

Making a Difference



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Found Money finds its way to the Foudation

Chances Gaming Centre in Fort St John, was the Foundation's biggest donor during the annual Have a Heart Radio-thon, hosted on February 12. Their donation of \$5,354.38 came from found money and unclaimed money which is collected at the Gaming Centre and is donated to local charities throughout the year.

Jason Morris said that they chose the Foundation as the recipient for its far-reaching impact.

"It's a way to give to everyone," he said.

In total, the radio-thon raised over \$14,000.

Ashley Bentley and David Chung receive a cheque from Jason Morris (middle) General Manager of Chances Gaming Centre in Fort St John.

CT Scanner scheduled for upgrade



With funds raised from the Foundation's annual Bluey Day and donations to the Cancer Treatment and Diagnostic Fund, the Hospital's CT Scanner will be getting a software upgrade, scheduled for mid-April.

The \$206,000 upgrade will give the Hospital's radiologist technicians the ability to lower the radiation dose to patients, without compromising the quality of the images.

Since its purchase in 2009, the scanner has provided accurate, quality, diagnostic images, and has proven invaluable for the use

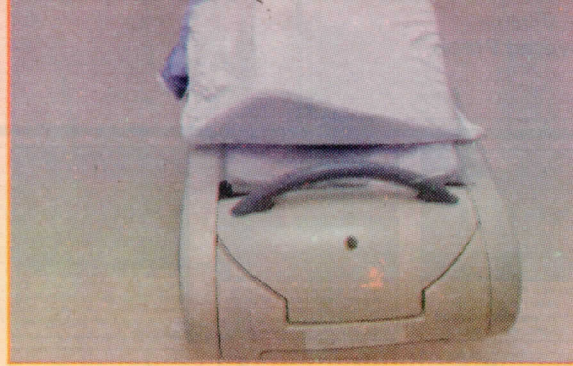
Montanas' cooks up donations for Foundation

Attendees of the soft opening of Fort St. John's newest restaurant, Montanas, donated to the FSJ Hospital Foundation in lieu of paying for their meal, on February 21. Over \$1,500 was raised, and directed towards the purchase of a wireless fetal heart monitor for the Hospital's Birthing Centre.

Owners Darren Thomson and Dan Maki have been long-time supporters of the Foundation and their continued effort to support the Foundation is greatly appreciated!

Chair of the Foundation Board, Gordon Gentles (far left), and Executive Director Ashley Bentley (far right), thank owners Dan Maki (left) and Darren Thomson (right), for their continued support.





of diagnosing head injuries, internal bleeding, broken bones, and cancer. Registration for the Foundation's annual Blue Day officially started on March 2, with the event scheduled for May 30 at the BC Ambulance Building.

The Hospital's CT Scanner is scheduled to be upgraded in mid-April.



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City discussing swap for old hospital site

WILLIAM STODALKA
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

The City of Fort St. John is considering the acquisition of the old Fort St. John hospital site as part of its downtown revitalization plan.

Moira Green, economic development officer, said the city is looking to swap an equal amount of land they own near the new Fort St. John hospital for the site of the former Fort St. John hospital.

Council requested staff enter into discussions with Northern Health about the land swap last September.

Green said the city could purchase the land if Northern Health decides not to make the swap.

A final decision has not been made by council.

The land has an estimated value of \$1 million, Green said.

Northern Health's position on a land swap is unclear.

Northern Health spokesman Jonathon Dyck said the health authority was going through a process to dispose of the land, and "he could not share any more information until that process

was complete."

On acquiring land near the new hospital site, Dyck said Northern Health "is always looking at opportunities and seeing what's out there. In regards to this, I can't provide any specific comments on any kind of dealings because it is going through a process, and we can't talk about that at this time."

The old Fort St. John hospital on 100th Ave. was demolished in 2014. The land currently sits vacant.

The city is planning a major downtown revitalization project to enhance that portion of the city.

The old hospital site would be part of the downtown revitalization project.

"As the downtown plan finalizes, as the plan emerges from Phase Two engagement documents, what we're going to find is what ought to be on each of those [vacant downtown properties owned by the city]," Green said.

The city owns other vacant downtown properties, including the old Fort Hotel site on 100th

and 100th, and the former Sew-It-Yourself site west of the Lido Theatre.

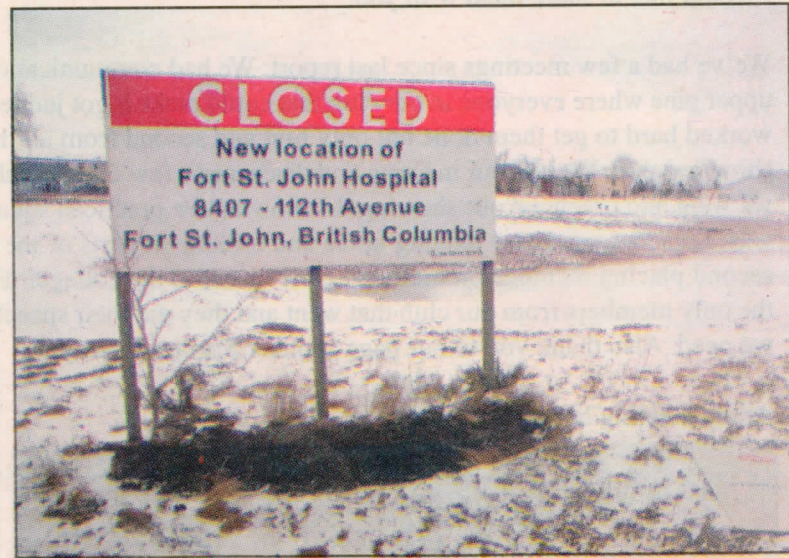
In a Phase Two report for the city's downtown revitalization plan, Joaquin Karakas, an urban design planner with Modus Planning, Design and Engagement, said that one possibility for the site could be for a new "energy innovation district" for the city.

Karakas' report said that the city should "encourage a mix of education and employment uses on part of the former hospital site to showcase local and regional energy and resource sectors. This could include a university satellite campus, energy sector offices, a mix of housing [including student housing] along with street level shops and services."

The report did not indicate how the city should acquire the land.

The city has not committed to any components of the report.

"The key components that we're looking for downtown are residential, because we need to add people, if you want things to be exciting, you have to add peo-



William Stodalca Photo

The City of Fort St. John is considering the acquisition of the old Fort St. John hospital site.

ple," Green said.

"Whatever we do on both the big key sites, which is the east site at the hospital and the west site at the Lido, it'll involve a residential component."

Councillor Bruce Christensen expressed support for acquiring

the land.

"We're open to offers of probably any sort," he said. "This council certainly wants to develop the vacant areas in the downtown area, so we're open to offers from anybody."

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FSJ Auxiliary

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them and they had experienced previous issues with

the emotional wellbeing of those who were in the rooms.

"We know from the past that people go stir crazy in those rooms without something to look at or enjoy or to relax looking at."

Since the theme of the project was bringing nature indoors, all of the pieces needed be images of landscapes.



Photo Credit Submitted

From left: Anne Siluch, Sheila Hards-Voltz, and Marion Sodergren, all Auxiliary members, stand with a piece of art that is now has a home in one of the 55 inpatient rooms.

According to Angela De Smit, northeast chief operator officer, the artwork was chosen because the hospital's job is not only to heal the body but also to heal the mind and soul. She said that adding the landscape pieces not only brightened the the

hallways and the inpatient rooms but they also quiet the mind and allow them to start the healing process.

We need to heal the psychological part of the body as well the physical aspect, she said.

De Smit added that while having the art in the hospital was important for healing purposes, it did need to go through a process in order to have all the art pieces added to the rooms. The art had to be coated in a finish that would meet the infection control guidelines. They finish also needed to be wipeable so the dust particles and bacteria that accumulated on the frames and artwork could be cleaned off without distorting the picture. They had to be hospital friendly and according to Landry, it's working out well.

The auxiliary, which is run 100 per cent on volunteers and was established in 1932, has always added the "warm and fuzzy" aspect to patient care. Aside from art and other comforts like benches for patients to rest on if they get tired from walking down the long corridors, they also purchase medical supplies and personal hygiene products. It's something they have always done, said the president and they will continue to help in anyway they can.

"Since then we've had lots of comments from the patients [saying] that they really do appreciate it," she said.