“Open for business” — These are the signs which welcome people to Dawson Creek. The pro-active leadership of Mayor Calvin Kruk and City Council working in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and the community, has shown proven growth in the economic sector and balance in the quality of life for residents and their families. The long-term goal of the City is to be the business, service and transportation centre for the Peace Region.

Dawson Creek’s progressive leadership, comparatively low property costs and positive business climate complemented by a skilled labour force and training opportunities make the City an ideal location for your business.

The Peace, with Dawson Creek at the centre of it all, shows plenty of opportunities for growth in the production of a myriad of quality products at relatively low costs. “Branding the Peace” is an innovative project dedicated to developing and promoting a strategy that encourages the marketing and promotion of Alberta and British Columbia Peace River products.

The Dawson Creek Community Profile & Investment Guide and In the News are produced by:

Dawson Creek Catholic Social Services
1209-105 Avenue
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 2L8

Photo Credits:
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E. Mayoh

Cover Design:
RG Strategies

The Dawson Creek Community Profile & Investment Guide and In the News are filled with information and statistical data. Although every effort was made in good faith to ensure the accuracy of information contained herein, Dawson Creek Catholic Social Services accepts no warranty nor accepts liability from any incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or its improper use. For more information, please contact The City of Dawson Creek at 250-784-3600.

Dawson Creek Catholic Social Services
January 2006

Additional information may be obtained from the City of Dawson Creek’s website www.dawsoncreek.ca
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For more information about the City of Dawson Creek, its inhabitants, lifestyle and businesses, please contact:

**Mayor Calvin Kruk**  
City of Dawson Creek  
P.O. Box 150  
Dawson Creek, BC  V1G 4G4  
Phone: 250-784-3616  
Fax: 250-782-3203  
Email: admin@dawsoncreek.ca  
[http://www.dawsoncreek.ca/](http://www.dawsoncreek.ca/)
NORTHEASTERN BC UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

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In May 2006, the unemployment rate in BC was 4.7% and 3.4% in Alberta.

* The unemployment rate for Northeastern BC has been suppressed due to high sample variance.

January 2006

**APPRENTICESHIP HOURS**

Apprentices undergoing training may see faster completion and more accurate statements of progress through a new Industry Training Authority of British Columbia initiative.

The ITA has announced that as of February 1, sponsors and their apprentices will receive more frequent reports of training results.

Under the current system, apprentice’s hours are tracked at final sign-off. But under the new system, the apprentice’s hours would be tracked and recorded periodically throughout the apprenticeship.

The benefit to apprentices, according to the ITA, is a quicker training period, since under the new system all hours spent training on the job will count towards the total work-based training hours required for the trade.

For more information, go to

www.itabc.ca/industryhours.

*Journal of Commerce*

March 2006

**BC LABOUR MARKET REGIONS AND CITIES**

Employment growth through 2007 will, as usual, be concentrated mostly in the urban areas of the Mainland-Southwest, Vancouver Island and Thompson-Okanagan regions. The Thompson-Okanagan is likely to have the fastest rate of job growth, while the Cariboo and Kootenay regions are likely to have the slowest rates. Skilled labour is expected to be most under-supplied in the Northeast, Thompson-Okanagan and Mainland-Southwest.

The **Northeast** region has seen fairly strong employment growth so far this decade, although employment declined in 2004 before partially rebounding last year. Job growth in 2005 was probably driven largely by agriculture, construction, accommodation and food services. Transportation and manufacturing industries may also have added jobs. Gains in these industries more than offset probable lower employment in retail trade, primary resources and education services.

Moderate employment growth in the region is forecast over the next two years. Over half of this growth is likely to be in construction, retail or wholesale trade and transportation. Employment may also edge up in health care, accommodation, food, professional and technical services.

Labour force growth is projected to continue through 2007, owing largely to continued moderate growth in the adult population, which has been accelerating since 2001. But job growth is forecast to exceed labour force growth, resulting in the unemployment rate falling through 2007.

*Credit Union Central of BC, Economic Analysis of BC*

---

**EMPLOYMENT**

The services available are focused on Career Decision Making, Job Search, Skills Enhancement, and Job Maintenance activities.

**JOB SEARCH & SUPPORT SERVICES**

1105-103 Avenue
Dawson Creek
250-782-8744
Fax 250-782-8018
http://www.jobsearchonline.bc.ca/
**April 2006**

**MOST PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRIES**

Some of BC’s oldest industries, farming, fishing, forestry and hunting, are the most productive in the province, according to the Centre for the Study of Living Standards.

**TOP 5 IN PRODUCTIVITY, BY SECTOR:**

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Utilities
- Mining, oil & gas; Retail trade
- Transportation and warehousing
- Arts, entertainment and recreation; Administration and support; Waste management
- Professional, scientific and technical services; Finance, insurance, real estate, etc.; Wholesale trade; Manufacturing.

Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE COMPARISON**

Compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates were down in every region of the province. Jobless rates ranged from 2.8% (3-month moving average) in **Northeast** to 9.1% in North Coast/Nechako. Kootenay (6.3%) had the second-highest unemployment rate in the province. Vancouver Island/Cast saw the strongest job growth (+9.9%) and the biggest increase in the labour force (+6.1%) during this period. The tight labour market conditions were mainly concentrated in the Victoria area.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

**May 2006**

**NURSES**

For the third year in a row, Northern Health has hired the majority of nursing graduates from the University of Northern British Columbia.

Northern Health has also hired undergraduate nursing students for summer employment in health facilities across Northern BC.

Forty-five newly-graduated nurses from UNBC will fill positions in Kitimat, Dawson Creek, Quesnel, Prince George, and Vanderhoof. NH is still working on three additional applications. The 119 nursing students hired to summer positions will provide important support to patient care within the scope of their skills, while gaining on-the-job experience.

Northern Health works closely with educational institutions across the region to provide hands-on training for future health professionals as they complete their studies.

‘We have worked in partnership with health providers to deliver educational services that meet the realities of health professionals practicing in rural and northern communities. It is encouraging to us to see nurses choosing to stay in Northern British Columbia as they move into their professional practice,’ said Martha Macleod, a professor in the UNBC Nursing Department for the past 12 years.

Northern Health has set the recruitment of qualified health professionals as a key priority. The health region has a variety of recruitment and retention programs to make sure that new personnel offset expected retirements over the next decade.

Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe will have six new nursing staff this summer.

Two full-time University of Northern B.C. graduates will be working in Dawson Creek, and will be joined by three undergraduate nursing students for summer employment. Pouce Coupe will also be served by a nursing student this summer.
May 2006

WAGES

As well as covering employment status, the Labour Force Survey also asks about wages. The average hourly wage rate in Alberta has increased dramatically over the past two years, exceeding the BC average in February 2005. In April 2006, Alberta’s average wage rate reached $21.07, which is $1.35 or 6.6% ahead of BC’s average of $19.77.

Alberta’s strong wage growth is a result of employers attempting to attract workers to their booming oil and gas sector, thereby increasing wages not only in that sector but across all industries within the province. These increases in wages are what one would expect in an environment of labour shortages.

In contrast, wages increased by only 1.8% in BC, below the Canadian average of 3.4%, and significantly below Alberta’s increase of 6.6%. The only province posting a smaller wage change than BC was in PEI, where wages fell by 0.8%.

The mining and oil and gas (+1.4%) and accommodation and food services (+1.1%) industries posted the largest annual percent changes in average weekly earnings. Increases of 0.7% were noted in forestry, logging and support, real estate and rental and leasing, and health care and social assistance. Construction recorded a decrease of 0.9%.

Statistics Canada
BUILDING PERMITS

During the first four months of 2006, the value of building permits issued in the province increased 7.1% over the same period of last year. Investment intentions were robust in most regions, with Northeast (+89.4%) and North Coast (+68.6%) standing out in terms of growth. Less substantial increases were seen in other parts of the province, ranging from +6.0% in Mainland/Southwest to +17.4% in Vancouver Island/Coast. Thompson/Okanagan (-3.2%) and Cariboo (-2.1%) were the only regions where building permits were down.

Data Source: Statistics Canada © BC Stats

SOUTH PEACE COMMUNITY MULTIPLEX

Construction at the South Peace Community Multiplex is now expected to be complete in February 2007.

The structures of all three venues are up with the overall complex about 70% complete.

The city is still drawing up terms with a possible operator for the Events Centre, which could come before council in May. An operator would need to be in place long before the scheduled opening.

The city will operate the Aquatic Centre, and a stable user organization will operate the riding arena.

The city has been in ongoing talks with Global Entertainment of Phoenix, Arizona to decide the terms of operation of the Events Centre, which would include an investment of $3-4 million of improvements including an ice plant.

The Kaldon report stated crews had started to pour the pool's concrete for the Aquatic Centre, the last wing of the complex to be built.

The Agriplex is still not much more than a shell but the Events Centre is starting to take shape as an entertainment venue.

The Event Centre will be built to seat 6,500 people. There will be a concourse level walking track that looks down into the bowl. It is also designed so that a future running track could be put in above the event centre.

The Pool area will have a 25 metre 8-lane competitive pool and a leisure pool. There will be a play area for kids that varies from two to four feet deep and another 4 foot deep area that is for exercise. Also included is a kiddie pool that is 12-18” deep, a Jacuzzi for 20-30 adults, a sauna and separate steam room. A lazy river will wind around and come into the leisure pool and the waterslide will have its own runoff.

Peace River Block Daily News
In the meantime, the labour shortage can't help but affect the 2010 Winter Games with its unmoving deadline. Unlike the New West school board or Anthem Properties, the Games must go on and the BC government is locked into paying for any cost overruns.

Just how high labour shortages are pushing up costs is unknown. The organizing committee hasn't released the updated -- and now outdated -- estimates that were done last fall. But it's not good. Vanoc's chief executive John Furlong has been publicly wringing his hands about the skyrocketing costs for a few months, even after Vanoc scaled back projects by $85 million. Colin Hansen, the BC minister in charge of the Games, started begging for more federal help in December.

Now, with Stephen Harper's minority Conservatives in power, it's unclear what the answer will be. If Harper says no, then the choices get tough. The BC government really has only three choices: Borrow more money, raise taxes, or spend less on badly needed hospitals, schools, bridges, power plants, sewage systems, water treatment or ports.

As hard as this is on the public spending side, things could be worse on the revenue side. Construction is a huge driver of the economy. In September, the value of the major projects underway in BC alone (those worth $15-million-plus) was $33 billion. A further $48-billion worth were proposed and $22-billion worth was in the advanced planning stage. Hundreds of billions of dollars of investment are at risk over the longer term.

But there's no simple or fast fix. McLachlan says British Columbia needs 75,000 additional construction workers by 2013. Alberta needs a similar number and even Saskatchewan is reporting a shortage.

Sure, we've got better weather. But why would experienced electricians uproot their families and move to the highest-priced housing market in Canada? Over the longer term, we simply don't have enough kids to train. But even if we did, we don't have enough kids who think being a plumber, pipe-fitter, electrician or construction supervisor is good enough for them. For too long, Canadians have viewed construction at best as a starter job for their children en route to a better career or a job for immigrants.

We haven't invested in training and apprenticeships. We haven't respected the work that tradespeople do. And now we're paying the price.
January 2006

PEACE CANYON DAM

BC Hydro is embarking on a four-year multi-million dollar maintenance project at Peace Canyon Dam.

A $67-million contract has been awarded to Mitsubishi for the replacement of all four stators — the stationary part of the generating unit. Work will begin in 2006 and is scheduled to be completed in 2009.

Other work planned includes:
- Overhaul-wicket gate machining: Awarded to Tristar Industries $140,328
- Turbine cooler inspection and repair: Awarded to Enermax Fabricators Ltd. $15,000

(both bids are subject to final approval).

November 2006

DAWSON CREEK ASSISTED & INDEPENDENT LIVING FACILITY

26 new ILBC (independent/assisted living units) to be constructed on a site owned by Northern Health adjacent to residential care; site needs to be reviewed to determine feasibility.

Construction start 2006; completion by 2008. The project must be ready for occupancy in 2008 or earlier. Further info can be found on the following websites:
- www.northernhealth.ca
- www.bchousing.org/programs/proposals/NH

CONTEMPLATED

May 2006

HOTELS

The two new hotels being built adjacent to the South Peace Community Multiplex will want for nothing, says the company building them.

According to Pomeroy Group, both the Best Western and the Pomeroy Inn and Suites will be upscale hotels with full kitchen suites and oversized rooms.

There will be theme suites (Jamaican, Hawaiian, Arabian, and Jacuzzi) at both hotels. There will also be a pool, waterslide and hot tub with exercise room at both properties.

They are targeting every market from traveling families to oil workers staying anywhere from one night at the Best Western, up to five months at the Pomeroy.

The 100-room Best Western is slated to open at the end of May. The 87-room Pomeroy Inn and Suites is scheduled to open at the end of October.

The timing of the Pomeroy is meant to coincide with the oilfield crews moving into the area for extended stays.

The Best Western will also include a restaurant and conference centre. Egan’s Family Restaurant, which is a Pomeroy Group chain, is due to open in September. It will be attached to the hotel, along with a 400-seat conference centre. The company has already booked four weddings and four conferences to take place this summer and fall.

Peace River Block Daily News

May 2006

CONSTRUCTION IN NORTHERN BC

Home and building construction across northern BC jumped by a massive 78% over the first quarter of 2006, according to a survey by the Northern BC Construction Association.

Total value reached $63.9 million for the first three months of the year, a $28.1-million jump.

The spurt is centred largely on three communities -- Fort St John, Dawson Creek and Williams Lake -- and the Fraser-Fort George Regional District.

Fort St John led the way as the value of construction reached $15.6 million, an $8.9-million increase over the same period last year, thanks largely to the booming oil and gas industry in northeast BC.

The figure for Dawson Creek was $9.6 million, a $7.4-million jump, thanks mostly to that community’s ambitious Multiplex recreation and event centre project.

In Williams Lake, the recreation complex is being renovated, the mall is being reconfigured and work at the provincial government building and the hospital, for a total of $7.3 million, a $7-million increase.

Residential construction has picked up everywhere as well, including the Fraser-Fort George Regional District, where home construction is the main reason for a $3.4-million jump to $4...
May 2006

**BC BUILDING PERMITS**

Building permits were up in every region of the province during the first three months of this year, compared to the same period in 2005. Permits jumped sharply in most areas, with the biggest increases seen in Northeast (+102.1%) and North Coast (+172.6%), where non-residential building permits were up substantially from last year. Permits for construction projects in Nechako (+83.3%) and Kootenay (+30.1%) were also significantly higher, while Vancouver Island/Coast (+14.1%) and Mainland/Southwest (+7.8%) saw more modest increases. Cariboo (+4.9%) and Thompson-Okanagan (+3.9%) posted solid, but slower growth.

Statistics Canada & BC Stats

May 2006

**SAND STORAGE BUILDING ADDITION**

Dawson Creek Airport
1 storey; 5,500 sq ft; sand storage bay addition.

**DESIGN BUILD OUT FOR PROPOSALS**

Journal of Commerce

May 2006

**SENIORS CARE**

Northern Health projects a new 54-bed seniors care wing and at least 26 assisted-living units will be added on to Rotary Manor sometime in 2008.

The replacement facility would have a similar number of units as the current Pouce Coupe Care Home, which would close, along with Peace River Haven.

The project is estimated to cost over $17.7 million, of which 40% or $7.1 million would be picked up by the Peace River Regional Hospital District.

The Dawson Creek project is largely new construction adjacent to the existing Rotary Manor on approximately seven acres.

The next step would be to provide the Peace River Regional District board with schematic designs and more accurate costs which should be ready by the end of summer. Final designs and tendering would be completed by spring of 2007.

The project is to be complete by June 2008.

Health authority staff are exploring how to create some additional beds for Peace River Haven in the interim to deal with any overflow, and that funding had already come through from the province and Northern Health to operate the beds this fiscal year.

Peace River Block Daily News

**South Peace Community Multiplex**
OIL & GAS SALE
The June sale of oil and gas rights in Northeastern BC brought just under $151.25 million in bonuses from Crown sales.
A total of 73,322 hectares sold at an average of $2,059 per hectare.
June’s auction pushed the totals so far this year to about $404.09 million for 385,203 hectares at an average $1,049 per hectare compared to $252.17 million, 276,228 hectares and a per-hectare average of $912.92 in 2005.
The top licence bid of $33.38 million was put up by Canadian Coastal Resources Ltd. for 10,620 hectares at 93-P-3 and 93-P-6, southwest of Dawson Creek, BC. The broker paid $3,143 per hectare.
The top per-hectare paid for a licence was the $4,593 provided by Scott Land & Lease Ltd. for 2,946 hectares at 93-P-5.
Two other top licence bids of just over and under $26.77 million were made by Standard Land Company Inc. for two parcels comprising 10,565 hectares and 10,542 hectares at 93-P-5, 93-P-6, 93-P-11 and 93-P-12. The parcels are southwest of Dawson Creek, BC. Standard paid $2,533 and $2,533 per hectare for the parcels.

June 2005 $100.49 million
June 2004 $30.23 million
June 2003 $19.1 million
June 2002 $16.74 million
June 2001 $15.34 million
June 2000 $15.18 million
June 1999 $2 million
June 1998 $5.1 million
June 1997 $21 million

TALISMAN ENERGY
Talisman Energy Inc has drilled another successful well in the Monkman region in Northeastern British Columbia. The Talisman et al Bullmoose a-A043-E/093-P-03 well (Talisman Energy Canada 73%) tested at rates of up to 27mmcf/d (gross, raw gas). The well is expected to be tied-in during the fourth quarter of 2006.
This successful Triassic well follows two previously announced wells, which tested at rates of 30 mmcf/d (Talisman 33%) and 16 mmcf/d (Talisman 31%) earlier this year and the d-93-D/93-P-5 deep well (Talisman 80%), which has been producing approximately 34 mmcf/d (gross sales gas). Plans are underway to spud another deep well next month. The Company also plans to shoot the second phase of a major 3D seismic program in the Brazion area. It is anticipated that this will lead to additional Paleozoic and Triassic drilling locations in 2007 and beyond.
Talisman Energy Inc. is a large, independent upstream oil and gas company headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

ACTIVE OIL RIGS
At June 27, 2006, there were 45 rigs drilling in the Peace Liard region of BC. There was also 8 rigs prepped to spud, 15 rigs released and 0 rigs prepared to resume.

Nickle’s Energy Group

Oil & Gas Commission
**NOEL TIGHT GAS PROJECT**

BP is considering a full field development project in Northeastern BC approximately 60 km south of Dawson Creek, BC where BP holds approximately 100 square miles of subsurface lands with significant natural gas reserves.

The Noel Cadomin Zone is a sweet natural gas reservoir that contains tight gas. Tight gas is natural gas contained in very low permeability rock that doesn't allow gas to flow easily. Special drilling techniques are required to extract the natural gas from the rock to bring it to market.

The Project will involve drilling 120 to 180 horizontal wells about 206 kilometres deep. Each well is about 1.2 kilometres long in the surface.

A horizontal well can replace several vertical wells. More than one horizontal well can be drilled from a single surface location allowing significant reduction of the amount of disturbed land compared to conventional vertical well drilling. They believe that 2 wells per section with 320 acre spacing will be the best.

The current plan calls for 2 to 3 drilling rigs operating year-around over a 10 year period. The expected lifespan of the Noel field is 40 years.

BP has conducted a Noel pilot project since 2003. They have drilled several experimental wells in the region, with 2 more wells planned in 2006.

The Noel full field development is subject to final BP approval before moving forward. A decision to approve the Project will be made in early 2007.

---

**TRADE AGREEMENT**

A sweeping trade agreement between Alberta and British Columbia will reap benefits for oil and gas companies when it comes into effect early next year.

For fiscal 2006, the province is hoping to add some $2.8 billion in oil and gas revenues to its coffers, almost three times the $1.08 billion it hopes to gain from forestry.

Under the trade pact, Alberta and BC will create the second-largest economic region in the country next to Ontario when it comes into effect in 2007.

Businesses registered in one province will automatically be listed in the other, while professional and vocational certifications will be transferable to either jurisdiction.

Likewise, both provinces have committed to harmonizing permitting agencies with the aim of creating a 'single-window' regulator.

The trade pact could add $4.8 billion to his province's gross domestic product and create 72,000 new jobs.

The changes will benefit Calgary oil companies operating in northeast BC, but it will also benefit smaller BC-based service companies that depend on business from Alberta who manages western Canadian operations for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

The TILMA agreement bridges the gap by fostering a more co-operative attitude among both provinces.

**BC OIL AND GAS FACTS (2004)**

- Capital spending: $3.9 billion
- Payments to province: $2 billion
- Industry revenues: $7.1 billion
- Oil and equivalents: 48,000 barrels per day
- Natural gas: 2.6 billion cubic feet per day

**RESERVES (AS OF DEC. 31, 2004)**

- Conventional oil: 139 million barrels
- Natural gas: 10.3 trillion cubic feet

---

**OIL & GAS TRAINING CENTRE**

The Oil and Gas Industry Training Centre of Excellence at the Northern Lights College in Fort St. John, British Columbia has received $800,000 under the Western Economic Partnership Agreement.

The Centre will create new employment opportunities and assist in training a highly qualified workforce to strengthen British Columbia's oil and gas industry.

In partnership with government, more than a dozen companies stepped forward to support the Centre financially and with in-kind support.

(Continued on page 14)
The Oil and Gas industry Training Centre of Excellence will support Northern Lights College’s plans to accommodate an additional 180 students in vocational, trades, career and technical programs related to the oil and gas training. By 2008, BC they will have 200 new skilled workers and 43 full-time positions in the oil and gas industry.

The Western Economic Partnership Agreement is a $50 million joint federal-provincial program supporting economic development in British Columbia. Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Ministry of Economic Development jointly administer the program.

Nickles Energy Group

SUMMER DRILLING

British Columbia’s efforts to turn natural gas exploration into a year-round industry are a stunning success, new government numbers show.

Compared to 2002, drilling rig activity is up 1,650% in the summer season to date -- including a 75% jump over the same period in 2005.

Even more good news surfaced when the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources announced that exploration companies paid $151 million in June gas drilling rights -- the second-highest monthly total on record.

New technology is providing drilling companies with access to areas that were once too muddy to travel in summer, and an attractive royalty program for summer drilling makes Northeast BC one of the most competitive gas-exploration regions in North America, according to the gas industry.

BC’s exploration season used to be one-dimensional -- a 100-day surge during winter freeze-up that saw rigs from Alberta sweep into the Northeast, then sweep back out when the ground began to thaw.

Now, major North American gas explorers such as Encana Corporation are using BC as a year-round base of operations -- creating newfound economic stability in communities such as Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Dawson Creek.

The summer industry was virtually non-existent as recently as 2002, when just two rigs were operating in BC.

In May 2003 the government announced a program offering discounted royalty payments on wells drilled between April and November.

Other recent incentives included discounted royalties for unconventional drilling programs.

By June 9, 2005, there were 20 summer rigs -- and 35 by the same date in 2006, a 75% increase.

The province’s Oil and Gas Commission reports that in the April 1-June 9 period, it approved 156 new applications for wells, a 24% increase over 2005.

The commission has approved 137% more applications for gas pipelines compared to the same period a year ago.

Vancouver Sun
January 2006

STEEPROCK GAS PLANT

Encana has been granted approval to proceed with construction of the Steeprock natural gas processing plant.

The plant is being built to process natural gas produced by Encana wells in Bissette, Cutbank and Kelly Lake areas of BC.

The new plant will be located approx 50 kilometres south of Dawson Creek and will have the capacity to process 198 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. The plan is projected to cost $60 million.

Site clearing and grading work at the Steeprock plant construction is scheduled to begin in February 2006. The construction goal is to have the plant start up and commissioning for October 2006 and the plant being on line by November 2006.

The Steeprock Gas Plant is expected to provide about 480 person years in direct and indirect employment and about 15 permanent jobs over the life of the plant.

Peace River Block News

January 2006

WIND PARK

Peace Energy Co-operative and Aeolis Wind Power have joined with AltaGas in their bid to build a wind park on Bear Mountain.

The two original partners have been searching for over a year for another investor in the proposed multi-million dollar project to build 60 wind-powered turbines by 2008.

Since the start of the project, Peace Energy and Aeolis have been mainly concerned with preparing a bid aimed at selling energy to BC Hydro for the 2006 Call For Power. At over $1 million per turbine, the project will cost at least $60 million with the bulk of funding from bank financing.

Hemmera and Robertson Environmental have subcontracted with local firm Ecofor Consulting Ltd. for parts of the environmental assessment work done on the mountain.

Ecofor, a company with an office in Dawson Creek since 2003, has been selected to conduct the wildlife, fisheries and archeological studies that will be completed by mid-summer of 2006. The EA is a critical step in the development and approval of the wind energy project. It will be submitted in August 2006.

Peace River Block Daily News

January 2006

OIL & GAS ACTIVITY

British Columbia is looking for another big activity year in 2006 after a record 2005.

According to industry associations, the province has shed its image as a difficult place to business over the past few years and is capitalizing in the current surge of activity.

The Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) predicts 1,600 wells will be drilled in BC during 2006, which would be a record for the province. About 1,400 of the holes are expected to be gas wells.

According to Bulletin records, BC saw 1,380 holes rig released in 2005, which is a new high. Since 2003, the province has rig released at least 1,000 holes a year, compared to just 618 in 2002.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers' estimates capital spending in the province will reach $4.7 billion in 2006, up from about $4.2 billion in 2005.

The upward trend is expected to continue. The drilling season has almost doubled from about 90 days a year at the start of the decade thanks to efforts to spread activity through the season.

Efforts to spread drilling throughout the year have paid dividends, but the largest growth will occur in the third and fourth quarters. That’s because road bans are typically in place in the spring months.

Meanwhile, BC rig counts are lagging last year, with 132 units active compared to 167 for the first week of February 2005, but the drop is attributed to warm winter weather as opposed to

Alaska Highway News

January 2006

ASSESSED VALUE

The assessed value of oil and gas properties in the Peace River region increased by $318 million over last year to $2.9 billion, says BC Assessment.

New compressor stations, pipelines, wells and other facilities are continually being added.

Peace River Block Daily News

January 2006

(Continued on page 16)
lower interest.

The BC Oil and Gas Commission is also reporting higher activity levels for its fiscal year, which starts April 1. On a year-to-date basis, the OGC has approved 1,461 new well applications compared to 1,388 in the prior period, for a five per cent increase.

New pipeline applications jumped to 706 from 684, which is up three per cent. But the big jump came in the form of new geophysical permits approved, which climbed 49% to 113 from 76 in the prior fiscal year.

On the land front, British Columbia producers invested $533.9 million last year to secure rights to 579,402 hectares. British Columbia exploration, however, fell to 702 in 2004.

That could change in 2006 after Shell Canada Limited announced this month that it acquired an interest in approximately 110,000 acres at Crown land sales in Alberta and British Columbia since the second half of 2005.

In June 2005 it acquired 58,000 acres in the BC part of the deep basin. At the Dec. 14, 2005 sale, Shell also acquired an interest in approximately 20,000 acres in the northeastern BC foothills offering conventional gas exploration prospects in Triassic, Permian and other deep structures.

According to Nickle’s Rig Locator, EnCana Corporation is the most active driller in the province, with 27 active rigs followed by Canadian Natural Resources Limited and Burlington Resources Canada Limited with 15 and 13, respectively.

EnCana earlier this month received approval from the BC OGC to build a $60-million gas processing plant at Steeprock about 50 kilometres south of Dawson Creek. The plant is slated to process 198 mmcf per day of gas from Bisette, Cutbank Ridge and Kelly Lake.

EnCana’s goal is for plant start-up and commissioning in October and the plant being on-line in November 2006.

Top deep drillers with holes projected to travel more than 4,600 metres or 15,000 feet include Burlington, Talisman Energy Inc. and Suncor Energy Inc.

Top drilling contractor in the province as of Jan. 26 was Precision Drilling Trust, with 38 active rigs and none down. That was followed by Ensign Energy Services Inc. and its subsidiaries, with 22 active rigs and two down.

Gas production in the province peaked in 2002 and was down 1.8% over the first 11 months of 2005 compared to 2004.

PSAC said the labour situation remains tight.

However, activity levels are expected to rise as the province encourages operators to bring the provinces other basins, including coalbed methane resources, into production.

Nickle’s Daily Oil Bulletin

February 2006

DRILLING FORECAST

British Columbia is looking for another big activity year in 2006 after a record 2005.

The Petroleum Services Association of Canada predicted 1,600 wells would be drilled in BC during 2006, which would be a record for the province. About 1,400 of the holes are expected to be gas wells.

According to Bulletin records, BC saw 1,380 holes rig released in 2005, which is a new high. Since 2003, the province has rig released at least 1,000 holes a year, compared to just 618 in 2002.

Roger Soucy, PSAC president, said he expects the upward trend to continue. Soucy noted that the drilling season has almost doubled from about 90 days a year at the start of the decade thanks to efforts to spread activity through the season.

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February 2006

**BC ECONOMY**

... Much of the growth will be fuelled by the booming resource sectors, mining and oil and gas exploration.

Experts in the oil and gas sector are predicting that natural gas prices will remain above $9 US per thousand cubic feet, a level that is expected to propel drilling activity in BC’s booming northeast to increase by some 20 per cent in 2006.

Miners too are scrambling to keep up with global demand for commodities such as coal and copper. It’s predicted that zinc, gold and silver will all remain hot commodities, which is all good for BC.

March 2006

**SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEMS**

Homeowners installing solar hot water systems can qualify for rebates through Natural Resource Canada.

The rebate program, called SolarBC, was launched in Dawson Creek, Victoria and Vancouver as a pilot project to demonstrate that the technology works and is reliable and affordable.

With support from Natural Resources Canada’s Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative and the BC government, SolarBC has been able to provide 50 homeowners with $900 each toward the purchase and installation costs of a qualifying solar domestic hot water system.
RESOURCES

Northeast British Columbia has enough potential natural gas resources in proven, unproven and conceptual plays to sustain reserve and production growth over the long term, according to a new report by the BC government and the National Energy Board.

Although the total undiscovered potential of the province has declined about 14% since 1997 due to new discoveries, “the remaining undiscovered resources will support high drilling levels for many years,” says the report, entitled Northeast British Columbia’s Ultimate Potential For Conventional Natural Gas.

According to the findings, total ultimate potential for northeast BC, including gas already produced, is 52 trillion cubic feet. Cumulative production to the end of 2003 was about 17.2 tcf with 35 tcf of remaining gas available.

With current annual output of slightly less than one tcf per year, this represents approximately 37 years of production.

Although they weren’t included in calculations for ultimate potential, gas in-place estimates for unconventional resources amounted to 300 tcf for tight gas, 250 tcf for shale gas and up to 847 tcf for gas hydrates. By contrast, untapped coalbed methane potential was pegged at about 84 tcf.

The report is the result of a joint study by the NEB and the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. It began in 2003 to focus specifically on the northeast area of the province due to increased drilling and new discoveries in plays that had not been considered in previous studies.

In 2003, British Columbia provided approximately 15%, or 950 bcf, of Canada’s annual production, second to Alberta.

The NEB said ultimate potential is a key factor in providing basic information for further investigation of the pace of development, deliverability and economics. The report suggests northeast B.C. holds approximately one-quarter of the ultimate remaining potential of conventional gas in the Western Canada sedimentary basin.

Nickles Energy Group
April 2006

**POWER PLAYS**

BC’s energy exports get most of the credit for a 10% increase in the value of BC origin exports from 2004 to 2005, a BC Stats crunch of Statistics Canada figures shows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of BC energy exports</th>
<th>% change 2004-2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>+75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>+50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas</td>
<td>+25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in value of BC origin exports, 2004-05</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in value of BC origin exports once energy is excluded</td>
<td>virtually flat at 0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BC Stats/Statistics Canada

Vancouver Sun

April 2006

**CONOCOPHILLIPS**

Oil major ConocoPhillips has closed its acquisition of natural gas producer Burlington Resources.

Nickles Energy Group

April 2006

**DRILLING FORECAST**

The Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) has hiked its Canadian drilling forecast for 2006 to 26,725 wells (rig released), a six per cent increase over its forecast in October and an eight per cent increase over the 2005 well count.

The 2006 figure anticipates 20,935 wells in Alberta and 3,800 for Saskatchewan, each a one per cent rise above 2005. The biggest increase is expected in British Columbia, whose projected 1,600 wells represent a gain of 17% over 2005.

Nickles Energy Group

April 2006

**CALL FOR POWER**

BC Hydro has received bids for 53 separate projects from 37 independent power producers in response to the 2006 Open Call for Power.

The projects submitted involve electricity generation from both small and large facilities — including hydro, wind, biomass and coal resources — and represent approximately 1,800MW. Firm energy tendered totals approximately 6,500 gigawatt hours (GWh) per year, enough power to supply 650,000 homes.

Included in the bids were four from the Peace. Bids were submitted from AESWapiti Energy Corporation, Tumbler Ridge (coal); AXOR Group Inc, Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge (wind); Bear Mountain Wind Limited Partnership, Dawson Creek (wind); and Dokie Wind Energy Inc., Chetwynd (wind).

Contract awards will be announced late this summer.

Peace River Block Daily News

May 2006

**WELL COUNT**

EnCana Corporation, the country’s busiest operator of new wells, sank nearly twice as many holes as its nearest competitor during the first three months of 2006.

The company rig released 1,231 wells during the first quarter, almost double the 632 wells rig released by Canadian Natural Resources Limited.

These two companies also led the pack when looking at total metres drilled. EnCana drilled 1.36 million metres of hole, while CNRL drilled 674 396 metres.

Husky Energy Inc. was in third place (439) using the number wells drilled as the measure, although Burlington Resources Canada Ltd., placed third when ranked by metres drilled (545 596 metres).

The most aggressive explorers this past quarter were EnCana (309 231 metres of exploratory hole), Trident Exploration Corp. (197 347 metres), CNRL (196 444 metres), Burlington (185 084 metres) and Apache Canada

(Continued on page 20)
Duvernay drilled 43 wells (30.1 net) during the first quarter of 2006, with a 100% success ratio. Drilling and completion operations are currently shut down for spring break-up, operations are expected to resume in late May. The majority of the company’s 12 rigs were moved to new locations prior to the implementation of road bans. The company’s strong Doig development well results continued with the majority of these locations selected using the 2005 3-D seismic.

A second expansive 3-D seismic survey was acquired in conjunction with this winter’s program. Prior to the start-up of the Sundown and Brassey plants, the company had approximately 32 mmcf a day of tested gas production behind pipe and ready to come on stream from the complex.

The Sundown plant commenced production in the second week of April, the Brassey plant is commencing production between May 10 and 12, bringing overall complex production to approximately 6,500 BOE a day.

Delineation drilling of the Brassey Cadomin gas pool, discovered in 2005, continued with a total of 12 well bores now into the pool. The majority of these wells are tied into the new Brassey gas plant. Further delineation drilling will continue in the second half of 2006.

Duvernay said it discovered five separate new Triassic pools in the greater complex during the first quarter with the expanded exploration wildcat program. Two of these Triassic discoveries were production tested in March at rates of 600 and 1,100 BOE a day respectively.

The remaining wildcats will be tested when operations commence in June. Duvernay current recognized proved plus probable reserves in the original Groundbirch Doig discovery have grown to 98.9 bcf at year-end 2005. The company expects this original pool to yield in excess of 250 bcf net to Duvernay as development continues. These 2006 new pool discoveries greatly increase the production and reserve potential of the BC complex for the company.

In addition to the significant 2006 new pool Triassic discoveries at Sunset-Groundbirch in BC, the company has also made a significant light oil discovery at Dawson in Alberta.

Upcoming planned 2006 Devonian new pool wildcats include additional wells at Pembina, Alberta Deep Basin wildcats at Edson and Wildhay, a Peace River High area deep wildcat at Spirit River and a deep test at Sunset-Groundbirch in British Columbia. An additional six Triassic new pool wildcats are planned in British Columbia, following up on the announced recent successes.
TALISMAN

Talisman Energy Inc. announced another successful deep well and two successful Triassic gas wells in the Monkman area in Northeastern BC in the first quarter of 2006.

The Talisman Seneca Brazion d-93-D/93-P-5 well (80% Talisman, 20% Seneca Energy Canada Inc.) commenced production on April 10, 2006 and has produced at rates of up to 33 million cubic feet per day.

This is their second major gas discovery in the Monkman Palaeozoic. The b-60-E well was the most prolific well in the basin in 2005 and they believe d-93-D is in the same league.

The b-60-E well had peak sales gas production of 70 million cubic feet per day in 2005 and is currently flowing at approximately 50 mmcf/d. The d-93-D well was drilled eight kilometres southeast of b-60-E. Early indications suggest original gas in place volumes of up to 100 bcf.

Plans are underway to drill another deep well in 2006. The Company also plans to shoot the second phase of a major 3D seismic program in the Brazion area of Northeastern BC. It is anticipated that this will lead to additional Palaeozoic and Triassic drilling locations for 2007 and beyond.

In the Triassic play, the Company recently tested two wells and plans to have them on production by the third quarter of 2006. Test rates were approximately 30 mmcf/d (33% Talisman) and 16 mmcf/d (31% Talisman) gross raw rates respectively. A well in the Bullmoose area (73% Talisman) is currently being drilled.

PEACE ENERGY

The Peace Energy cooperative wants the Peace River Regional District to help it get government funding for a small-scale, wind energy demonstration project which would promote renewable energy.

The project would install up to four turbines of five to 100-watts at ‘strategic’ locations in the South Peace. In a letter to the board it lists the Gwillim Lake Outdoor Education Camp owned by School District 59; a local industrial wood products manufacturer; several local ranchers or farmers; Northern Lights College; and the City of Dawson Creek.

“All costs for the installation, operation, and maintenance would be closely monitored, as would electrical output,” cooperative president Steve Rison said in a letter to the board. It was essential to the project, he said, that any surplus electricity be fed back through the electrical meter to BC Hydro’s distribution grid.

OIL & GAS SALE HISTORY

British Columbia collected $51.79 million in January’s Oil & Gas sale.

Top bid went to Bristol Land and Leasing Ltd., which paid $4.36 million or $1,868.88 per hectare for a 2,331-hectare licence at 77-15 W6M south of Dawson Creek, BC.

Sale bonuses in British Columbia are running about double last year’s record pace. The provincial government took in $53.07 million from the February Crown sale, selling 80,950 hectares at an average price of $655.60 per hectare.

Saturn proved to be an active area, attracting about $13.13 million or a quarter of the bonus tendered at the sale.

Top bid went to Canadian Coastal Resources Ltd., which paid $4.6 million or $2,176.88 per hectare for a 2,111-hectare licence at 81-19 W6M about 40 kilometres north of Dawson Creek, BC. The parcel covers rights in all zones.

Meridian Land Services (90) Ltd. picked up an adjacent 1,056-hectare licence for $2.3 million or $2,176.88 per hectare covering deeper rights below the base of the Artex-Halfway-Doig zone at about 2,000 metres.
Talisman Energy Inc. on Jan. 25 licensed a new pool wildcat at 2-9-81-20 W6M targeting the Triassic at 1,919 metres or 6,296 feet.

Second highest bid – but highest on a per-hectare basis – went to Scott Land and Lease Ltd., which paid $3.67 million or $3,128 per hectare for a 1,172-hectare licence at 93-P-9 about 10 kilometres from the Alberta border south of Dawson Creek. Scott paid $1.69 million or $2,888 per hectare for a second 586-hectare licence, also at 93-P-9.

British Columbia collected $20.27 million at the March 2006 oil and gas sale. There were 28,299 hectares sold for an average price of $718.16 per hectare.

The British Columbia government took in $24.6 million from April’s Crown land sale as rights to 24,354 hectares were acquired for an average $1,009.98 per hectare.

The May sale of oil and gas rights in Northeastern BC brought $103.04 million from the offering of rights to 119,113 hectares for an average of $868.11 per hectare.

Through the five sales this year, BC has taken in $253.13 million for 311,881 hectares for a per-hectare average of $811.64. Those numbers compared to an overall bonus of $151.68 million for 216,469 hectares at a per-hectare average of $700.71 in the first five sales last year.

The top overall per hectare price of $8,642.10 was paid by Devon ARL Corporation for a 299-hectare lease at 93-I-9 south of Dawson Creek, BC, near the Alberta border.

Nickle’s Energy Group

June 2006

STAY & PLAY

Tourism Dawson Creek launched its summer “Stay & Play” campaign to increase Dawson Creek’s share of short haul leisure visitors from Alberta and Northern BC and the friends and family markets.

“Dawson Creek Stay & Play” will build on last year’s campaign which delivered a new marketing approach to the surrounding region focusing on Dawson Creek’s events and activities.

Events include the Mile O Summer Cruise, the Dawson Creek Air Show, the Peace Blue Grass Festival and the Fall Fair Exhibition and Pro Rodeo.

The initiative is anchored by the website www.stayandplay.ca where visitors can see all the activities and things to do in Dawson Creek. Throughout the summer, radio ads will be aired that emphasize all the upcoming events a week at a time.

“As residents of Dawson Creek prepare for friends and relatives to visit this summer, we want to ensure that they are aware of the many opportunities Dawson Creek has to offer. The “Stay & Play” Campaign invites friends and family to visit our region over the summer and September,” said Ryan Melvor, Tourism Dawson Creek, Tourism Development Coordinator.

An estimated 320,000 visitors travel the Alaska Highway each year and over 30,000 visitors stop at the Tourism Dawson Creek’s Visitor Centre located in the NAR Park. This is the second busiest information centre in Northern BC.

Peace River Block Daily News
June 2006

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Tourism Dawson Creek has come up with a 2006-2012 Tourism Development Plan, which the organization states will guide it “on a strategic path to market and develop the tourism industry within Dawson Creek resulting in increased visitation, increased length of stay and increased economic benefits to the community.”

The plan outlines six key strategic areas, including: destination development, sports and events, communications, visitor services.

The goals of each strategic area are stated in the 50-page plan literature. They include enhancing Dawson Creek’s tourist attractions (destination development); developing Dawson Creek as a year-round sports and events centre (sports and events); communicating to stakeholders, operators and citizens of Dawson Creek (communication); operating the Visitor Information Centre in a customer-oriented manner (visitor services); and using a variety of marketing mediums to market Dawson Creek (marketing and promotion).

Peace River Block Daily News

February 2006

ALASKA HIGHWAY CORRIDOR

The Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association is traveling throughout Northeastern British Columbia, conducting the Alaska Highway Corridor Community Consultation Workshops.

The workshops are meant to identify unique community visions and a common regional vision in support of the Alaska Highway Community Initiative.

The workshops begin the process of creating the Alaska Highway Corridor Management Plan with a thematic structure.

The topics discussed incorporate Tourism BC’s Tourism Essentials Program and the Scenic Byways Framework.

As Phase II of the Alaska Highway Community Initiative, the workshops are designed to develop community strengths and an overall regional plan that will provide valuable direction for tourism development in Northeastern BC.

Phase I completed an Aboriginal Tourism Framework, Scenic Byways Workshop and Communications Strategy for Northeastern BC with funding from the BC Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development, and Western Economic Diversification Canada.

The Alaska Highway Community Initiative’s mandate is to ensure supporting communities, First Nation groups and stakeholders have an opportunity to jointly explore and collaborate on issues relating to infrastructure for tourism development, preservation of history, culture and wilderness, corridor management, safety and maintenance, and marketing and promotion of the Alaska Highway corridor.

Northeast News

[Image: Walter Wright Pioneer Village]
TOURISM SECTOR

After rebounding in 2004, BC’s tourism sector continued to expand in 2005, with most indicators showing solid growth.

Revenues posted strong growth in 2005 Room revenues at hotels, motels and other establishments in British Columbia increased 6.1% to reach close to $1.7 billion in 2005, the highest level since 1995. The persistent growth highlights the strength of BC’s tourism economy.

Northeast continued to be the top performer in 2005 All regions of the province experienced increases in revenues in 2005. For the third consecutive year, the Northeast region outperformed the rest of BC, posting a growth rate of 21.9%. This follows a gain of 22.1% in 2003, and 12.2% in 2004. Nechako (+15.2%) regained the ground lost in 2004 (-1.3%).

HOTEL VACANCIES

Tourism Dawson Creek is planning to keep a daily list of vacant accommodations during the height of the tourist season.

Tourists seeking accommodation in Dawson Creek would have a list of vacancies which would include B&Bs, hotels and motels with vacancies.

Work crews have stretched tourist accommodation to the limit in recent years and the daily reports would be distributed to stakeholders in the community to take advantage of any unused units.

NORTHERN TOURISM PROMOTION

The region’s tourism sector is booming, thanks in no small part to visiting businessmen within the oil and gas industry, says Tourism Dawson Creek coordinator Ryan Maclvor.

It’s an unequaled opportunity for self-promotion of the area’s assets that could pay off in future years.

‘A tourist is someone who travels 75 kilometres and stays overnight, as a rule of thumb, so whether they’re coming here for business or working in the oil and gas industry, or they are someone on vacation, they’re all tourists in that it’s a great opportunity for us to showcase our community,’ he said in response to new statistics that show the Northeast’s hotel room revenues rose by a hefty 21.9% last year.

He said workers are often taken with the opportunities for activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, quading, and snowmobiling, in addition to community events.

Regarding the US dollar’s slipping value, Maclvor said it’s too early to even speculate whether that will keep American visitors home. There will always be a wide range of factors impacting visitor numbers whether those are declining currencies, border issues, gas prices, forest fires or floods.

‘But the Americans are obviously an important asset to our economy,’ adding they make up about half of those 320,000 on average who pass through the city and drive the Alaska Highway each year.

For this year, the local office is focusing in another direction – attracting more regional visitors by a direct-mail campaign to over 60,000 homes in the Peace from Whitecourt to Fort Nelson, he said.

‘Our ‘Stay and Play’ campaign encourages people to look at our attractions, art gallery, pioneer village, fishing, birding and summer events,’ Maclvor said.

Research has shown visitors to Dawson Creek during May-September bring $15-million to $18-million to the economy in direct or indirect spinoffs.
May 2006

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Tourism Dawson Creek has a mountain of comments collected from the public at the open house on the city's massive review of its tourist attractions and downtown revitalization.

Summarizing it to reveal the will of the populace will be no easy task, says coordinator Ryan Maclvor.

More than a year in the works, an end to the planning stage is in sight. He estimates since the City and tourism groups started researching a tourism overhaul it has finally reached the halfway point ...

He says Aldrich-Pears, the Vancouver-based urban design consultants putting together, the report, could have a two or three-page summary to work from as early as June.

He envisions that document being divided into the four categories that have been identified for possible attention so far: the Alaska Highway corridor, the downtown, a thematic strategy and Alaska Highway House. Under those categories would be the various options and directions the city could take.

That summary will be available on the Tourism Dawson Creek website in addition to being sent out to those who signed in at the open house.

He stressed it was important the document be given out to the stakeholders prior to being reviewed by council.

‘It’s got to be a grassroots approach,’ Maclvor said. ‘As an example, if the ‘downtown merchants want ‘X’ they’ve got to be the ones to drive that forward - not necessarily city council forcing it onto (them)… whether that be through letters of support or a petition… That’s my personal opinion. It’s up to the public to move these initiatives forward. What we’re doing is acting as a catalyst.’

The summary would therefore go back to the stakeholders for feedback and recommendations as the next step.
BULL SALE

Thirty-three years ago, a group of registered cattle breeders felt there was a need for a sale where several breeds of bulls could be shown and sold to encourage producers to purchase registered bulls to improve their herds.

The sale is organized each year by a group of purebred breeders from both the Alberta and BC sides of the Peace.

With a reputation for quality bulls entered by producers who stand behind their bulls, the Dawson Creek All Breeds Bull Sale has many repeat buyers.

They also have a history of a great show and many producers arrive early to watch the judge place the bulls.

Peace River Block Daily News

BULL SALE RESULTS

The first spring bull sale held at the Dawson Creek Fairgrounds had some of the best bulls in the area to offer.

Twenty-nine registered Charolais, Hereford, Simmental and Angus bulls were sold at the 33rd Annual All Breed Bull Sale.

Price average of the sale was $2,272.

- The five Charolais bulls sold for an average of $2,100.
- The seventeen Hereford bulls price averaged at $2,888.24.
- Price average of the five Simmental bulls was $2,940.
- Price average of the two Angus bulls was $2,600.

The Mirror

POULTRY PROCESSING

A year-long construction project, which included instruction from School District 59, has resulted in a new state-of-the-art, federally-inspected poultry killing facility at the Peace View Colony. The facility can do 800 birds in half a day.

Construction of the facility was completed in its entirety by a group of seven colony members, who gained some valuable training in construction along the way. The students were all 15-18 years of age.

Included in the facility is an office for the inspector and a dressing room for the employees. Colony members raise their own stock, including three barns of free-run and chemical-free chickens and one barn of turkeys.

Peace River Block Daily News

LEGAL WRANGLES

A Montana court has rejected a US beef lobby group’s request for a permanent injunction to block the importation of Canadian cattle, the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association says.

R-CALF had asked US District Judge Richard Cebull to scrap a ruling by US Department of Agriculture that reopened the border to live cattle under 30 months old and boxed cuts of Canadian beef.

R-CALF had won a temporary injunction from Cebull in March 2005 after the lobby group argued Canada doesn’t adequately test for mad cow disease.

But a federal appeals court overturned that decision last July. Trade in live cattle then resumed.

www.cbc.ca
MINERAL EXPLORATION

Investment in mineral exploration reached $220 million in 2005, signalling the best year for BC’s mining industry in over a decade.

Regionally, the projects break down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th># of PROJECTS</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwest BC</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>$100 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast BC</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$30 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central BC</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>$30 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson-Okanogan</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>$36 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kootenays</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>$13 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest BC</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>$11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincewide</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(incorporated into above figures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>650</strong></td>
<td><strong>$220 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MINING QUICK FACTS AND STATS FOR 2005

- Exploration expenditures were $220 million, up 70% from 2004.
- Over 650 exploration projects, up 38% from 470 in 2004.
- Drilling projects at 235, up 38% from 2004.
- Mineral Tenures acquired 190,000 units, up about 400% from 2004 (largely due to the success of Mineral Titles Online).
- Number of major exploration projects with budgets in excess of $100,000 was 200, up 19% from 2004.
- Number of exploration projects with budgets in excess of $1 million was 43, up 43% over 2004. Total seasonal exploration jobs in 2005 was over 4000, up 48% over 2004.
- Number of new mineral discoveries in 2005 was 28.
- Number of projects under environmental review is 18.

COAL MINES

Coal production in the Northeast region will increase as the Trend Small Mine and Wolverine Mine are brought on stream in early and mid-2006, respectively, and as the Willow Creek and Dillon (Burnt River) mines mature. Coal production for 2006 is estimated to be in the 2.5 to 3.0 million tonne range.

The pace of new mining proposals is predicted to continue. An application for the development of the large Brule deposit was received in early December. An application for development of the Trend Full Mine is expected to reach the province’s Environmental Assessment Office in the first quarter of 2006. In addition, an application for the development of one or more deposits on the Five Cabin property is expected to follow later in the year and an application for development of the Lossan ‘small mine’ may be submitted to the regional Northeast Mine Development Review Committee. If approved, site clearing and mine construction could proceed on one or more of these projects before years end.

The level of exploration and deposit appraisal activity witnessed in 2005 is expected to remain high, but may decline modestly as several projects advance to the permitting and mine construction phase. Major exploration programs will likely proceed on at least ten properties, including the Belcourt–Saxon group, Falling Creek, Five Cabin, Goodrich South-Central, Quintette-Babcock and Trend.

PIINES TO MINES

BC’s mining industry could ease the economic pain that will arrive in the wake of the mountain pine beetle’s devastation of Interior forests.

The beetle continues to spread havoc upon interior pine forests, notably in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, with the provincial government and the forest industry scrambling to harvest as much dead wood as possible before it looses its economic value. About 25,000 families in 30 Interior communities are facing reduced incomes or lost (Continued on page 28)
CLINE MINING

Cline Mining has received the feasibility study on its Lossan project in Northwestern British Columbia’s Peace River coalfields.

The independent report, by engineering consultants Norwest, reviews a potential one million tonne-per-year operation producing medium volatile bituminous pulverized coal injection (PCI) and metallurgical coking coal over 14 years. Proven and probable clean saleable, surface mineable coal reserves were calculated at 13.93 million tonnes.

Norwest’s study also shows measured and indicated coal resources of 186 million tonnes plus an additional 53.5 million tonnes in the inferred category.

The results confirm the coals are suitable for steel making purposes producing Pulverized Coal Injection (PCI) as well as coking coal grades, with excellent blending attributes and qualities.

The Lossan coal mine is to be brought into initial coal production at 250,000 tonnes a year increasing to 1.0 million tonnes of coal annually.

A modular 1 million tonne per year product coal process wash plant will be constructed to fully utilize the present 20 million tonne coal resource at Lossan. The Lossan coal processing plant and rail load out facility is to be located adjacent to the Canadian National Rail line in the Pine River Valley. The site is to be provided by the British Columbia Government on a proposed ‘joint use’ arrangement with Western Canadian Coal.

Cline is now focused on permitting the planned operation and pending approvals and sales contracts, anticipates commencing mine development in early-2007 with a mid-year start up.

Northern Miner
February 2006

NORTHERN ENERGY & MINING

NEMI Northern Energy & Mining Inc in February 2006 has shipped its first unit train shipment of approximately 10,000 tonnes of metallurgical coal from its Trend Small Mine to the Ridley Terminals coal port, Prince Rupert, British Columbia. This shipment represents the formal reactivation of the metallurgical coal mining tradition of the Tumbler Ridge area in Northeastern British Columbia.

NEMI Northern Energy and Mining Inc. is a western Canadian based coal company with strategically located metallurgical coal properties in northeast British Columbia. The Company owns a 100% interest in the Trend Property located near the town of Tumbler Ridge. NEMI also has a 50% interest in the Belcourt Saxon Limited Partnership that covers over 50,000 hectares of known and highly prospective coal bearing land in northeast British Columbia.

NEMI Northern Energy & Mining Inc.

March 2006

COAL-FIRED ELECTRICAL GENERATING PLANT

A $350-million coal-fired electrical generating plant has been proposed in Northeastern BC in answer to BC Hydro’s recent call for new sources of electricity.

Hillsborough Resources and a subsidiary of US-based multinational utility company AES are proposing to develop a 165-megawatt thermal power plant that would represent a fundamental change of direction for meeting BC’s growing electricity requirements.

The plant would be supplied by thermal coal from Hillsborough’s Wapiti coal property southwest of Dawson Creek.

BC Hydro announced last December that none of the project requirements set out by the Crown Corporation would specifically disqualify coal-fired generation.

Hydro is seeking 2,500 gigawatt hours of base load or ‘firm’ energy to get BC back to a position of independence from outside supply.

Coal is the most common energy source for electricity in North America, cheap and easy to develop albeit with a significant toll to pay in terms of degraded air quality.

But Hillsborough president and CEO David Slater noted that BC has nearly reached the limit of its ability to develop large-scale hydro and is already importing about 14% of its power from other jurisdictions such as Alberta that depend heavily on coal.

Hillsborough Resources said in a news release that the proposal would be developed in partnership with AES Pacific Inc., under the name AES Wapiti Energy.

The project would include a 35-kilometre, 230 kV transmission line, and would have a contemplated project life of at least 40 years, the release said.

Both the BC government and the BC Competition Council have stated support for development of coal-fired power.

Hillsborough is in the process of contacting local and regional governments and first nations in the vicinity of its proposed project, and plans to submit a formal bid to Hydro before the call for tenders closes on April 7.

Bob Stobbs, executive director of the Canadian Clean Power Coalition, said coal-fired generation technology has made huge gains in recent years in terms of reduced emissions.

Stobbs pointed to Epcor’s Genesee Phase 3 project in Alberta as a model of a modern coal plant that uses higher burning temperatures, fabric filters and desulphurisation flues to bring emissions down to levels comparable with natural gas-fired generating plants.

Vancouver Sun
April 2006

WESTERN COAL & NEMI MERGE

Two junior coal-mining companies with substantial resources in Northeastern British Columbia are proposing an $84-million merger that could transform the industry in one of the province’s richest coal beds.

Western Canadian Coal Ltd. and NEMI Northern Energy & Mining Inc. proposed a friendly takeover that would see NEMI become a wholly owned subsidiary of Western.

Western Coal said the deal would create a new, strengthened company with more bargaining clout on a global metallurgical coal market, where prices are vastly higher than two years ago thanks to rising international demand for steel.

Western Canadian was one of the first companies out of the gate when global metallurgical coal prices exploded two years ago. Production is expected to reach 2.5 million tonnes by the end of July.

NEMI will reach 600,000 tonnes by the end of the current coal-year.

By the end of 2007, combined output will reach five million tonnes.

Combined resources are more than 85 million tonnes of proven and probable coal reserves, and another 100 of measured and indicated.

Beyond that, the two companies share ownership of the Belcourt-Saxon properties in the Northeast, where a potential 300 million-tonne coal resource could serve for decades.

A feasibility study on the ‘Belcourt-Saxon’ properties is due by the end of July. A rail extension of about 100 kilometres would be required to reach the Belcourt-Saxon properties.

There’s plenty of rail and port capacity available in the north, with Prince Rupert’s Ridley coal port able to handle 16 million tonnes per annum and expandable to 25 million tonnes.

The deal should be finalized by the end of June.

May 2006

HILLSBOROUGH

Two well-respected international companies, Anglo Coal, the fourth largest coal producer in the world, and AES Pacific Inc., will assist Hillsborough with developing the potential of the northeast coal fields and be part of our long-term strategy for Hillsborough’s investment in the northeast.

This year promises continued high levels of activity, and Hillsborough has a vested interest in seeing that the northeast thrives from the benefits of the world coal market. The BC government predicts that new coal mines in northeast BC could create up to 1,000 new direct jobs and $1 billion in investment by 2010. Overall, the BC coal industry contributes over $2 billion in annual production value to the province’s economy.

With the revival of the coal market in 2004, Hillsborough began acquiring additional properties. We completed the acquisition of a large group of properties located in northeast British Columbia near Tumbler Ridge in 2005. The group includes II properties; eight are coking coal properties, two are coking coal and PCI (pulverized coal injection) properties, and one is a thermal coal property. The primary coking coal property within the portfolio is Five Cabin, located southwest of Tumbler Ridge, and the one thermal coal property is Wapiti, located north of Tumbler Ridge. All of these properties have potential coal resources suited to surface mining.

Currently, we are completing a major year-long exploration program on the Horizon Mine area, located on the large Five Cabin property. They have drilled in excess of 170 holes totalling over 17,000 meters of drilling.

The Coal Projects Agreement with Anglo Coal covers nine of the eleven properties we hold in the northeast and these properties have been grouped into two project areas – the Horizon Mine group and the Murray River Group (MRG).

The property groups are based on the exploration and development work already completed, or was in the process of finishing, before signing the agreement.

Under the MRG Joint Venture, Anglo Coal assumed immediate responsibility for managing the exploration (Continued on page 31)
and development of the MRG properties, including Five Cabin Southridge and Reesor. Hillsborough will continue to advance the Horizon Mine project.

In an effort to develop the Wapiti property as a thermal coal mine, Hillsborough Resources has joined with AES Pacific Inc., under the name AESWapiti Energy Corporation to advance a proposal under BC Hydro's latest call for power production tenders to develop an energy generation project at the Wapiti property site.

The AESWapiti proposal is for a power generation project, which would include a 165 MW thermal electric power plant and a 35 kilometre, 230 kV transmission line. The contemplated project life of the power generation project could be as long as 40 years. AESWapiti would be operated by AES Pacific, Inc. and Hillsborough Resources would supply the coal from the Wapiti coal mine.

Tumbler Ridge News

April 2006

MARKET-BASED TIMBER PRICING

The BC Interior -- by far the largest sector of the BC forest industry -- will switch to a market-based timber pricing system by the beginning of September.

The BC position is based on a five- to seven-year agreement. Canada would get duty-free access to the US market under these specific conditions:

- Canada’s share of the US softwood lumber market doesn’t climb over 34%.
- The price for construction lumber remains above a benchmark set around $340 US per thousand board feet.
- **Regional parity**: Other provinces are not penalized if one province’s exports rise above historic shipment levels.

If all three conditions are broken, then a sliding tax would kick in.

The new timber pricing policy was announced to ensure BC has a flexible way of pricing timber -- a method the Americans had called for previously -- before the value of BC’s pine forests deteriorate from the mountain pine beetle infestation.

Under the plan, timber held in Crown tenures is to be charged a price based on market prices for wood auctioned off by the government’s burgeoning BC Timber Sales program.

The much smaller coastal industry has been operating on a market-based system for the past year with mixed success. But with softwood lumber negotiations on the horizon, governments in both Canada and the United States are making regulatory changes before they get locked into a long-term agreement.

(Continued on page 32)
The value of Interior beetle-infested wood is expected to drop under the new system as the market-based pricing system will track the price of logs. Under the current system, companies pay stumpage based on the price of North American wood products.

For their part, the Americans have been trying to expand the number of products covered by softwood duties, a sign that they agree that any softwood agreement is likely to include a condition that Canada can have duty-free access to 34% of the U.S. construction lumber basket. By dumping more wood products into that basket, the US is shrinking the size of the actual construction lumber component -- on which the 34% figure is based. For example, US Customs has recently classified as softwood lumber, flooring panels that are edged so they fit snugly together.

The BC Forest Safety Council is ready to put forward recommendations to the province on how to react to new federal regulations on hours truckers are allowed to work which go into effect Jan. 1, 2007.

Their proposal, which is still being fine-tuned, calls for log truckers to be allowed more hours than under the new federal regulations, but less than exemptions in place now in BC.

The suggestions will be likely be forwarded to the commercial vehicle safety and enforcement branch of the transportation ministry.

The federal regulations only automatically cover inter-provincial truckers, so the province has jurisdiction over log truckers who stay within BC, and can decide what new rules, if any, to enact.

Under exemptions approved at the provincial level in 1990 after lobbying by industry, log truckers were allowed to drive 15 hours a day, with no restrictions on the amount of hours per week as long as log truckers travelled within a 400-kilometre radius of their home base, and returned to it to sleep.

It meant truckers could work seven days a week, up to 105 hours a week.

The forest safety council is recommending that log truckers be allowed to drive up to 13 hours a day, plus two more hours for in-service, which cover activities like loading and unloading and making mechanical repairs.

The forest safety council is also proposing that log truckers be allowed not to return to their home base under certain circumstances. In some areas, truckers are travelling such long distances that they might want to be able to make 1-1/2 trips, lodging in a camp or motel or hotel overnight.

The council is also calling for capping the hours at 80 hours a week in six days, with 30 consecutive hours off duty in each seven-day week.

The proposals allow more hours than the new federal regulations that fall under the National Safety Code. Those regulations call for restricting truckers to 13 hours of driving a day, plus one in-service hour per day.

The maximum hours per week is set at 70 hours, and there must also be 36 hours consecutive rest time in each seven-day week.
June 2006

**PRINCE RUPERT PORT AUTHORITY**

The Prince Rupert Port Authority has been given the green light on a federal environmental review, which means construction can begin on a $160-million container-handling port.

The terminal, meant to open another transportation gateway between North America and Asia, is expected to provide benefits throughout Northern BC.

The project entails construction of a new container terminal which will have an annual capacity of 500,000 TEU’s & be able to handle post-panamax container ships; will include three super post-panamax cranes, reach stackers, yard hustlers & bomb carts; expansion of the intermodal yard to seven working tracks & six storage tracks (to hold more than 17,000ft of train); double the weight carrying load of 1,000 lb/ft2, a storage capacity of approx 10,000 stacked 20ft Equivalent Unit containers (TEU); related 69kV transformers to power the new container port.

Western Industrial Contractors of Prince George will carry out the concrete and civil work on the marine portion of the project. The company will construct both the new deck and the structure to carry the new rails for the three large container cranes to be installed at the terminal.

Fraser River Pile and Dredge will complete the pile-driving and marine related work.

The new container terminal will be constructed by Pennecon Ltd (Penney Group) of St Johns Newfoundland. The electrical contractor is Babco Electric Group Inc from Edmonton. Site work will be completed by BA Blacktop Ltd, North Vancouver BC.

Alaska Highway News

January 2006

**AIR TRAFFIC**

Aircraft movements were up overall in 2005 at the Dawson Creek Airport.

The overall year-to-year numbers showed that in 2005, there were 9,229 aircraft movements for 2005 compared with 6,801 for 2004. The total number of passengers was 15,229.

Peace River Block Daily News

February 2006

**RESOURCE ROADS**

The provincial budget will see almost $220 million over three years being spent to rehabilitate roads for the oil and gas sector in the Peace River region.

Alaska Highway News

February 2006

**AIRPORT FUNDING**

Dawson Creek is one of six airports in British Columbia that received funding to improve safety.

Dawson Creek will see a sand storage building added. The federal government is contributing 100% of the $280,670 necessary for this project.

Including this announcement, Dawson Creek’s airport has been awarded over $5.8 million in ACAP funding. Those funds have been used to repave the airport’s runway, taxiway and apron, restore the airport’s concrete apron and runway buttons, purchase heavy airside mobile equipment and runway decelerometer, install wildlife control fencing and improve the airfield electrical system.

Peace River Block Daily News

Peace River Block Daily News
March 2006

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Dawson Creek’s traffic circle will be getting a $1-million facelift as part of the province’s 2006 road upgrades for the South Peace.

A new process will be used this year which will better withstand the heavy trucks. The traffic circle and Alaska Avenue to 10th Street will be redone in concrete.

Other major projects include:

- Paving and widening of an additional 26 kilometres of Highway 52 east: $7 million.
- Left turning lanes at junction of Highway 2 & 52: $750,000.
- Multiplex intersection: $100,000.
- Village of Pouce Coupe arterial improvements: $250,000.
- One Island Lake Road widening and straightening of 24 kilometres: $3.75 million.
- Culvert replacement on 17th Street north of Dawson Creek: $430,000.
- Widening and paving of Mason/Semple Road off the Alaska Highway: $2.9 million.
- Gravelling: $1.9 million.
- Frontage road for Todd Road intersection replacing a left turn lane and shouldering at the Bessborough turnoff on the Alaska Highway.

Peace River Block Daily News

April 2006

CENTRAL MOUNTAIN AIR

Local travelers will have another option when flying from Dawson Creek to Vancouver starting May 1 on Central Mountain Air.

Service will be provided on a Dornier 328. The plane seats 30 passengers, offers faster service and will have a cabin attendant.

The flights will land at the main terminal of Vancouver International Airport making onward connections easier.

Peace River Block Daily News

June 2006

GREEN VEHICLES

The City of Dawson Creek recently adopted a ‘Green Vehicle Policy’. The policy stipulates that the City should purchase or lease vehicles that run on alternative fuel sources. Purchasing decisions would be guided by life-cycle costs, environmental impact and the right size of the vehicle. They would also look for the lowest emission fuel available.

The policy states one of the goals is to reduce emissions from the municipal fleet to levels that are 20% below 2004 levels by 2016, which could be accomplished in part by reduced idling.

Peace River Block Daily News
ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS

To help residents achieve greater home energy and financial savings, the City of Dawson Creek, with the Energy Centre of the North, is participating in a new government energy efficiency program.

The Province of BC’s Energy Savings Plan (ESP) has $25,000 in grants available for a limited time to Dawson Creek homeowners who improve their home’s energy performance.

The Energy Savings Plan is a one-stop-shop access to financial grants and rebates to pay for windows, insulation, heating systems, doors and air sealing.

A typical homeowner can receive up to $2,100 in grants and rebates and save up to 50% on future energy bills after implementing the recommended home performance improvements.

Eligibility for this program includes homeowners and landlords of pre-1990 homes that undergo energy efficiency upgrades.

Dawson Creek is one of eight BC communities selected to participate in ESP’s single and row housing program.

PRRDY PARTNER ENVIRONMENT AWARD

The City of Dawson Creek received a pRRRDy Partner Environment Award. The award, presented by the Northern Environmental Action Team (NEAT), celebrates the leadership demonstrated by the City and its commitment to implementing sustainable practices.

In 2003, the City of Dawson Creek embarked on a journey towards becoming a Sustainable Community. Using the Natural Step Framework, and with the help of the Pembina Institute, the municipality began incorporating sustainability into day-to-day decision-making and the development of City policy.

In December 2004, a Community Energy Plan was completed which looked at how the City used energy and recommended ways to reduce the cost and the impact of consuming about $1,000,000 of energy per year.

As a result, a series of building and equipment retrofits are underway to ensure that the existing City infrastructure uses as little energy as possible. This will reduce energy consumption in buildings like the Kin and Memorial Arenas.

By the end of June 2006, all City-owned street lights will be fitted with “dark sky friendly”, low voltage, high-pressure sodium lights that will reduce energy consumption by about 100,000 KW/h per year for a savings of approximately $1,200 per month.

The City is also pursuing the use of renewable energy by investigating on-site wind turbines that will feed into the electrical grid with net metering. This will help defray the heavy electrical loads required for water and sewer operations.
COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Dawson Creek is the lone community from northern BC participating in the British Columbia Communities in Bloom competition.

The other 14 communities taking part in the 2006 provincial program are: Campbell River, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Gibsons, Harrison Hot Springs, Mission, Kent, Clinton, Lillooet, Ashcroft, Electoral Area Westside-Regional District of Central Okanagan, Castlegar, Cranbrook and Fruitvale.

In the provincial competition, 10 volunteer judges (working in teams of two) will tour the province and evaluate the participating communities. The judge’s tours have been established and will start in early July and continue through until mid-August.

Entrants will be awarded a bloom rating and supplied a detailed report that summarizes their community’s effort at the third annual BC Communities in Bloom Awards weekend in September.

Communities are judged on the following eight criteria:

- Community involvement
- Overall tidiness
- Urban forests
- Landscaped areas
- Floral displays
- Turf & groundcover areas
- Environmental effort
- Cultural and heritage preservation.

Events for 2006 start with the ‘Councillors Over a Barrel Challenge,’ where the city’s elected representatives, Communities in Bloom members, and members of the Dawson Creek horticulture and beautification committees plant barrels with a variety of flowering plants for the downtown area.

A new contest is in the works called ‘Makeover Your Mailbox.’ The contest encourages homeowners to decorate their mailboxes or design a new one.

‘We’re combining this contest with the Posties Pick of the Week... We get the posties that deliver the mail to pick out properties of people that are doing a good job with their property - it’s clean, it’s tidy, it’s nice or eclectic or there’s just something special about it,’ said Deb Chaffee, of Communities in Bloom. Pictures are taken of the property and a sign is placed in the yard noting the ‘pick of the week.’

Dandelion Daze kicks off the summer with a kids’ parade, entertainment courtesy of the Circus School performers and Monkey Business Gymnastics, face painting, gum boot painting, colouring contests, sidewalk chalkling, barrel planting, and dancing.

The Nominate a Garden contest forms can be picked up at the City of Dawson Creek, Chamber of Commerce or Visitor Centre. If you see a garden that is something special, whether it be shrubbery, flowers or vegetables, pick up a form and nominate it!

At the end of the season, the winner will be announced during the Judge’s Reception for Communities in Bloom.

The Spot the Bug patrol also begins in June. Places that need more attention than owners are giving them, and that need to be cleaned up will receive notices from the Spot the Bug patrol! Other activities include:

- flower barrels to line the downtown portion of 10th Street and 102nd Avenue;
- flower pots in front of downtown merchants (27 businesses so far have sponsored barrels);
- new soccer fields and baseball diamonds to have visual displays;
- and entrance areas to Dawson Creek from all three highways will receive revitalization.

The judges value a high level of co-operative effort by individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions and the municipal government. Detailed reports, and access to an information exchange network with other participants creates a dynamic and rewarding process for a community’s continuing improvement.
Dawson Creek's assessment roll increased from $517.1 million last year to approximately $598.1 million this year. The residential portion increased from $378.8 million to $447.6 million. Increases were typically in the 25-30% range.

In Pouce Coupe, the assessment roll increased from $25.3 million to $27.5 million, with the residential portion increasing from $23.1 million to $24.9 million.

For rural south Peace, assessments increased from $854 million last year to $953.5 million overall, with residential assessments increasing from $265.2 million to $295.5 million. This growth reflects changing market values for many properties, but also includes subdivisions, rezoning and new construction.

The value of oil and gas properties in the Peace River area increased by approximately $242.8 million from 2005.

Changes in property assessments reflect movement in local real estate markets, and can vary greatly from property to property.

The City of Dawson Creek earned a five-star rating during the WinterLights awards presentations.

Dawson Creek, which was competing in the 10,001 to 20,000 population category, was honoured with a five-star national award for the provision and promotion of positive winter lifestyle.

“With the address this climatic fact, the combined efforts of all sectors have established an array of winter related events and activities in which citizens of all ages can participate and enjoy. These activities provide a range of opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as indoor programs for cultural growth, education and enjoyment. Congratulations to everyone who contributes opportunities that the wonderful season of winter has to offer,” the judges wrote.

The City of Dawson Creek is once again sponsoring an air show in July. The Snowbirds and other performers will do an evening show complete with pyrotechnics. Due to the sponsorship of the City and other corporate sponsors, the show will once again be free.

Residential roles in the Peace River Regional District increased by 18.5% over 2004.

Heavy industry, such as oil and gas installations, and light industry, such as pipelines, have increased substantially over last year in the South Peace. Heavy industry went from a 24% increase last year to 30% this year and light industry went from four percent to a 19% increase this year.
March 2006

DAWSON CREEK WATERSHED

Hemmera Envirochem reports that the Dawson Creek is in good shape. There have been some past impacts as a result of a number of different land uses and activities in the watershed.

The Dawson Creek Watershed Society hired Hemmera last year to do a limited watershed assessment that it could use in restoring and managing the watershed.

Several tributaries, including Ski Hill Creek, South Dawson Creek and Frondizi Creek, make up the 274-square-kilometre system which then drains into Dawson Creek before passing into the Pouce Coupe River.

The Dawson Creek could possibly support fish if a barrier to fish passage at the Rolla Road Crossing was dealt with.

The report also targets leachate near the old Dawson Creek landfill and low water flow linked to water licenses as potential concerns.

Peace River Block News

April 2006

SOLAR PANELS

Free energy from the sun will be pouring into Dawson Creek city hall thanks to a recently completed solar hot water heating system.

The installation of two solar panels completed the addition of a solar hot water heating component to the existing system at City Hall, and is part of the BC Sustainable Energy Association and SolarBC’s provincial program promoting solar hot water heating.

Beyond adding energy to the city hall hot water system, the installation is designed to be a demonstration site where contractors can see an operating system and also find information on training for installers or developers.

The system is the same size as a typical residential system, so people can get an understanding of what they might see in their homes if they choose to go solar.

Peace River Block News

March 2006

GREENSMART HOMES

Greensmart Homes unveiled their first well-site trailer prototype. The trailer is for use at remote oil and gas sites. Called a ‘double engineer’, the high-end trailer boasts two full-size bedrooms for two senior staff, oak cabinetry and full computer workstations.

With the first modular completed and sold, Greensmart management is ready to hire its first wave of employees. Up to 25 labourers and tradespeople are needed to start and up to a total of 60 at peak manufacturing this summer. At peak, the company will be making 200 to 250 of a variety of units per year.

Eventually there will be at least three assembly lines in operation. They will be turning out a variety of trailers to be used as offices, sleepers, medic

(Continued on page 39)

March 2006

HOUSING PRICES

A comparison of housing prices based on a single-family 3-bedroom, 2-bath dwelling 20-25 years old, full finished basement with garage on a standard lot:

NORTHEAST

- Chetwynd: $134,000
- Dawson Creek: $171,000
- Fort Nelson: $205,000
- Fort St John: $216,800
- Hudson’s Hope: $132,000
- Pouce Coupe: $120,000
- Taylor: $150,000
- Tumbler Ridge: $95,800

OTHER BC

- Prince George: $141,000
- Smithers: $141,000
- Terrace: $144,000
- Prince Rupert: $150,000
- Quesnel: $88,200
- Williams Lake: $142,000
- Kamloops: $211,000
- Kelowna: $253,000
- Cranbrook: $165,000
- Nelson: $253,000
- Nanaimo: $237,000
- Courtenay: $206,000

BC Assessment
(Continued from page 38)

units and command centres.

There will be three distinct business divisions, starting with the modular camp trailers and SIP (Structural Insulated Panel) press, and moving into modular homes.

Last December, Greensmart completed the two kilometres of sewer lines, at a cost of $400,000, which will service their factory and all other buildings.

Greensmart is also subdividing the 113 acres that came with the building when purchased.

They are in the process of negotiations with a land developer and plans are in the works to subdivide into five and 10 acre lots.

The company has also received permission from CN to run a spur line into the plant.

Northwest News, Peace River Block Daily News

April 2006

ONE CARD LIBRARY PROGRAM

The Province is providing BC public libraries with $3.25 million to expand the OneCard program and improve British Columbians’ access to library services.

When it is fully operational, OneCard will enable library patrons to register their library card in their home community and use it to check out materials from other participating libraries. Patrons will also be able to return materials to any participating library in BC. For example, a Pemberton resident with a valid library card could check out a book at the Coquitlam Public Library and return it to a branch in North Vancouver.

The OneCard program is already up and running on the Lower Mainland and on parts of the Sunshine Coast, and government’s goal is to have public libraries throughout BC on the OneCard system by 2008.

Part of the funding – about $2 million – will help individual libraries cover the cost of additional staff hours and postage and handling for books and other materials that must be returned to another library. The remaining $1.25 million will go to libraries working together in regional areas or through their federations to help them acquire the technology to support the OneCard system.

Participation in the program is voluntary, but BC public libraries are only entitled to a share of the funding if they commit to launching the OneCard system. Public libraries must also commit to working with the Ministry of Education and BC’s 60 school districts to give every school-age student a public library card.

The Province is investing $12 million over three years to implement the public library strategic plan Libraries Without Walls, which will bring broadband Internet to every branch, provide a virtual reference service and help set up the OneCard program. The funding includes $1.8 million to support literacy programs in libraries and improve technology to help libraries participate in electronic opportunities in the future.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Public library</th>
<th>Grant amount ($)</th>
<th>Service population 2005-06</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>16,000</td>
<td>18,312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pouce Coupe Public Library</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>862</td>
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</table>

Government of BC News Release

Photo by New Harvest Media
BRANDING THE PEACE

The Government of Canada will provide $42,500 in funding to support the Branding the Peace Country Association in their efforts to attract foreign investment.

The Community Investment Support Program (CISP) announcement was made on behalf of Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics, David Emerson, by Jay Hill, Member of Parliament for Prince George-Peace River.

‘The Branding the Peace Country Association is actively working to attract, retain and expand foreign investment,’ said Hill, adding that the project will not only encourage investment, but also enhance the capacity of businesses in the Peace Country to deal effectively with investors.

Currently headquartered in Dawson Creek, BC, the Branding the Peace Country Association is dedicated to developing and promoting strategies that encourage a marketing advantage for the Alberta and British Columbia Peace Country of Canada.

The CISP funding will help with three Branding the Peace Country Association projects. The first is an analysis of the logistics/transportation issues in the region to enhance product shipping and movement.

The Association will also develop a web portal to showcase the region’s potential and increase awareness of the Peace Country’s competitive advantage to foreign markets. Finally, it will identify foreign investment targets and develop corporate profiles and a contact database.

Across Canada, 138 projects will receive funding totalling $4.8 million through the Community Investment Support Program (CISP). CISP helps communities to develop business cases, plan and execute promotional initiatives, build capacity and gain experience in investment attraction.

In March, the Northern Development Initiative Trust (Northern Trust) announced funding approval of $255,000 to help deliver the “Branding the Peace” Program. The Northern Trust funding will help secure Brand Management services for a three year period.

BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS

All Development Regions in BC are seeing more business formations. According to figures from the Ministry of Finance database, the highest percentage gain in 2005 was in the Northeast, with a near-50% increase.

The Thompson/Okanagan region was close behind, with a 45% rise. The lowest increase was in the North Coast/Nechako region. The yearly trend across all regions has been upward since 2002 and looks to remain so for the next two years at least.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Region</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>% chg.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2,605</td>
<td>3,062</td>
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<tr>
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<td>450</td>
<td>536</td>
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<td>404</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>13.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Coast/Nechako</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>196</td>
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<td>377</td>
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<td>22,531</td>
<td>24,703</td>
<td>30,937</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Union Central of BC
COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Support for the annual community clean-up in Dawson Creek was overwhelming, as over 50 groups took to the streets for the annual event.

Roadsides, empty lots, and ditches are looking much cleaner thanks to a city-wide effort.

For more than 10 years, the Parks and Rec department has sponsored non-profit groups to help clean up the parts of our city that are neglected. This year, groups with at least 10 members made $200 for the morning’s work. With such a large turnout, they were able to cover all of the areas designated for cleaning.

The clean-up day concluded more than a week of spring cleaning organized by representatives from the City, Peace River Regional District, and DC Recycling. Along with the clean-up day, the previous weekend saw free access to the Bessborough landfill site and Dawson Creek transfer station for household waste. As well, the Rotary Club picked up garbage from over 50 seniors throughout the week.

The Rotary Club also organized the barbecue at lunchtime on Saturday, as they have for many years. Other major sponsors were Tim Hortons, who donated coffee, gloves, t-shirts, and water; and Waste Management, who provided a dump truck for the day. As well, one of their drivers, Gary Daly, volunteered his time to drive the truck.

Recycling has become a big issue lately, so this year groups were encouraged to separate what they picked up. A few groups were asked to take everything to DC Recycling to be sorted. This not only helped reduce the day’s garbage, but also helped create awareness among the volunteers of just how many things are recyclable.

Many volunteers kept working through the afternoon until their areas were done, and some dealt with dangerous materials in an effort to make the city spotless. This dedication was above the call of duty for the day, and it is one more reason why the city is so clean.

Peace River Regional District reported 275 tonnes of garbage taken to the dump during the free weekend and the clean-up. And PRRD officials thanked everyone who drove to Bessborough, rather than the transfer station.

This year half of the garbage collected was taken to Bessborough, where in the past, less than 10% was delivered there directly.

Peace River Block Daily News

SOUTH PEACE DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

The South Peace District Crime Prevention Association held its annual general meeting where members representing six crime prevention groups reported on their activities in the Dawson Creek area in 2005.

Each division gave its report, which included many activities which help to make Dawson Creek and area a safer place to live.

Staff Sergeant Dave Fenson, who will soon leave this detachment, thanked all crime watch groups for their excellent support, which is of great assistance to the RCMP.

Fenson said there are many great programs being carried out by volunteers. He felt that Dawson Creek and area has one of the best crime watch programs he has seen anywhere and he is in awe of these great volunteers.

Community Policing reported they support the annual golf tournament which raises money for Victim’s Services. As well, they do seatbelt checks, take part in the Cancer Relay for Life, and did security patrol for local events.

Block Parents reported that their division is closing down but will be replaced by another pilot program that will expand education in that area.

Citizens on Patrol reported doing 108 patrols and helped with security for the annual Show and Shine.

Crime Stoppers reported a busy year and supported several initiatives on preventing crime.

Rural Crime Watch reported they have one new group and that patrols are active in all areas.

Speed Watch reported they had been successful in slowing traffic through Rolla and in some of the school zones. They feel it is an excellent program and hope to get more people interested in operating the equipment, so that its use can be better utilized. Speed Watch is used to warn motorists that they are exceeding the speed limit in targeted areas. It was felt that a follow up letter would be a good step also.

Under new business, Geri Demyen urged members to travel to some of the conferences on all aspects of crime prevention. He also urged members to become involved in the annual golf tournament and the Relay for Life.

Peace River Block Daily News
June 2006
DRILLING RIG TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and EnCana Corporation launched an innovative educational partnership with the goal of training 100 Métis drilling rig technicians over the next three years to help fill the growing demand for rig workers in northeast British Columbia.

The MNBC/EnCana Employment and Training Initiative, which is called the Pre-Employment Floorman (Roughneck) Program, will engage participants with a practical, hands-on, immersion-style training program in a realistic drilling camp environment. Participants in the comprehensive 20-day program learn how to safely operate and maintain drilling equipment and the job functions relevant to the drilling floor and deck crew operations, as well as the specific skills of a roustabout and lease hand.

In addition to the technical training, all students participate in an Oilfield Fitness Program and a Job Readiness Program. As well students will receive industry support for securing employment upon graduation.

The three-year Employment & Training Initiative will cost approximately Cdn$1 million, with EnCana contributing Cdn$250,000 and MNBC committing the balance through their training resource funding.

June 2006
SCIENCE WORLD

Tremblay Elementary School students got to spend part of a day with Science World's Joan de Grace. She is part of a volunteer scientist program called Scientists & Innovators in the Schools (SIS). The program administered by Science World provides students the opportunity to learn about science from experienced scientists. It also benefits the students by providing first hand knowledge of career development and an advanced knowledge in the field of science and technology.

January 2006
CARPENTRY TRAINING

For the third year, several area students are getting some “in the home” carpentry training through the Northern Lights College residential construction program.

In September, 15 students started the latest home on 99th Avenue in Dawson Creek. At 1024 square feet, it’s slightly smaller than last year’s home, but has better insulation, along with the usual two bedrooms and a full basement.

The 12 high school students and three college students involved this year can go directly to work as apprentice carpenters at the conclusion of the eight-month project, accelerating what would normally take two years of a four-year course.

Profits from the sale of the home will be distributed between four community groups.

June 2006
SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEM INSTALLER

Northern Lights College, with the assistance of BC Sustainable Energy Association, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, and the Canadian Solar Industry (CanSIA), is developing the first provincially-recognized certified Solar Hot Water System Installer course in Canada.

This Solar Hot Water System Installer course will provide plumbers, pipefitters, and heating specialists with the training they need to install all types of solar hot water systems.

For qualified candidates, this course will lead to Canadian Solar Hot Water System Installer Certification from CanSIA, in addition to a Northern Lights College certificate.

The first offering of the course will be in October 2006.
January 2006

**NLC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

The oil and gas industry has thrown its support behind the Oil and Gas Centre of Excellence that will be built on the Fort St John Northern Lights College campus this year with donations of equipment totalling more than $100,000 for the Simulated Production Site (SPS) that will be a key component of the training centre.

Talisman Energy has committed to contribute a combination building with two-phase separator and a line heater, a flare stack with integral knockout drum, an instrument air compressor with air dryer, a pig receiver/sender unit and an assortment of valves, actuators and controllers.

Canadian Natural Resources has committed to provide Barton dry flow recorders, Fischer Wizzard controllers and Fischer AS squared controllers for the Industrial Instrumentation program.

Devon Canada donated a glycol dehydration unit that is already being used to demonstrate the removal of water vapour from natural gas and a 250 HP three-stage gas compressor unit that is being used to demonstrate how the pressure of natural gas production is increased for injection into field gathering systems.

A Simulated Production Site is a collection of oil and gas production equipment set up and operational, without actually processing crude oil or gas.

Peace River Block Daily News

February 2006

**LITERACY FUNDING**

For the second year in a row, the Province will provide BC school districts with $5 million to support innovative literacy programs and teaching practices that help improve students’ reading and writing skills.

School District 59, Peace River South will receive $69,629 to:

- Continue “Literacy Across the Curriculum.”
- Develop an in-service based on the Faye Brownlie Literacy initiative.

Government of BC News Release

February 2006

**PREMIER’S EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Premier Gordon Campbell presented 17 B.C. high school graduates with Premier’s Excellence Awards in recognition of academic excellence and outstanding community service.

Each of the 2005 award winners receives a commemorative medallion and a scholarship for $15,000 to attend a university, university-college, college or institute in B.C.

Premier’s Excellence Awards are presented annually to honour the top graduating high school student in each of the province’s 15 geographical college regions. Students are nominated by their high school principals and must be enrolled full-time at one of British Columbia’s public post-secondary institutions. To be eligible, students must demonstrate academic excellence in grades 11 and 12 and be involved in extracurricular activities in their schools and communities.

A selection committee, including representatives from the ministries of Advanced Education, Education, and Employment and Income Assistance and the University of Victoria, reviews the list of nominees each year.

**Sheldon Clark**, from Dawson Creek, graduated from South Peace senior secondary school. He won a Gordon M. Shrum Entrance Scholarship to SFU and earned top academic student honours in his Grade 12 year. Sheldon was chosen to be a member of the Schools on Board program – a national program to promote arctic science research. He also competed in swimming competitions for more than 13 years and was a member of his high school cross-country running club that earned a first-place team finish in last year’s provincial championships. Sheldon is studying science at SFU and plans to become a doctor specializing in sports medicine.

Government of BC News Release
By next fall, School District 59 will have a new home in the vacant Telus building at 116 Avenue. Operations staff could be in the two-storey building as early as the May long weekend. Administration will remain at its current location in City Hall until after the end of this school year, allowing fibre optics cable to be extended to the new location.

The Telus building, which cost about $2 million, will be paid for largely through the sale of the district’s other properties.

SD 59

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PARKHILL ELEMENTARY

Parkhill Elementary School will remain open for the time being in response to community action. The district describes Parkhill students as being “more vulnerable” than those at other schools and allots $86,000 extra funding to assist them. When enrolment dropped below 90 students this year, the board started to look at closing the school.

CLASS SIZES

There are some exceptionally large school classes throughout the province – with 40 or more students in a class. But none of them are found in School District 59 schools, according to statistics from the Ministry of Education. And overall, School District 59 classroom average sizes are lower than the provincial average.

The provincial average class size for kindergarten was 17.7 students; the School District 59 average is 16.8. In Grades 1-3, School District 59 has an average of 20.0 students, compared to the provincial average of 20.8. In grades 4-7, the provincial average is 26.3 with School District 59 at 25.9. And in Grades 8-12, the provincial average is 25.0, with SD 59 at 24.3 students.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 59 REVIEW

A team of 11 people from outside the region recently traveled to schools throughout the entire district, talking with teachers, principals, and parents to determine how School District 59 is improving education for students. The team had representation from the Ministry of Education, teachers, parents, administrators and Aboriginal leaders.

‘While there is room for improvement, the review team was very impressed by what they saw, and each team member had favorable comments to recognize the activities that are occurring within schools,’ said superintendent Bill Deith.

The review team identified a number of strengths in their presentation. One of the SD 59 ideas they felt was exceptional was the work of the teachers and principals on the District Leadership Teams. They recognized that these people were making a real difference to student learning by support and instructional tools.

Other ideas that received high praise were the Elders program, the dual credit programs, the professional support level of technology throughout SD 59.

SD 59 innovations they recognized were the special grants to schools to enhance student achievement, Language Centres, restorative practice, and the Focus on Learning publication. The team made special comment (Continued on page 45)
on the work that the district does around helping schools understand the impact of poverty on children and the school community.

The team made three recommendations for improvement:

- Continue working with schools to make good use of the information that is gathered on student achievement, especially to use the data to figure out if there are particular student groups who need special attention.
- Expand the structures to create a broader response to and understanding of the Aboriginal needs in our schools.
- The wide geography of the District calls for particular strategies to include all schools and their parents in the District planning that occurs.

May 2006

FRASER INSTITUTE REPORT CARD

Elementary students in School District 59 are, on average, improving their performance, according to the Fraser Institute, the conservative, independent think tank based in the Lower Mainland.

Out of six schools evaluated in the district as part of the institute’s annual Report Card on British Columbia’s Elementary Schools, three schools have improved substantially.

Tremblay Elementary is now 736 out of 1,009 schools ranked - up from 909 last year. Tremblay’s rise of 173 spots tied it with Chetwynd’s Little Prairie Elementary overall.

Ecole Frank Ross also moved up considerably, going from 511 last year to 373 this year - a jump of 138 spots - which puts it as the top elementary school in the district for performance.

Crescent Park Elementary was also up from 763 last year to 645 this year - up 118 spots.

The positions are in relation to a total of 1,009 schools evaluated overall across the province in the 2004-05 school year.

Canalta Elementary, which was not evaluated last year, was in position 848 this year.

According to the report’s criteria, schools must have at least 15 students enrolled in both grades four and seven to be included. These are the grades used by the province in its annual FSA, on which the Fraser Institute bases its report card. It takes the data collected by the province in reading, writing and numeracy in those grades.

For schools that don’t offer grade seven, the FSA results when the student completes the grade seven testing in middle school are applied by the Ministry of Education back to the school, where the student was enrolled in grade four.

May 2006

BRAILLE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

School District 59 teacher Graham Cook has been named the Braille Teacher of the Year by his peers across North America. The award will be presented by the Los Angeles-based Braille Institute of North America at a gala in that city on June 24. Through a nomination process he guesses he may have been chosen from a field of about 10 candidates.

With ties to the area, and a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts in hand he came looking for a position. So desperate was the District for a Braille teacher they offered him that job instead on the condition he would learn on the job and study towards his Masters of Special Education during summers.

In a letter to the nomination committee, the Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired in Vancouver describe him as an innovator who embraces the latest Braille technologies to help his students read and write. ‘Some of the excellent resources he has developed including those for the Mountbatten Braille Writer, are now available at no cost on-line and are used throughout the English-speaking world,’ the letter from Anne Wadsworth and Fred Poon states.
MEDICAL IMAGING ARCHIVING

Northern Health will spend $3.67 million over the next year to boost the capabilities of picture archiving and communications systems (PACS) in the health region’s medical imaging departments.

Northern Health’s goal through this upgrade and future improvements is to move all medical images (x-rays, CT scans) taken in hospitals and health centres to a computerized system. This will allow secure and ready physician access to images while cutting the cost of developing film.

The planned upgrades will lead to standardized computerized radiology systems across Northern Health’s sites. Several health facilities now have digital medical imaging capabilities including Kitimat, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Fort St John, Dawson Creek, Prince

HEALTH TRANSPORTATION

Diversified Transportation will provide the first two parts of the Northern Health Connections program.

The program will provide low-cost travel options for patients who need to travel outside their home community for physician-referred medical services and other health programs.

Diversified will provide twice-weekly round trip coach service on the following routes: Vancouver to/from Prince George; Prince George to/from Prince Rupert; Prince George to/from Fort St John via Chetwynd and Dawson Creek.

Diversified will also provide round-trip mini-bus service on a once-weekly basis from Fort Nelson to/from Grande Prairie via Fort St John and Dawson Creek. Stops will be made in each community to pick up passengers.

Planning is underway to implement short-distance routes to additional Northern BC communities later in 2006. Future phases of the project will include regular transportation services between communities in the Peace River region to Grande Prairie to complement the initial long-distance route from Fort Nelson to Grande Prairie.

Recreation

JUNIOR GOLF

Swing lessons for young people aged 8-17 years of age were offered at the Dawson Creek Golf and Country Club. Sixty-three young people took part in the six sessions.

The DCGCC is a supporter of the RCGA-Future Links Program that focuses on golf etiquette, skill development, course readiness, and game development.

Peace River Block Daily News

JUNIOR SOCCER

South Peace Junior Soccer will close the door on the 2006 spring house season by officially opening the new soccer park. Nine hundred players on 70 teams have taken to the many soccer pitches around Dawson Creek.

The entire weekend was devoted to soccer as the first games were played on the new pitches at the park near the South Peace Community Multiplex. More games, festivities, awards and filming of an aerial shot of players forming “SPJS” on the soccer field will wind up the weekend.

Initially, organizers had expected there would be just three full-sized FIFA fields. But after re-measuring the park, they found that it could accommodate four. However, the pitches can be configured to accommodate all age groups.

Peace River Block Daily News
TRY-A-TRIATHLON

After three years, the Child Development Centre's triathlon continues to grow. It’s attracting more participants, particularly children, who are swimming, cycling and running to raise money for the Dawson Creek facility that serves children in the South Peace area.

Eighty-nine people took part in this year’s triathlon.

The event attracted the experienced, the casual and youngsters trying the event for the first time.

Those 12 and older were in the adult class and swam 500 metres (20 lengths), cycled 15 kilometres and ran four kilometers. Those under 12 in the youth division swam 100 metres, cycled three kilometers and ran 500 metres. This year there were 26 competitors for the kids’ event.

The money raised will be used to purchase equipment for the Child Development Centre.

LONG TRACK SPEEDSKATING

The Canada Post 2006 Age Class Long Track speed skating championship will be held in Dawson Creek in February.

The competition will take place at the oval next to South Peace Secondary School, but venues will be used throughout the city for everything from compiling results to hospitality for officials.

The competition which will attract more than 240 national level skaters from across Canada, replaces the usual two-skater Olympic start with a mass start by age classes.

BANTAM FOOTBALL

When coach Steve Lightfoot first announced that he and several other football enthusiasts were starting a bantam football program in May and June he thought he might get 10 kids interested in learning the sport.

Turns out three times that many showed up for the community program much to the delight of Lightfoot who is also the head coach of the South Peace Secondary School Penguins football team.

The 30 budding football players began practicing in April and have been on the SPSS field Monday and Wednesday afternoons learning the rules of the game and picking up some of the basic skills.

Most of the kids who have joined the bantam program are in grades six, seven and eight and from throughout the Dawson Creek area, but there is a particularly strong showing from Central Middle School and Canalta Elementary School.

Some of them will likely go on to play for the SPSS team when they are in grade nine or in high school.

A bantam program in Dawson Creek levels the playing field, so to speak, with other teams in the Mighty Peace Football League, added Lightfoot. Many of those teams have bantam programs that feed players to their respective high school teams.

The Dawson Creek bantam squads (players have been divided into two teams) will get their first taste of game action against Fort St. John where they will play that city’s bantam teams.

Games will feature eight-men a side playing four-down football on a scaled-down field. Coaches are allowed on the field during games so they can instruct their players.
May 2006

SEALS SWIM CLUB

After the Navy and Gold Meet at Centennial Pool, the Seals say they’re ready for the summer swim season with an eye on the area’s first meet in Fort St. John.

Forty-four of the club’s 89 swimmers took part in the three-hour intra-club competition at the local pool.

The Seals began training May 1 and will wrap up the season in mid-August. Each summer the local swim club takes part in half a dozen meets in the Peace Country and Cariboo leading up to the regional championships.

The Navy and Gold was only for members of the Dawson Creek club and served as a warm-up for the season for both the experienced swimmers and the neophytes who have never been to a meet before.

It also gave parent volunteers an opportunity to brush up on the various tasks they must do to run a meet and built team spirit among the swimmers before the first competition.

During the Navy and Gold, the swimmers did four ‘normal’ events that one would find at any of the swim meets in the region, as well as four ‘fun’ events, such as the flutter-kick race, that are not sanctioned races.

The Seals train weekday mornings and afternoons.

The Mirror

June 2006

SUMMER CRUISE 2006

The Mile Zero Cruisers will be presenting the 12th Annual Summer Cruise 2006 July 7-9 in downtown Dawson Creek.

Summer Cruise is one of the premier show and shines of the summer and is the largest automotive event in northern BC and Alberta. In 2006, organizers will be following the tried and true formula of the previous 11 years with a few new twists, including a free street dance for the public and registered participants on Friday night.

Peace River Block Daily News
ART WALL

The CJDC Award at the Northern Lights College is geared towards helping a NLC student bring a project to fruition while benefiting the community. Mary Mottishaw received the award for her project of an Art Wall.

The wall now resides just inside the campus library, showcasing students’ work. Mottishaw also prepared the wall with a suitable covering and is purchasing frames for the work that will reside there in the near future. At this point, approximately 13 portrait style pieces line the wall, filled with rich colour and interesting renditions.

The intent is to offer ongoing displays on a regular basis, with preference given to students. Then in the summer, the space could be offered to local artists.

BOOKS IN BLOOM

The Dawson Creek Public Library once again hosts Books in Bloom.

Displays of gardening books, flowers and a presentation by gardening guru, writer, columnist and TV show host Ken Beattie will highlight the afternoon.

In addition, local merchants including the Olde Creek Store, Artful Gardens, The Greene House and a local potter will display and sell gardening-related items during the event.

CIRCUS NORTH WORKSHOP

Approximately 25 youth ranging in ages 11-18 signed up for the recently held Circus North Workshop put on by Green Fools Theatre members. The group based in Calgary works in conjunction with other complimentary groups to provide theatre training to many youth at this time of year.

The aerial aspect of the course (trapeze) was taught by High Strung Aerial Dance — also based in Calgary.

DIONYSUS THEATRE COMPANY

Dionysus Theatre Company was established to bring live theatre to Dawson Creek both for the enjoyment of the audience and as an opportunity for performers.

Since its first production of “Frankenstein” in Unchaqah Hall, Dionysus has continued to stage exciting theatre over 30 years and 50 productions later.

The latest production “The Melville Boys” is written by Canadian playwright Norm Foster.

The Society for Community Living will be hosting a dinner theatre as a fundraiser on opening night.

VANCOUVER OPERA

The Vancouver Opera Touring Ensemble performed at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

The first part of the program was a new opera for young audiences about family, home and cross cultural understanding called “Naomi’s Road”.

In the Second World War, a nine-year-old Japanese Canadian girl confronts the harshness of the Internment and discovers her own resilience of spirit.

The second part of the evening was a program of opera excerpts called “The World of Opera” which is a tune tour of opera’s most beautiful and captivating music spanning three centuries: Mozart, Rossini, Verdi and Puccini.