services Review to evaluate the appropriate level of fire and emergency services for the present and future. This evaluation was aimed at identifying the organizational strengths, as well as service gaps and critical issues in the current delivery system. Further, the study assessed the current duties, responsibilities and performance of the Fire Chief and (part-time) Deputy Fire Chief. As a result, at the end of 2009, the Town restructured the Department and moved the Deputy Fire Chief's position to full-time to ensure the mandate of the Town's Inspection Bylaw was being met.

Keith Stecko
Fire Chief



SMITHERS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2010 Major Projects and Strategies

- ⇒ Establish a Fire Department False Alarm Bylaw—adoption by Council in 2010
 - To reduce the number of false alarms to which fire crews respond. Call reporting system will determine if there are actual increases or decreases in false alarm callouts.
- ⇒ Vehicle Bay Exhaust System – Complete March 2010
 - Capital project to install a vehicle exhaust system to protect firefighters from carbon monoxide and other hazardous materials in fumes from the vehicles. Project tendered and complete – vehicle bay now compliant with regulations.
- ⇒ Regional Fire Training Centre – Ongoing Program Development & Revenue Generation
 - Inception in 2007 to provide live fire training to northwest fire departments. Justice Institute accredited site for Live Fire 1 & 2. Expanding course offerings in 2010 to include Firefighter Skill Maintenance (BC Firefighter 1&2) as well as confined space training (awareness/operations and technician levels).



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

2009 Summary

One of the key activities in the Finance Department was the completion of the PSAB 3150 requirements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009, involving accounting and reporting on Tangible Capital Assets and related amortization within consolidated financial statements.

Project Strategies Were:

- a. Have Council adopt a Tangible Capital Asset Policy
- b. Complete the Asset Inventory by including (for each asset): asset description, asset location, dates of purchases (when historical information available)
- c. Put all asset inventory information into an asset database
- d. Determine valuation of each asset using historical records and when historical information is not available, use current reproduction costs
- e. Determine type of amortization for each asset
- f. Determine useful life of each asset
- g. Calculate the total accumulated amortization until end of December 31, 2008 for each asset
- h. Enter all asset information into an asset register
- i. Add new additions for 2009 into the asset register
- j. Remove accumulated amortization and cost for assets disposed of in 2009
- k. Calculate 2009 amortization
- l. Restate 2008 financial statements in accordance with PSAB 3150 regulations
- m. Review 2008 asset valuation and accumulated amortization with auditors in advance of the 2009 audit
- n. Prepare 2009 financial statements in accordance with PSAB consolidated statement requirements

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

2009 Results

All 2009 strategies were completed in regards to fulfilling the requirements under PSAB 3150.

- a. Council approved the Town of Smithers Tangible Capital Asset Policy in September 2009
- b. All inventory of assets: machinery and equipment, land, buildings, engineered structures, utilities, office/computer equipment was completed by November 2009
- c. All assets were entered in to the A2B2 purchase database program by asset category
- d. When historical records were not available costing using insurance documents and engineering estimates were used for valuations
- e. The straight line amortization approach was used for all assets
- f. Useful life of each asset was used based on the 2008 Ministry of Community Services guidelines handout
- g. Accumulated amortization to the end of 2008 was calculated using the A2B2 worksheet database program
- h. All asset information was entered into the Vadim Fixed Asset module creating an asset register
- i. New capital additions were entered into the asset register
- j. Assets disposed on in 2009 were removed from the asset register as was their accumulated amortization
- k. Accumulated amortization and 2009 amortization expense was calculated using the Vadim fixed asset module
- l. 2008 financial statements were restated in accordance with PSAB regulations
- m. All 2008 tangible capital asset information (inventory, valuation etc.) was reviewed by the auditors in advance of the 2009 audit

Tangible Capital Assets were shown on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position net of accumulated amortization. Amortization expense was added to departmental expenses within the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities. A Consolidated Statement of changes in the Financial Assets was added to the consolidated financial statements.

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2009 Progress

The 2009 consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with PSAB requirements including information about tangible capital assets and accumulated amortization. The 2008 comparative balances were restated and 2008 changes were detailed within a prior period adjustment note. The financial equity and equity tangible capital assets were shown as accumulated surplus within the Statement of Financial Position.

Leslie Ford
Director of Finance

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

2010 Major Projects and Strategies

- ✓ Tender Physical Contents Insurance Coverage—complete by September 2010
 - ✎ Tender current physical contents insurance information to insurance agencies for approval by Council in fall of 2010
- ✓ Review Fees and Charges Bylaws—New bylaws to be adopted by December 2010
 - ✎ Present the following fees and charges to Council with comparisons to other communities:
 - Cemetery Fees and Charges Bylaw
 - Airport Fees and Charges Bylaw
 - Development Procedures (Fees) Bylaw
 - Subdivision Servicing (Fees) Bylaw
 - Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw
 - Garbage Fees and Charges Bylaw
 - Water and Sewer User Fees Bylaws
 - Water and Sewer Regulations (Connection Fees) Bylaws



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

2009 Progress Report: Small Community Portion of the Strategic Community Investment Funds

Intended Use	Performance Targets	Progress Made in First Reporting Period (2009)
Use funding to support local services and to avoid large tax rate increases.	100% of the funds to be used to pay for General Operating Municipal Services and to minimize General Municipal Tax Rate increases.	2009 General Municipal Services and tax rates remained consistent with prior years. The 2009 actual General Municipal Tax Levy increase was 2.66%. Without the Small Community Grant allocation for 2009, the Town's 2009 General Municipal Tax Levy increase would have been 20%.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

2009 Progress Report: Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Portion of the Strategic Community Investment Funds

Intended Use	Performance Targets	Progress Made in First Reporting Period (2009)
Use funding to support police enforcement costs and to avoid large tax rate increases.	100% of the funds to pay for Municipal RCMP operating costs including contributions to RCMP Auxiliary, Victims Services and the Community Police Office; and to minimize RCMP Municipal Tax Rate increases.	2009 RCMP Municipal Services and tax rates remained consistent with prior years. The 2009 RCMP Tax Levy increase was 8%. Without the Traffic Fine Sharing Revenue allocation for 2009 the Town's 2009 RCMP Tax Levy increase would have been 16%.



RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE

2009 Summary

During the early months of 2009, many programs experienced growth in their participation rates, with more than 300 participants taking part in programs every week. Increased partnering with local groups saw the creation of weekend and March Break art camps in conjunction with the Smithers Art Gallery. The indoor and outdoor arena increased in popularity and diversity of age groups using the facilities. Two more elementary schools received regular ice times per week and a new morning hockey group was established for retired adults. The arena also saw the year long scheduling of a new Friday morning hockey group for retired men and new Friday evening time being provided for the new girls hockey program.

The spring months saw a continued growth in recreation programs with the delivery of the Steve Nash Youth Basketball program with 140 new participants. Community capacity development was a top priority with the department hosting several workshops for aspiring leaders in Basketball coaching clinics and one referee clinic, a BCRPA High Five Workshop, a BCRPA Bike to Work Workshop and a BCRPA Everybody Gets to Play Workshop. The Riverside Municipal Campground and RV Park opened in May and had higher than expected attendance in the first two months.

The summer months saw a leveling off of activity. Successful Canada Day activities at Heritage Park led right into new summer programs for children and teens. The new program design and content for the Summer Daycamp was enthusiastically endorsed by the community with all but one week having full registrations. New sport camps for children and youth were delivered including softball, archery, soccer and basketball. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Multiplex Feasibility Study started in August.

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RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE

2009 Summary

With the assistance of a Localmotion grant, the department was able to produce new signage for the Perimeter Trail system and local hotels.

The new Town website was used to distribute weekly and monthly information regarding the arena and a fall recreation program. Community facility development continued to be a priority with a community consultation as part of the Multiplex Feasibility Study taking place in late November.

Andrew Hillaby
Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture



RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE

2009 Major Objectives and Results

- ✓ Perimeter Trail Signage – Complete installation in 2010
 - ✎ Grant Funding from LocalMotion secured for the production of new signage for the trail system and hotels.

- ✓ Steve Nash Basketball League Implementation – Completed in May 2009
 - ✎ Partnered with local schools, coaches and parent groups. Grant funding from UBCM and 2010 Legacies Now.

- ✓ Upgrades to Riverside Municipal Campground – Complete in 2010
 - ✎ Successful in acquiring Towns for Tomorrow Grant Funding for installation of showers and washroom facilities. Worked with Development Services Department for design, tender and construction in 2010.

- ✓ Phase One of Multiplex – RFP for Feasibility Study to commence in August 2009
 - ✎ Federal RinC grant funding applied for. Bruce Carscaden Architects awarded contract for Feasibility Study. Community consultation process completed in Fall. Final report for Feasibility Study in Spring 2010.

- ✓ Perimeter Trail Expansion on Railway Avenue: Queen to Toronto Street – completed in August 2009
 - ✎ Successfully awarded LocalMotion grant funding and completed trail design and construction with town resources and local contractors.

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RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE

2010 Major Projects and Strategies

- ⇒ Multiplex Feasibility Study – Final Report to Council June 2010
 - Feedback received from community consultation and meetings with Council
- ⇒ Installation of Perimeter Trail Signage – Complete by August 2010
 - Coordinate installation of signage with Works & Operations
- ⇒ Riverside Campground Municipal Upgrades (showers & washrooms) – Complete May 2011
 - Tender process in June 2010, construction to commence in August 2010
- ⇒ Ranger Park Playground – Complete by August 2010
 - Quotes received April 2010 with construction commencing in July 2010
- ⇒ Heritage Park Playground – Complete October 2010
 - Partner with Kinsmen Association. Tender by June 2010 with construction commencing August 2010
- ⇒ Indoor Turf: Arena – Complete by March 2011
 - Application for grant funding with additional funds coming from capital budget. Tender by November 2010
- ⇒ Second Arena – Complete by October 2011
 - Secure \$1.5 m grant funding from Provincial sources. Tender by January 2011 and complete by October 2011