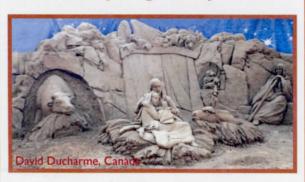


The Peace Region's newest footprint ...in the sand!

## July 25-31, 2012

Peace Island Park, Taylor BC.

The first ever Professional Sand Sculpting Competition.



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P: 250.787.2781 F: 250.787.9781 E: info@fsjarts.org W: www.fsjarts.org





## Taylor council commit \$4,800 for sand event

By Kyla Corpuz

TAYLOR – District council recommended to give the Fort St. John Arts Council an inkind donation of \$4, 800 for the 2013 Sand Sensations BC summer event.

Mayor and council voted to once again give an in-kind donation of \$4,840 to cover the cost associated with power camping spaces, sound equipment and tech, staff time, a food vendor license and an ad in the Taylor Times', website and Facebook.

The Arts Council originally requested \$9, 800 (\$4, 800 in-kind donation and an additional \$5, 000 sponsorship), which some councillors agreed to while others were not in favour.

"I'm not very enthusiastic about adding another \$5,000," said Counc. Betty Ponto.

Counc. Brent Taillefer agreed. He was hesitant to commit the extra funds, which would be half of their \$10,000 grant-in-aid budget, in case another organization approached them looking for financial support.

Counc. Brad Filmer who was supportive of giving the sponsorship said district staff could always look into building the grant-in-aid budget.

"There's nothing stopping us from getting more money for the grant-in-aid budget," he said.

"We need to encourage [the Sand Sensation event] ... I have no problem for the extra \$5,000 for the PR that we're getting. I say yes."

Filmer added that the Sand Sensation event is "spiraling" as much as the International Gold Panning Championship, which the district contributes \$10, 000 to. The first Sand Sensation event was last summer.

Ponto chimed in saying the event was "awesome" but she wasn't ready to compare it to the Gold Panning Championship, an event that has put Taylor on the map.

"I think what we get out of it is more than we're putting in," said Filmer. "I would hate to jeopardize this," he added.

Community service director Tara O'Donnell said the Arts Council was going to host the event at the Peace Island Park in Taylor regardless if the additional funding was granted.

Taillefer suggested that instead of giving monetary support to offer services that could save the Arts Council and the district some money.

Sand Sensations BC is the first professional sand-sculpting event in the Peace region.



Pat Pimm, M.L.A.
(Peace River North)
Province of British Columbia



Legislative Office:

East Annex, Parliament Buildings Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4 Phone: 250 952-6784 Fax: 250 387-9100 Constituency Office: 10104 - 100th Street Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 3Y7 Phone: 250 263-0101

Fax: 250 263-0104

e-mail: pat.pimm.mla@leg.bc.ca