



OUR COMMUNITY *Dawson Creek*

JUNE
2011

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

6

Ways to reach City Hall

1 WEBSITE

www.dawsoncreek.ca

The City website includes Council and staff contacts, publications, bylaws and notices, links to departments, Sustainable Dawson Creek, Tourism Dawson Creek and much, much more.

2 DIAL 311

Dial 311 on your phone to connect with any City department, report issues or request information. This is your direct line to City Hall.

3 TELEPHONE 250-784-3600

4 EMAIL

admin@dawsoncreek.ca

5 VISIT CITY HALL 10105 - 12A Street

6 FACEBOOK



Join Us On Facebook

Stay up to date on events, public meetings and other goings on about town ~~with links to other civic groups~~. Ask a question, get an answer at the City's new Facebook page.

TALK BACK

Let's Talk

Continue the conversation on Facebook



Council's commitment to open lines of communication to and from City Hall led to last month's **Communications Survey**, a new **Facebook page** and a new **Social Media Policy**, ~~which is currently on the City website for review and comment.~~

Surveys came back from 255, or about 18 percent, of households (ten percent is considered a good response). All responses went into a draw and Nicole Graff was the winner of a \$200 gift certificate from a local restaurant. Congratulations to Nicole and thank you to everyone who took the time to tell us how you prefer to communicate with City Hall.

Many tried and true methods continue to be effective ways to deliver and receive information. Complete survey results are available at www.dawsoncreek.ca, but here is a summary of your responses.

How should the City contact you? Information about zoning and bylaws, events and updates is well communicated using newspapers, email, *Our Community* newsletter, the City website and radio. Facebook and portable signs were the next most popular.

How do you prefer to contact the City? Telephone, email and personal visits are preferred. Your second choices are surveys, Facebook and the 311 telephone number along with public meetings and regular mail. The least used are Council meetings and focus groups.

Is the City website useful? Yes. Almost 70 percent find the website easy to use and helpful, and use the wide range of information and links on the site.

Would you watch Council meetings on the City website? The response was almost 50/50 with slightly fewer than half voting yes. With social media and website use high and trending higher, the City will investigate costs and technical details for this service.

Facebook is an ongoing two-way conversation with answers to your questions and up-to-the-minute information. Visit City of Dawson Creek at Facebook.com and join the forum!



City plans for paving in 2011

Improvements to 110th Avenue and 17th Street head the list

This year, the City's paving plan is focused on improving two main thoroughfares; 110th Avenue and 17th Street.

This fits within the long-range plans for improving city streets and follows the process laid out during the public consultations for the 2011 budget.

"It is a constant challenge to maintain and improve the streets and sidewalks, so we don't want to fall behind," says Kevin Henderson Director of Infrastructure & Sustainable Development. "Especially with the increase in traffic volume and the shift towards heavier vehicles on the road."

With this in mind, the pressure to keep up to the demands of a growing city is unrelenting when planning.

"An example is the intersection at 13th Street and Alaska Avenue," says Henderson. "It has become so busy we need to make changes to get people safely through that intersection."

One of the main projects this year includes improvements and repairs to the road, curb, gutter and sidewalk on 110th Avenue from 8th Street to 13th Street (Kin Park area) and is budgeted at a total cost of \$918,400.

Because property owners along this street will be sharing in the cost (\$114,395), their approval is required before this project can begin. The process used is a Local Area Service Bylaw.

Council approves the proposed plan by giving the bylaw its first three readings; then staff sends a notice to the property owners and if over 50 percent of the owners approve, the City can proceed to the next step.

To fund the City's share of this project and other scheduled roadwork there will be a request for approval from all the eligible electors in the City.

This means that in June you will see advertisements requesting electors' approval for the City's share of this project as well as the other roadwork improvements scheduled for 2011 (see sidebar).

These notices will also be posted at www.dawsoncreek.ca and posted at www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Dawson-Creek.

If you would like more information about the City's requirements for borrowing, please contact Brenda Ginter at 250-784-3614.

City roadwork improvements planned for this year include:

- 110th Avenue from 8th Street to 13th Street (Kin Park area)
\$804,005 = City's share
\$114,395 = Property Owners
- 17th Street, from 89th Avenue to the Imperial Access Road
\$302,400
- 17th Street, from 94th Avenue to 89th Avenue
\$406,640
- 17th Street, from 108th Avenue to 116th Avenue
\$502,560
- 13th Street/Alaska Avenue intersection upgrades.
The City's share is 50 percent of the project costs up to \$300,000.
The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will fund the remaining portion of the project.

STAGE 1 Water Conservation Measures effective May 1 to September 30

• Even-numbered address

watering days: Wednesdays and Saturdays between 4:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., and between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

• Odd-numbered address

watering days: Thursdays and Sundays between 4:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., and between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

• NOTE:

Hoses for washing boats and vehicles must have automatic shut-off devices.