

energizer

The City of Fort St. John's Community Newsletter

winter 2013



FORT ST. JOHN
The Energetic City

Family Day, February 11



ICE SLIDES SNOW SCULPTING
FREE FAMILY FUN! LIVE MUSIC
ICE CARVING POND HOCKEY
SLEIGH RIDES ICE FISHING & MORE

FEBRUARY 8-11, 2013

The City of Fort St. John is pleased to host the 9th annual High on Ice Winter Festival which will take place February 8-11, 2013. High on Ice has become a signature event within our city and partners with many organizations to host all kinds of events and activities. High on Ice promotes overall community involvement for all demographics including families, adults, children and seniors. It is an event residents can be proud of and enjoy while celebrating the winter season and outdoor activities.

Events during this winter festival include ice carving, snow sculpting, sleigh rides, children's activities in the park, ice fishing derby, Over the Line ball tournament, comedy shows, pond hockey tournament, dinner and dance and so much more!

It is organized by a planning committee made up of various community organizations and interested citizens. If you would like to volunteer to help with the 2013 celebrations, please contact us at info@fortstjohn.ca.

Interested in sponsoring this event?
Contact us at info@fortstjohn.ca.



ICE AND SNOW EVENTS

Through the continued development of the Ice and Snow event, the City of Fort St. John desires to create a celebration of visual art and local culture. It is an event that fosters our local artists and provides a venue for new enthusiasts to develop their skills and techniques related to carving while offering a community based venue to showcase, celebrate and promote Fort St. John's talented residents.

Fort St. John will also be welcoming ice carving teams from around the world to come and participate in this event.

Professional Single Block Carving

Friday, February 8, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Professional Ice Carving

Saturday, February 9, 9:00am-6:00pm

Sunday, February 10, 9:00am-6:00pm

Snow Sculpting

Saturday, February 10, 9:00am-3:00pm

Mayor's Challenge

As part of the amateur competition, the City of Fort St. John also hosts an annual "Mayor's Challenge" wherein dignitaries from area communities are invited to bring a team to the event to compete for bragging rights. This event will take place in Centennial Park on Saturday, February 9 from 9:00am-4:00pm.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

In addition to the Ice and Snow events, the High on Ice Winter Festival includes a community celebration featuring all the following events:

2nd Annual Crystal Cup Pond Hockey Challenge

Teams of 4 or 5 players can register to participate in the 2nd annual Crystal Cup Challenge! The tournament runs from February 8-11. There is a \$125 registration fee per team and you must be 19 years or older to play. Only 60 teams will be allowed to participate.

Saturday, February 9 - 10:00am-7:00pm

Sunday, February 10 - 10:00am-7:00pm

Monday, February 11 - 9:00am-12:00pm

Contact: Neil Evans 250-793-4524 | info@thecrystalcup.ca
www.thecrystalcup.ca

Family Fun Night

Bring your family down to the Family Place on February 8 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. This is a drop in program that is hosted by the North Peace Community Resource Society! There will be crafts and activities, a fun play area and a healthy snack.

Location: 10142-101 Avenue (across from the post office)
Contact: Pam Lillico 250-785-6021 | plillico@npcrs.bc.ca



Over the Line Tournament

Fun in the snow! Sign-up your team today for the OTL Ball Tournament. The tournament is part of the High on Ice Festival and has teams of 4 to 6 players competing against each other while wading through the snow, trying to catch a fluorescent yellow ball. There will be room for 8 teams and the event will start at 9:00am on Saturday, February 9. There must be a minimum of one female per team and the cost is \$100 per team.

Contact: Carolyn Furler 250-271-2061 | ctfurler@gmail.com

Sleigh Rides

Bring your family down for free Horse-drawn Sleigh Rides at the Toboggan Hill (located behind North Peace Secondary School.) The sleigh rides will run from 11:00am-3:00pm on February 9, 10 and 11.

Ice Fishing Derby

The Ice Fishing Derby will be held at Inga Lake on February 10 from 8:00am-3:00pm. Inga Lake is located at Mile 91 on the Alaska Highway. Look for signage and turn left off the highway. Once you turn left, it is 2 km off the main highway.

Contact: Paul 250-785-1461 | fishing@backcountryfsj.com

Sun FM Photo Scavenger Hunt

Sun FM is hosting a Photo Scavenger Hunt from February 4 to February 8. From February 4-8, go to www.peacesunfm.com where a clue for the day item will be posted. You then need to figure out the clue, take a picture of it, then e-mail it to contests@peacesunfm.com to be entered into the daily draw as well as the main draw which will take place on February 8. The more items you enter, the better chance you have of winning!

Contact: Astral Media 250-785-6634

Sunrise Rotary Dinner, Dance and Auction

The Sunrise Rotary Club presents "An Evening Under the Stars." This is a dinner, dance and auction that will feature Danny Hooper with Dark Horse. This event takes place on February 9 at the Pomeroy Hotel. Cocktails will be served at 5:30pm with a dinner to follow at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$75.00 per person and are available at the North Peace Cultural Centre or from any Sunrise Rotarian.

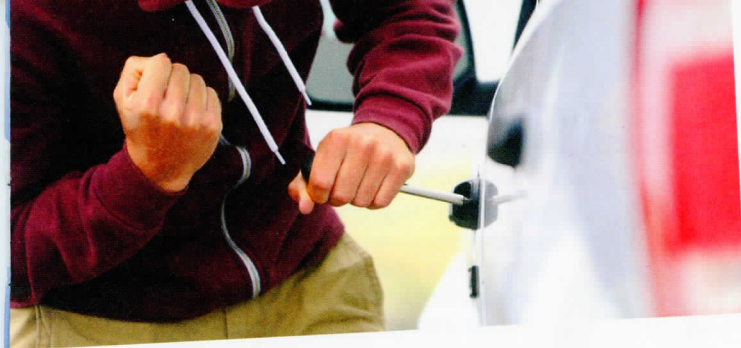
This is a fundraiser for The Women's Resource Center Rotary International Project to eradicate Polio.

Contact: Karen Simpson 250-261-2681

"Laugh Your Ice Off" Comedy Show

The Lido Theatre will be hosting a comedy show on February 8, 9, 10 and 11. The doors open at 7:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 for reserved and \$30 at the door.

Contact: Lido Theatre 250-785-3011



Preventing theft from vehicles

Many thefts occur when cars are left unlocked and valuables are left in plain view. Any vehicle with a visible briefcase, purse, wallet, gym bag, CDs, spare change, power tools, tool boxes, hand tools, car batteries or other valuables left in sight may be a target.

- Do park in well-lit areas, close to buildings or places with heavy foot traffic
- Do pay attention to your surroundings when you are placing items in your vehicle (make sure you are not being observed)
- Do use a steering wheel lock, an immobilizer or an alarm system
- Don't leave any of your shopping or other valuables in plain view (secure them in the trunk or cover them)
- Don't think "it won't happen to me"

ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS LOCK YOUR VEHICLE DOORS!

Crime reduction works when we ALL participate!

A message from the FORT ST. JOHN RCMP.

Unpaid parking tickets

At their regular meeting on May 28, 2012, City Council approved a new process for collecting outstanding parking tickets. At that time, people who had tickets issued prior to December 31, 2011 (between 2006 and 2011) were given opportunity to pay those tickets. Any of those tickets still outstanding as of August 1, 2012 were sent to collections.

For tickets issued after January 1, 2012 and moving forward, the new parking ticket collection process was implemented and it is as follows:

- Within two months of the ticket date, a letter, requesting payment as well as advising that the unpaid ticket will be submitted to a collection agency for action if it remains unpaid, will be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle.
- If the ticket is not paid within 30 days of the first letter being sent, a second letter is sent requesting payment within 30 days in order to avoid the outstanding amount being forwarded to a collection agency.
- If the ticket is still not paid after 30 days from the date of the second letter sent, the information of the registered owner for the vehicle listed on the ticket is sent to a collections

If you would like to confirm whether or not your information has been sent to a collection agency, write down your vehicle license plate number, then please contact the Finance Department at 250-787-8150 and they will be happy to check for you.



Vehicle Idling Quiz

1. **Idling is good for your vehicle, because it warms up the engine and keeps it warm.**

FALSE: Idling actually can be hard on an engine because fuel combustion is incomplete and some fuel residues condense on cylinder walls.

2. **With the advanced emissions technology used in today's vehicles, carbon dioxide emissions from an idling vehicle are greatly reduced.**

FALSE: While it is true that automakers have been successful in reducing emissions of hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, no technology exists to clean up emissions of carbon dioxide.

3. **Idling contributes to the climate change problem.**

TRUE: Carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas that is contributing to climate change, is a natural by-product of burning gasoline. Each litre of gasoline used produces about 2.4 kilograms of carbon dioxide. So every time you start the engine, you're contributing to the problem.

4. **Idling is necessary on cold winter days to ensure that all of the vehicle's components are warm.**

FALSE: Many components of the vehicle – including the wheel bearings, tires and suspension system – will warm up only when the vehicle is moving. Only about 30 seconds of idling is needed to get the oil circulating through the engine.



5. **In winter conditions, emissions from an idling vehicle can be more than double the normal level immediately after a cold start.**

TRUE: First, the engine has to work harder to circulate cold oil. As well, fuel combustion is much less efficient in a cold engine, and the air-fuel mixture is richer, which means a sharp increase in pollutants. To make matters worse, until the converter reaches its peak operating temperature of between 400 and 800 C, all of the engine's emissions pass through the exhaust untreated.

6. **Once a vehicle is running, the best way to warm it up is to drive it.**

TRUE: This ensures that all components get warmed up and do not waste fuel. Until the engine temperature begins to rise, it is a good idea to avoid high speeds and rapid acceleration.

7. **Idling is really only a problem in the winter.**

FALSE: Idling is a problem year-round. A recent study revealed that on any given day in August, Canadians idle their vehicles for a combined total of more than 46 million minutes per day – equivalent to one vehicle idling for 89 years. The problem is worse in winter, but there's never a good time to waste fuel and generate greenhouse gas emissions by idling your vehicle.

8. Restarting a vehicle numerous times, rather than letting it idle, is hard on the starter and other components.

FALSE: Studies have shown that restarting the engine numerous times has little impact on components like the battery and starter motor.

9. A poorly tuned engine will use up to 15% more energy at idle than a well-tuned vehicle?

TRUE: Whether you're driving a vehicle down the road or letting it idle in your driveway, a poorly tuned engine will consume more fuel – and generate more greenhouse gas emissions – than one that is properly maintained.

10. Using a block heater will help an engine warm up quicker, which means less fuel consumption and fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

TRUE: A block heater can be a fuel-saving device because it heats the engine block and a lubricant, which means the engine will start faster. A block heater needs to be plugged in only for a couple of hours to do its job.



2012 Toys For Ticket Campaign a GREAT success!!

The City of Fort St. John was very pleased to donate approximately 100 new toys to the Salvation Army from their annual Toys for Tickets campaign this past December. Area residents showed their holiday spirit of giving by paying 56 tickets through the gift of a toy as well as donations resulting in \$770 spent on the new toys. Once again our community showed its generosity – thank you Fort St. John!



Are YOU interested in working for the City of Fort St. John?

Excellent people. Awesome Benefits. Great Wages.

If you've ever thought about having a career with Local Government, and being part of an incredible team, then you should check out our website at www.fortstjohn.ca/employment to view our available job postings!

What types of jobs do City of Fort St. John employees do?

- Water and Sewer Utility Installation and Maintenance
- Recreational Programming
- Administrative and Financial Services
- Engineering Services
- Facilities Maintenance
- Roads & Grounds Maintenance
- Fire Suppression and Prevention
- Municipal Policing Support
- Bylaw & Building Regulatory Services
- IT Services

Why pursue a career with the City of Fort St. John?

- Opportunities for advancement
- On the Job Training
- Steady employment
- Departmental and corporate training initiatives
- Excellent compensation and benefit packages
- Ability to contribute to the well-being of your community

The hiring of City Staff is coordinated through the Corporate Affairs Department and all job opportunities are posted on the website. Depending on the position to be filled, opportunities are sometimes also advertised in local and national newspapers and on career specific websites.

To apply for a City job posting, please submit your resume, clearly indicating the job posting number, prior to 4:00 pm on the closing date. You may submit your resume by fax, mail or email, or in person at City Hall, to the attention of:

Human Resources Assistant
City of Fort St. John
10631-100 Street
Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z5

Fax: 250-787-8181
Email: adyer@fortstjohn.ca

Unsolicited resumes are not accepted and only short-listed candidates are contacted.

Please check our website regularly for job postings as they become available.

www.fortstjohn.ca/employment



13th Annual Chocolate Festival

This happiest event in the north opens its doors again at the North Peace Cultural Centre at 6:00pm on Saturday, February 9. Tickets will be sold at the NPCC box office. For the price of a ticket, patrons have the opportunity for unlimited tasting of over 100 deliciously decadent chocolate confections donated by home and commercial bakers and chocolatiers. Children under 12, accompanied by an adult, are admitted free.

A live auction for the beautiful baked goods begins around 7:00 and while enjoying the tasting treats, both adults and kids with adult supervision can place bids at their respective silent auction tables. There is something for everyone at this amazing event.

Proceeds from the Chocolate Festival go to supporting children's art programming in the form of an expanded FREE KIDS' ART CAMP in the summer, to support the arts in its many forms.

Contact: Peace Gallery North 250-787-0993



For all other High On Ice inquiries, please contact Serena Warkentine at 250-787-5780 or e-mail at swarkentine@fortstjohn.ca.



Community Events

Walking Challenge

Due to popular demand, walking challenges are back! Start the New Year with a great resolution. Join us for our first walking challenge of the year! "Walk the Trans Canada Trail". This extraordinary trail is the world's longest network of trails, developed and promoted by a non-profit registered charity. It stretches over 23,000 kilometers from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic Oceans, linking 1000 communities and all Canadians. The walking component will take place on the Northern Vac Track located at the Pomeroy Sport Centre. If you need a little more of a challenge, the trail also includes water routes, which adds up to 4,600 km, this component will take place at the North Peace Leisure Pool. This exciting challenge will start on January 15 but you can join anytime!

For more information please visit www.fortstjohn.ca

Community One Stop

Citizens of Fort St. John and surrounding areas have come to rely on the Community One Stop registration event as their primary program registration method.

It provides a space for organizations to set up a booth and give information to the public regarding their programs.

Come out and sign up the whole family for your spring activities all at once. There's something for everyone from literacy, dance, sports, health and wellness, art, martial arts, music and more! Come check out the opportunities that Fort St. John has to offer you. See you in March 2013.

For more information please visit www.forstjohn.ca

Community Awards

On April 25th the City of Fort St. John will be hosting the 5th Annual Community Awards.

This is your opportunity to publicly recognize and honour individuals whose contributions have been of significant benefit to Fort St. John. The awards celebrate the talents, dedication and generosity of citizens, businesses, athletes and volunteers.

Stay tuned for nomination forms at www.fortstjohn.ca

Calendar of Events

To find out about more events that are happening in our community, please visit the City's website at www.fortstjohn.ca/ events or drop by the City of Fort St. John Visitor Centre.



Great job opportunities at the North Peace Leisure Pool

Lifeguarding is a great job to train for while you are still in high school. The City of Fort St. John is always hiring for the North Peace Leisure Pool. The District of Taylor often hires for their pool in the summer as does Hudson's Hope. It is great job while you go to college or university too.

How do you become a lifeguard? There are a series of courses that you are required to pass. Begin with the Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Aquatic Emergency Care or Standard First Aid and end with the National Lifeguard Service (NLS). You must start at the beginning as each course is the pre-requisite for the next course. You should have good physical fitness and swimming skills and basically have a love for water.

Maybe you are interested in teaching swimming lessons. Water Safety Instructor (WSI) is another position that the City of Fort St. John often hires at the Pool. To become a WSI, a person must pass the Assistant Water Safety Course followed by the Water Safety Course.

Slide Attendants ensure the safety rules are maintained on the waterslides. They also assist the lifeguards with emergencies and minor first aid treatment. A slide attendant must be at least in grade 10 and have standard first aid training.

Customer Service Representatives are the people that greet you when you come in to the pool. These people are the face of the Pool so you must be outgoing and love talking to people. As well, being familiar with computers, cash, point of sale and having standard first aid training are a must.

If you are student interested in working in the wonderful world of aquatics' visit the pool website (www.fortstjohn.ca/pool) for all the upcoming course dates.



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Pomeroy Sport Centre



The Pomeroy Sport Centre is Fort St. John's newest recreation complex. This remarkable facility promotes community and personal wellness, and provides an attractive venue for events appealing to a wide range of interests.

The first floor of this three floor facility features 2 NHL sized ice rinks, a concession, 12 dressing rooms, and two public meeting rooms. The second floor is home to a Booster Juice outlet, and has one of only four indoor Olympic-sized long track speed skating ovals in North America. The third floor of this facility is home to the Northern Vac Track. The walking track is 340 meters around with heated tubing throughout and is free to the public.

During the winter, this facility offers various events which take place on the oval. Family, teens, and the public are welcome to join in these events.

Teen skate: February 16

Teens (ages 12-19) are invited to skate in a youth atmosphere, participate in games, eat pizza, skate and have fun with laser lights. The event goes from 7:00pm-10:00pm. Admission: \$5 dollars per person.

Public skate: February 17

Everyone is welcome to come and skate for free from 12:00pm-5:00pm. We will have games for the public to join in and have fun!

Family skate: February 24

Bring your family and enjoy a fun night with us! Join in and play games, practice your skating, enjoy family time and wins some prizes. Children 11 years and younger must be accompanied on the ice by a guardian 16 years of age or older. Regular admission applies.



Free Public Skating!

Skate for free every Sunday from 12:00pm - 5:00pm thanks to our sponsor Devon Canada!

North Peace Leisure Pool

The North Peace Leisure Pool is owned by the Peace River Regional District and operated by the City of Fort St. John.

The facility consists of a leisure pool and a 25 meter lap pool. The leisure pool has a zero beach entry at one end and a maximum depth of 1.5 meters (five feet) at the other end. It has waves, a rapid channel as well as spray and squirt features. Located adjacent to the leisure pool is a small bubble pool specifically designed for tots.

The lap pool has 6 lanes. The shallow end is 1 meter (3.6 feet) deep and 3.7 meters (12.1 feet) at the deep end. There is also a 3 meter and 1 meter dive platforms.

Other amenities include two full size water slides, sauna, steam room, whirlpool, family change rooms, cardio fitness room and a meeting room. The facility is fully accessible for people with limited mobility.

The City of Fort St. John and the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) are committed to providing quality service to the residents of the PRRD who enjoy the use of the North Peace Leisure Pool.



Junior Lifeguard Club

The Junior Lifeguard Club (JLC) is action-packed fun with a serious purpose, lifesaving, coached in a fun way. The JLC is a place for young people ages 8 to 15 to learn about lifesaving and life guarding, take part in friendly competition and special events, challenge themselves to aim for personal bests, hang out in a positive environment, get fit and make new friends. Members will also be working towards the skills and knowledge of the Canadian Swim Patrol program, Bronze Star and developing leadership skills. The ability to swim at least 25m is recommended.

DATES:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm - 4:30pm
January 8 - March 14

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is a continuous intake class allowing participants to register at any time throughout the session for a pro-rated price.

Our next dates are:

JLC and Canadian Swim Patrol Level 2 – Ranger Patrol

Dates: Tuesday, January 8 – Thursday, March 14
Time: 3:30pm-5:00pm (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
Location: North Peace Leisure Pool
Cost: \$157.18

For more information please contact the North Peace Leisure Pool at 250-787-8178 or visit www.fortstjohn.ca/pool



Sport for All!

PacificSport Northern BC:

Delivering high quality resources and services to athletes and coaches while exciting youth to live healthy active lifestyles along the Canadian Sport for Life pathway.

Active Kids Programs

Just as children need to learn to read and develop written language skills, they need the opportunity to develop physical skills that will help them be successful in all aspects of life. From learning how to run, jump and throw to combining skills such as agility, balance, coordination and speed, this weekly program will assist all children in developing their physical potential for sport, recreation and a healthy lifestyle!

Mini Motion (Ages 4-5)

Wednesdays • 5:30pm - 6:20pm

Cost: \$69.00

Sport Fundamentals (Ages 6-8)

Wednesdays • 5:30pm - 6:20pm

Cost: \$69.00

XploreSportZ Girls Only (Ages 8-13)

In a fun, non-competitive and skill-based environment, girls have a great time trying a different sport each week! Girls will build athletic confidence while 'test driving' eight different sports & activities with qualified coaches.

Mondays • 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Cost: \$60.00

XploreSportZ Camps

Camp Day: 8:30am - 4:00pm

Children will 'test drive' 2 sports each day. Under the direction of experienced coaches, children ages 6-12 will have fun while participating in a variety of sports relevant to the season, in a motivating and supportive environment.

Pro D Camps: Fridays • February 1, March 1

Cost: \$40.00/day

Spring Break Camp: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, March 19, 20 & 21

Cost: \$40.00/day or \$105.00 for all 3 days



visit www.pacificsportnorthernbc.com

for more information or to register for a program

Coach Development

NCCP Introduction to Competition Part A

Saturday & Sunday, February 16 & 17 • 9:00am - 5:00pm

Cost: \$75.00

NCCP A teaches important principles of coaching such as ethical decision making, practice planning, and nutrition. The new NCCP format replacing Level 1 Multi-Sport Module helps coaches understand why athletes participate in sport and prepares them to teach skills and to design a safe, enjoyable and challenging practice.

NCCP Introduction to Competition B

Saturday & Sunday, March 2 & 3 • 9:00am - 5:00pm

Cost: \$75.00

NCCP B teaches important principles of coaching such as teaching & learning techniques, designing a sport program, and basic sport mental skills. The new NCCP format replacing Level 2 Multi-Sport Module introduces coaches to the needs of developing athletes preparing for competition.

SportMed BC Concussions Workshop

Tuesday, February 19 • 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Cost: \$20.00

This workshop is led by an experienced Athletic Therapist and focuses on sharing the latest medical and scientific information about brain injury, sport risk factors, prevention techniques, and concussion management guidelines. Participants will review on-field assessment techniques, including the use of the Pocket SCAT2 tool and a review of red flags. Finally, the grey area surrounding return-to-play decisions will be explored, providing ample time for specific questions from the audience.

SportMed BC SportSmart Workshop

Wednesday, February 20 • 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Cost: FREE

For Parents, Coaches, Officials and Administrators of Fort St. John Youth Sports or any Community Members interested in Sport Safety. It is estimated that up to 50% of sports injuries are preventable and that parents and coaches hold the keys to some of the most effective sports injury prevention strategies. SportSmart is for you if you are interested in learning what you can do, whether or not your child has ever sustained a sports-related injury. SportSmart aims to reverse the trend and help parents, coaches and club or team leaders prevent injuries.



High Performance Programs

Spark (Ages 10-13)

This program is based on two, one-hour sessions per week for athletes that want to commit to non-sport-specific training and improve their athletic abilities for their chosen sport with the focus on long term athlete development (LTAD). The four month (17 week) program will focus on strength exercise technique as well as agility. Athletes that complete this program will also be more prepared if they choose to apply for our IGNITE Athlete Development Program (ages 14-17) in future years.

January 21 - May 31

Mondays: 4:00pm - 5:00pm & Thursdays: 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Cost: \$420 for 17 weeks

Ignite Athlete Development Program (Ages 14-17)

A multi-sport training program which introduces young athletes to a high-performance lifestyle by improving their athleticism, physical literacy and fitness. This training program is complementary to an athlete's current sport-specific practice and competition schedules. IGNITE helps athletes gain balance, strength, speed, agility and power through training sessions focusing on three movement streams: Sprint Training, Gymnastics and Strength and Conditioning.

• **January 21 - March 15** (An 8 week pre-season program targeted for summer sport athletes)

Applications are available online and due January 18th

• **April 22 - August 31**

Applications available in February

Cost: \$90/month

- **Individual, Small Group and Team Training**
- **Sport Fitness Testing**
- **Sport Readiness Assessments** (similar to Functional Assessments)

For more information please contact Jennifer at 250.794.3308 or jjibson@pacificsport.com

**Pacific
SPORT**
PacificSport Northern BC

PacificSport Northern BC Pomeroy Sport Centre

9324 - 96 Street, Fort St. John, BC • Tel. 250.794.3308

www.pacificsportnorthernbc.com



For more information
& to register online:
www.pacificsportnorthernbc.com

Did you know?

There was 87cm of snowfall in an 11 day period back in October!

The City has a bylaw that prohibits people from placing the snow from their property out on the street?

SIDEWALK CLEARING BYLAW NO. 1962, 2008

The owner or occupier of real property adjacent to a sidewalk or pathway may remove snow and ice from the sidewalk or pathway adjacent to the real property and place it on the boulevard, but shall not remove any ice and snow from the real property and place it on the highway or boulevard.

We have over 600 Fire Hydrants to keep clear of snow! In some places the snow was so deep that we had to use a metal detector to find them!

Want to help save a life, a house, the neighbor's life or house? Geico might help you save 15% on your insurance, but keeping the hydrant clear in front of your house could save the house and more! With so much snow and blowing snow hydrants are getting buried by both Mother Nature and equipment. It takes longer for the fire department to get water on the fire if they have to dig out the hydrant first. Take care when clearing and placing snow to make sure the hydrants are clear and accessible.

Crews are inspecting for buried hydrants and bylaw will be talking with citizens who bury them. If you know of a buried hydrant feel free to rescue it or call 311 and let us know where it is.

Why do we often haul off the snow during the day rather than night?

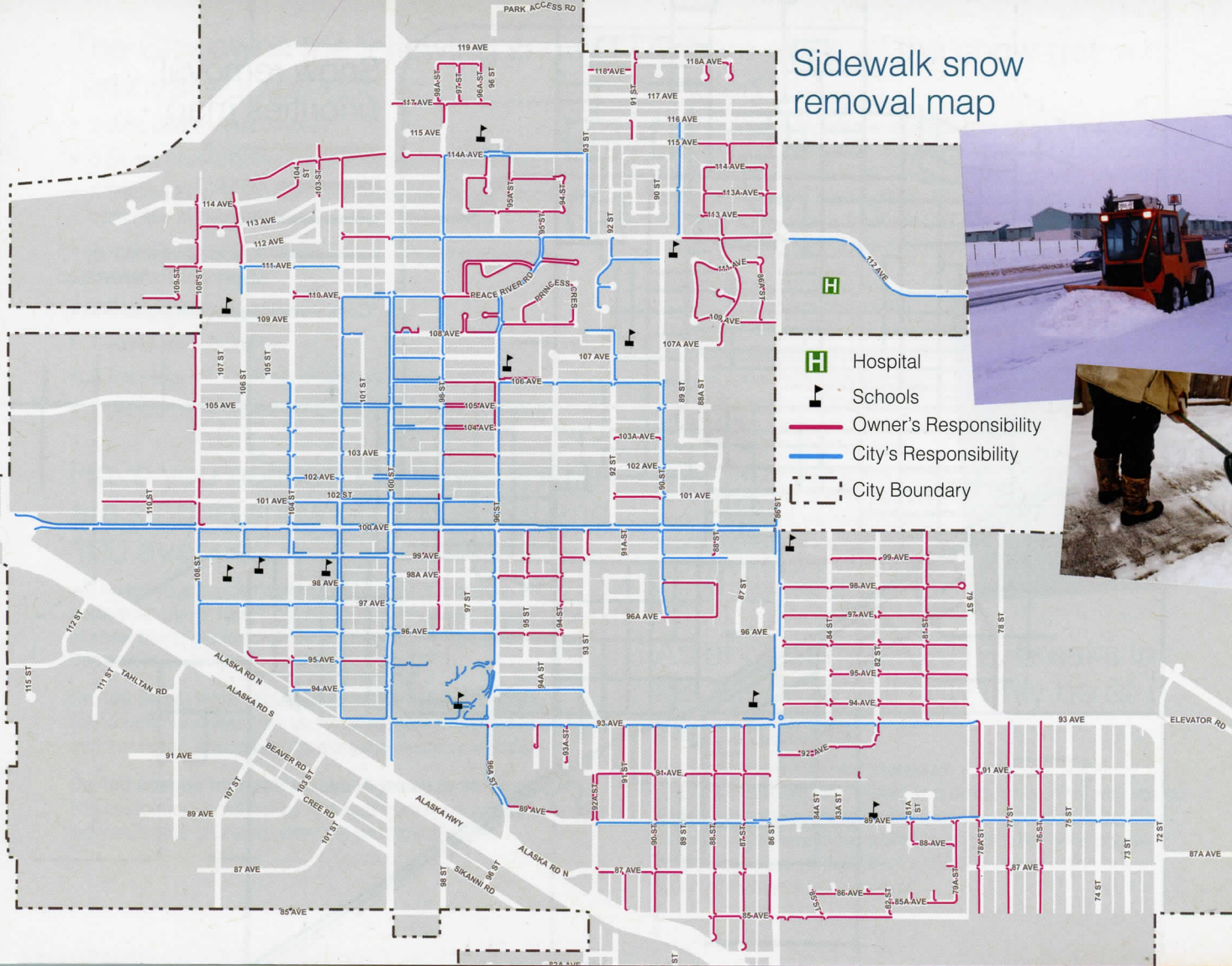
There are two reasons why we often haul the snow during the day and not at night.

1. We hire contract trucks to haul the snow for us. They work for us during the day and then some of them continue in the evening hauling snow for other businesses in the city.
2. The second and main reason for hauling the snow during the day is safety. The snow blowers when loading, produces a large amount of snow dust making it hard at times even during the day to see. We tried loading trucks at night and it was nearly impossible for the operator to see what he was doing with the dark conditions and the snow dust. It is similar to driving with your high beam headlights on at night during a snow storm. We want to remove the snow off of the streets as quickly as everyone else but we want to ensure that our operators and citizens are safe during the haul off operation.

Thank you for your help and patience as we work our way through a record snowfall winter.

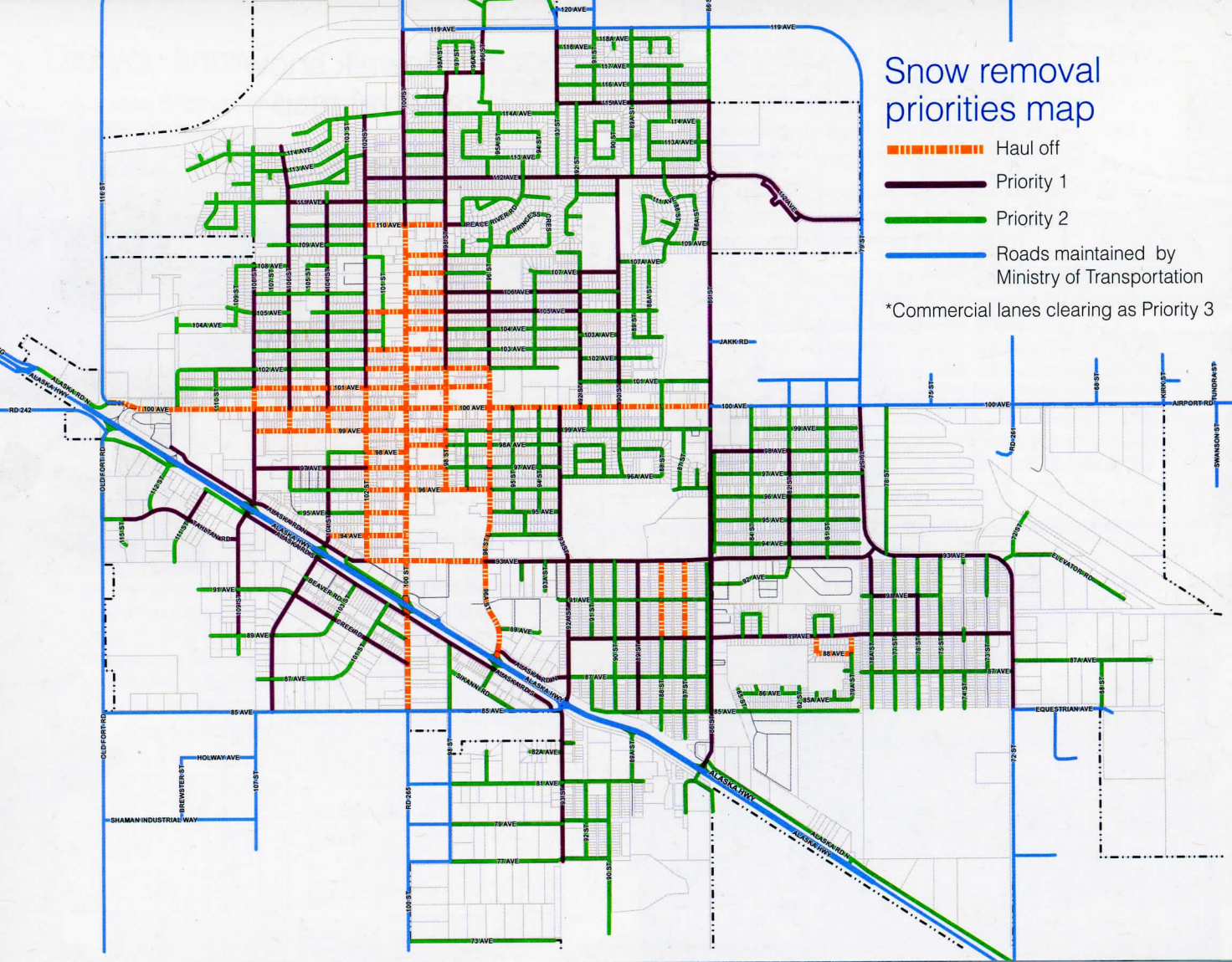


Sidewalk snow removal map



Snow removal priorities map

- Haul off
- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Roads maintained by Ministry of Transportation
- *Commercial lanes clearing as Priority 3



The City owns the following snow removal equipment:

- 3 John Deere Motor Graders
- 5 Sicard Snow Blowers (large units seen on the streets)
- 5 Sterling Plow Trucks/sanders (these units are equipped to both plow and sand so we use them accordingly)
- 1 John Deere Bi-Directional Tractor with snow blade and bucket
- 2 Case Front End Loaders
- 1 John Deere Backhoe
- 2 Trackless MT Sidewalk Machines
- 2 Bobcat Utility Vehicles (Sidewalk and Trail Machines)

Have you noticed the new way we are storing snow on 100 street and 100 avenue?

We heard your concerns about the safety of motorists and pedestrian using 100 Street and 100 Avenue with the windrow of snow being placed down the center of the four lanes so as of December we began to do the following:

On 100 Street from 110 Avenue to the Alaska Highway:

The southbound lanes will be reduced from two lanes to one, with the inside lane utilized to store the windrow of snow.

On 100 Avenue from the Alaska Highway to 86 Street:

The eastbound lanes will be reduced from two lanes to one, with the inside lane utilized to store the windrow of snow.

Where does all the snow get hauled to?

Have you ever wondered where those trucks go when you see them heading south of the city with another load of snow from the downtown core haul off? The city owns a private snow dump at the south end of the city down by the sewage lagoons where the snow ends up. It is located at 79 Ave. and 93 St. It is for public and commercial use and must contain ONLY SNOW.

Did you know that in the first 11 days of the beginning of the snow season this past October that we hauled approximately 300 loads of snow to the snow dump? Each load averages 30 yards which means we hauled 9000 yards of snow. To put that into perspective, a regular gravel truck hauls between 10 and 12 yards per load. That means we have hauled approximately 900 loads (gravel truck size) of snow off of the streets in those 11 days alone!



As of December 2012, breaks in the windrow will now only be at intersections.

The exception to this new procedure will be for emergency services locations; Fire, RCMP and Ambulance. This will provide a lower height and width for the windrow of snow and it allows motorists to adhere to the traffic laws in BC. We have double solid yellow lines on 100 street and 100 avenue which doesn't allow for motorists to cross over.

Safety tips when snow equipment is out on the roads

When the weather outside is frightful... We are working to get you home safe!

The City of Fort St. John strives to provide the best service possible to its residents and our workers take pride in a job well done. The workers you see on the street are doing everything they can to make sure that residents are able to travel local roads safely. The City would like to remind residents of some simple tips when equipment is out on our roadways:

- Do not approach vehicles or equipment; the operator may not see or hear you, placing you at risk of injury.
- Equipment may reverse suddenly. Stay 25 meters back to ensure the operator can see you and has enough room to maneuver.
- Take an alternate route if you see equipment working on the road you wish to travel.
- Violence, threats and verbal abuse towards our workers will not be tolerated. If you have concerns or questions about the work being done, please contact 311 and a supervisor will assist you.



Safety on our roadways is everyone's responsibility. Please be patient and give workers and equipment plenty of space to perform their duties.

For all inquiries please contact Public Works at 250.787.8173 or pwclerk@fortstjohn.ca.

City of Fort St. John
10631 -100 Street Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z5
250.787.8150 or 3-1-1
info@fortstjohn.ca | www.fortstjohn.ca

