



Bridge River

Lillooet News

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Royally attired! - The Lillooet Pistons Girls Bantam Hockey Team is sporting brand new jerseys this season, thanks to the generosity of their new team sponsor, Lillooet's Royal Purple Lodge. The ladies in the lodge raised \$2,400 to outfit the team, which had been getting by with cut-off, too bulky hand-me-downs from the boys team. Royal Purple member Maria Torrao had the honour of dropping the puck at the team's first game in its new jerseys.

DoL moves ahead with REC Centre tax increase

"Rate structure is inequitable:" Councillor John Courchesne

WENDY FRASER

District of Lillooet Council is moving ahead with plans for a tax increase to fund repairs for the REC Centre and establish a reserve fund for the facility.

Council voted Jan. 19 to give second and third reading to District of Lillooet Recreational Facility Referendum Bylaw 2014, No. 390. The first reading of the bylaw was passed by previous council in anticipation of last November's referendum vote on establishing a levy to support the REC Centre.

Councillor John Courchesne reluctantly supported the motion to give first and second reading, saying that it could mean an increase of more than \$1,000 per year just in REC Centre taxes for business owners who are also homeowners.

Saying that he is not against the REC Centre, Courchesne told the meeting, "I'm not happy with the rates; I find the whole rate structure inequitable. Some people are going to get hammered to the cross on this thing

and somebody needs to speak up for them.

"I don't think the general public realizes businesses are going to be paying about three times as much as what I'm going to pay as a homeowner," commented Courchesne.

He also voiced concerns about the free REC Centre pass system in the proposed bylaw. Courchesne said some business owners will probably give their free passes to employees who don't live in the District of Lillooet "defeating the whole purpose of this process by giving free passes to people that don't live in the community.

"We'll have people with free passes who work here but don't live here and don't pay anything short of their gas to go to the job and we have people who live here and have businesses here who are paying over a thousand bucks," he said. "To me, it just doesn't make sense."

Councillor Laurie Hopfl asked if council could proceed with the levy, but change the rate charged to businesses.

Director of Finance Leslie Piderman said that would be possible but it would mean that another sector of the local tax base – residential property owners – would have to pay the difference. Piderman said the additional tax burden would fall on the residential tax base because Lillooet has "very little" industrial tax base.

Courchesne also questioned whether the District could be "opening a can of worms" with unanticipated problems that may be encountered during the facility upgrade.

CAO Brad McRae replied that there is "room for error" in the engineering report on the proposed upgrades; the report allows for a 20 per cent contingency.

The new REC Centre levy will cost taxpayers the following amounts per year for five years:

- Residential and farm properties: \$83 per \$100,000 of assessed property value
- Major Industry: \$448 per \$100,000 of assessed property value

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Partnerships for Healthy Aging forum set for Mar. 6

Dr. Patrick McGowan will be keynote speaker

WENDY FRASER

"Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength."

- Betty Friedan

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and

the Lillooet Hospice Society are hosting a forum to explore the complex challenges of

supporting healthy aging for seniors living in Lillooet and the surrounding area.

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Dr. Patrick McGowan works at the University of Victoria's Centre on Aging.

Quote of the Week:

"People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy."

- Anton Chekhov



\$1.25
INCLUDING
TAX

Forum will focus on seniors' health issues, support

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The free day-long forum will be held at the Lillooet REC Centre on Friday, Mar. 6 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The forum is an opportunity for seniors, their families, those approaching their senior years, and those who provide care and essential services to seniors to come together, learn about seniors' health issues, and engage in conversations about how to best support the physical, mental, and social well-being of Lillooet and area seniors as they age.

Dr. Patrick McGowan, director of the Ladner Office of the University of Victoria – Centre on Aging, will give the keynote address. His topic will be 'Our Responsibility in Managing Chronic Disease.'

Previously, Dr. McGowan was the Assistant Director of the Institute of Health Promotion

Research at UBC. During the last 30 years his main research focus has been on

best practices and self-management programs for people with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, chronic pain and osteoarthritis.

As well, he is the author of several articles and reports relating to health promotion, self-management of chronic disease, seniors' medication, self-care, diabetes and aboriginal health education.

"We're delighted to have secured a keynote speaker of such a high calibre and with such an important message to share," said SLRD Area B Director Mickey Macri. "That said, we're excited by the opportunity to listen to the opinions and ideas from people from right here in our community too."

"I'd also like to recognize event organizer, Gail Madrigga. She's working hard to make sure that the event generates lots of good discussion about how we can all work together to sup-

port seniors and elders in our community. Thank you, Gail!"

The forum will also feature presentations by BC Housing on maintaining independence through home adaptations and potential developments with seniors housing. Additional presentations on topics such as healthy eating and staying active are also in the works. Following the presentations, participants will break into groups to delve into the topics that matter most to them with the goal of identifying specific challenges and finding solutions.

Admission to the forum is free. However, advance registration is appreciated to help with planning efforts. Light refreshments and lunch will be provided. The event will also feature an expo with information about the many programs, activities and services available for seniors in the Lillooet area.



On behalf of the T'it'q'et Community, elder Ceda Scotchman presented a \$1,000 cheque to Gail Madrigga of the Lillooet Hospice Society. T'it'q'et has been an ongoing supporter of the society and its efforts to build a hospice. "We're working towards that, that's our big goal and T'it'q'et and the people of the area have been very supportive," said Madrigga. "We appreciate the support and the friendship that's been expressed by T'it'q'et."

It's expected that the full program schedule will be finalized by mid-February. More information will be available on the SLRD's

website at www.slrd.bc.ca/Lillooet-healthy-aging-forum in the coming weeks. For more details, to RSVP, or to inquire about display space

at the expo or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Gail Madrigga at 250-256-4910 or by email at gmadriga@telus.net.

Mayor contacts non-profits for REC Centre assistance

Continued from Page 1

- Light Industry: \$257 per \$100,000 of assessed property value

- Business: \$257 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

To help ease the tax burden, Mayor Marg Lampman suggested the tax increase could be imposed over a shorter, four-year period instead of the full five years. Director of Recreation Wayne Robinson said that would reduce the amount of money collected for a reserve fund, which the REC Centre

is "sorely lacking."

The mayor also reported she has been in contact with unnamed societies and non-profit organizations to see if they can be encouraged to apply for "outside funding" to raise money or leverage funds to offset some of the anticipated costs of the upgrade.

During Public Question Period, Carol Vanderwolf asked if savings in gas and propane costs could be used to fund the REC Centre improvements. Leslie Piderman replied that those

savings were already realized when the biomass plant was installed. She said \$60,000 in propane savings was incorporated into the REC Centre budget, but a \$100,000 loss caused by the return of the GST portion of the HST offset any gains.

Sharon Kamenka asked if Northern Development Initiative Trust grant funding could be used to upgrade the REC Centre. Piderman replied that NDIT money is for economic development projects, not for capital improvements.



COOKS FERRY INDIAN BAND BAND MANAGER

Cooks Ferry Indian Band is seeking an energetic and self-motivated Band Manager who will take on a variety of challenges and opportunities and play an integral role in the continued strengthening of the vision for the Cooks Ferry community.

Located in Spences Bridge, BC in the beautiful Nicola and Thompson River valleys, the Cooks Ferry Indian Band (CFIB) of the Nlaka'pamux Nation offers a wide range of recreational activities and outdoor adventures. With a proud history rich in culture and tradition, the community is building a promising future through cultural, social and economic development. Involved in the forest industry, mining, tourism and land management, CFIB is looking next to expand their economic development opportunities with capital projects that include housing construction and water system upgrades.

DUTIES:

Working closely with Chief and Council and staff, the successful candidate will:

- Provide leadership over band programs and services including education, social services, health services, capital projects, housing, recreation, elders care, utilities, public works, and safety;
- Bring financial expertise to the budgeting process and encourage sound policies and practices;
- Establish and maintain good relationships with other First Nations, governments, industry, and partners and develop service initiatives for Band members;
- Foster the vision of the organization, coach and mentor staff, and encourage employee training and development; and
- Support Council goals and priorities.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Preferred qualifications include the following:

- You have a degree in commerce, economics, public administration or similar discipline, or equivalent education and experience;
- Are an energetic person with demonstrated experience in strategic planning, inter-government relations, program management, project management, budgeting and human resource management;
- Have progressive leadership abilities and can work effectively in a team environment with Council, community members and staff;
- Have superior interpersonal skills;
- Have competent computer skills;
- Have strong knowledge of social and economic issues facing First Nations;
- The ability to adapt to a rural, small community.

We offer an attractive salary and commensurate with experience and qualifications. Preference will be given to candidates with aboriginal ancestry. Explore this exciting opportunity by submitting your résumé to:

Katrina Elliot
Four Corners Management Consulting
katrina.elliott@4cmc.ca

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LILLOOET ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 66

ROBBY BURNS
DINNER
Saturday, Jan. 31
5:30 pm
\$15 Adults
\$10 Kids

NEXT GENERAL MEETING
February 10th - 7 pm

MEAT DRAWS
Fridays - 6:30 pm
Sundays - 3:30 pm

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