



The Region of BC's Best

The Current



Highlights from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Board of Directors' Meeting of March 15, 2018

Amending Bylaw Allows for "Dry Cabins" in WildFire-Ravaged Area

Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2645, 2018, was given first reading by the Board and referred to homeowners impacted by the summer's wildfire on the south shore of Loon Lake.

The amending bylaw for "dry cabins" — seasonal cabins without pressurized plumbing that do not require connection to an on-site sewerage disposal system — sprung from a number of recommendations passed by the Committee of the Whole in the fall to assist wildfire-impacted property owners.

The bylaw rezones 50 water-access parcels along the south shore of Loon Lake, allowing owners of seasonal recreational property with no road access and no servicing to reconstruct a cabin without plumbing and onsite sewerage disposal system.

The "dry cabin" zone is intended only for hardship cases in the case of water access, off-grid, seasonally used parcels where a lack of access and limited developable land area makes conventional residential construction impractical. Any new construction on the south side of Loon Lake, regardless of zone, will require additional geotechnical assessment and mitigation works.

The amending bylaw will now be mailed to the impacted Loon Lake property owners for input.

Bylaw Anticipates Recreational Pot Sales

Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2646, 2018, was given first and second reading by the Board and will go to a public hearing at a future

Board meeting.

The amending bylaw addresses federal and provincial regulatory changes for recreational cannabis sales and will regulate commercial sales in the context of local government land-use jurisdiction. It will end sales in commercial zones ahead of the provincial and federal changes, thereby ensuring that potential operations do not have an argument for legal non-conformity or "grandfathering".

The amendment will exclude the sale of cannabis as a part of retail commercial use in rural areas and direct these ventures to municipalities that have broader authority and powers, such as business licensing. Alternatively, it would compel a retail sales outlet to apply for rezoning to be lawful in the TNRD.

Further bylaw changes are likely once higher orders of government settle into a stable regulatory regime and the relevant issues are identified.

Once Bill C-65, the Cannabis Act, becomes law, British Columbians older than 19 will be able to buy non-medical cannabis through privately run retail stores or government-operated stores and government online sales.

McLure Fire Department Looks to Become a TNRD-managed Fire Service

The Board authorized staff to begin the formal process of establishing a TNRD-administered fire protection service in McLure. This entails holding public information meetings to determine if there is general support for service establishment.

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Board of Directors

Chair: John Ranta

Village of Cache Creek

Directors

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Electoral Area "A"

(Wells Gray Country)

Willow Macdonald

Electoral Area "B"

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Sally Watson

Electoral Area "E"

(Bonaparte Plateau)

Steven Rice

Electoral Area "I"

(Blue Sky Country)

Ronaye Elliott

Electoral Area "J"

(Copper Desert Country)

Ken Gillis

Electoral Area "L"

(Grasslands)

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Electoral Area "N"

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Bill Kershaw

Electoral Area "O"

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Mel Rothenburger

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Ken Christian

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City of Kamloops

Arjun Singh

City of Kamloops

Pat Wallace

City of Kamloops

Dennis Walsh

City of Kamloops

Robin Smith

District of Logan Lake

Jessoa Lightfoot

Village of Lytton

Neil Menard

City of Merritt

Al Raine

Sun Peaks Mountain Resort

Regular Board Meeting — Thursday, March 29, 1:30 p.m.

Hospital District Board Meeting — Thursday, March 29, 10 a.m.

Economic Development & Recreation Committee Meeting — Wednesday, March 28, 1:30 p.m.



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In response to the Board's recent decision to cease funding to society-run volunteer fire departments effective 2022, the McLure Volunteer Fire Fighters and Recreation Society (MVFFRS) requested that the TNRD consider moving fire protection services for McLure and Vinsulla to a TNRD-directed fire department model.

The new model will help reduce the legal risk to TNRD volunteer fire protection committees and create a safer environment for volunteer firefighters through mandatory fire training, fire ground operations and administration.

Contract Awarded for New Entrance to Kamloops Civic Building

The contract for the construction of a front entrance addition to the Civic Building in Kamloops was awarded to N & H Contracting Ltd. The total contract price for the project is \$865,845.80 (excluding GST).

An addition to the front entrance of the Civic Building at 465 Victoria St. was anticipated as part of the upgrades being done to the Kamloops Library, which includes the addition of a café space. The addition will create a more visible, accessible entrance that faces Victoria Street and will resolve a number of safety issues with the old entrance.

Kamloops Libraries Change Hours

The Board approved changes to hours of operations at the Kamloops and North Kamloops libraries. They will now close at 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays effective May 1, 2018.

The change comes after a review of evening hours of operation at both branches, which noted that visits to the library and circulation of library materials dropped off dramatically during the 8-9 p.m. period. Kamloops and

North Kamloops Libraries are currently open until 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

The change will improve public service by bolstering staffing levels for times of library operation when there is higher public demand. This change will also enhance staffing levels during break periods, and reduce costs associated with replacements/casual hours.

Bookmobile Schedule Revamped

As part of the replacement of the existing bookmobile and in preparation for the launch of the new "Mobile Library" service, the Library has developed an improved schedule to better serve TNRD residents, expand stop locations and create efficiencies.

In formulating the new schedule, the following guiding principles were adopted:

- Maximizing routes, staff time and use by the public
- Assessing areas of the region that are currently underserved

While no stops were eliminated, new stops have been added in Quilchena, the Lower Nicola, Lac Le Jeune, Thompson River Estates, and four new stops have been added in Kamloops — the Tournament Capital Centre, BC Wildlife Park, Sahali Mall and Juniper Ridge.

The new schedule will be adopted when the new "Mobile Library" is deployed, likely in early May.

Pritchard Fire Hall Gets Gas Tax Help

The Board approved the expenditure to a maximum of \$55,000 from Federal Gas Tax Revenues - Community Works Fund component (split evenly by allocations of up to \$27,500 from both Electoral Area "L" and "P") to fund development of a potable water supply at the Pritchard Fire Hall. The Hall is currently under a boil water order after attempts to find a new source of potable water failed.