



2018 – 2022 Council

Thank you to everyone who voted on General Election Day on October 20, 2018. We are excited to welcome our new Mayor and Councillors:

**Mayor
Councillors**

Joan Atkinson
Andy Barnes
Viktor Brumovsky
Peter Grogan
Amber Hancock
Raye McMeeken
Jim Wiens

The official swearing in ceremony was held on November 5th. Thank you to the previous Mayor and Council and congratulations to all the successful candidates. The position of our new School District No. 57 Trustee was acclaimed by Shuirose Valimohamed.

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The Mackenzie Wildfire Protection Project

Following the Lions Lake Wildland Interface Fire on June 16th the District of Mackenzie has made fuel mitigation and wildfire prevention a top priority. As a result, the District of Mackenzie applied to the BC Rural Dividend for \$500,000 in grant funding for fuel load mitigation.

The project will reduce wildfire risk, increase safety, protect wildlife and improve means of access and exit for the community. These activities will involve the employment of a specialized crew and may include equipment rental and provision of fuel load mitigation training to District staff. The training and skills development, which may include chainsaw training, danger tree assessment, fall

protection, and equipment operation training, will build the resources, capability and capacity of our community to deal with our key challenges regarding wildfire, and promote fire smart activities in the community. The project will target fuel abatement prescriptions in close vicinity to infrastructure to improve the spaces aesthetically and reduce their vulnerability in the case of wildfire threat. Fuel that is removed can be repurposed with a chipper for trail maintenance and beautification within the community.

The project follows the recommendations outlined in the District's Community Wildfire Protection Plan, adopted in June 2018.

Mack Attack: Mackenzie's New Structure Protection Unit

This past summer, the District of Mackenzie's Fire and Rescue Department provided resources and assistance during the Provincial State of Emergency in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Cariboo Regional District. Structure Protection Units and crews were deployed during interface fires where structures or infrastructure were at risk.

Mackenzie Fire Fighters protected structures in remote locations north of Smithers and the Mackenzie Structure Protection Unit was utilized in Quesnel. The Mackenzie Fire crew was required to assess each threatened property and utilize equipment within the Structure Protection Unit to create a humidity bubble by wetting roofs and areas surrounding structures in order to mitigate the damage from sparks and the approaching wildfire.



Above: Mackenzie fire crew on deployment this summer.

Mackenzie Fire Smart

FireSmart is a national initiative to help residents and communities understand the ways in which wildfire might threaten structures and property located in, and close to, forested and wildland areas, as well as outline the steps individuals and communities can take to reduce the vulnerability of buildings and property to fire.

Should wildfires choose to come our way, the District of Mackenzie is taking measures to be prepared in the case of an emergency. We are encouraging property owners to participate by cleaning up their properties and ensuring that fuel loads are minimal to reduce fire hazards. For example:

- Clearing all plants and other vegetation from within 10m of a structure. Ensuring that there are no trees or other vegetation overhanging the roof. When planting new trees consider planting deciduous species such as birch and aspen.

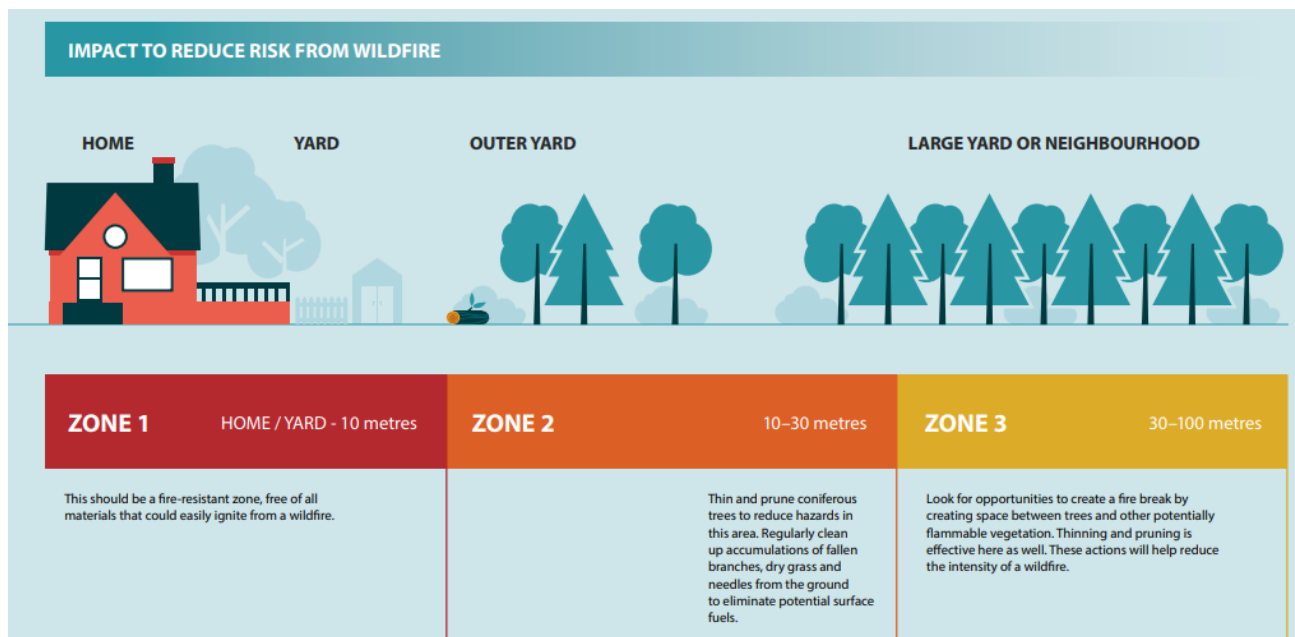
There are three priority zones surrounding residential homes:

Priority Zone One is 10 metres from your home. This should be a fire-resistant zone, free of all materials that could easily ignite from a wildfire.

Priority Zone Two is 10-30 metres from your home. Reduce fuels in this area by thinning and pruning vegetation and trees.

Priority Zone Three is 30-100 metres from your home. Try to thin out trees and other vegetation. This will help reduce a wildfire's intensity and slow its spread.

Please FireSmart your property, if you wait, you may be too late. For more information on how you can FireSmart your home contact the Fire Department or visit the FireSmart website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/for-your-home-community>



Project Updates

Community Market Park Completion

Our brand new Community Market Park has been completed! We appreciate all the community support this project received and we are happy to see residents and visitors making great use of the new space, especially during the weekly Thursday evening community markets over the summer months. We encourage everyone to stop by and check out the new space! The District would also like to thank the following dedicated groups and individuals that were involved in completing this exciting project:

- The Mackenzie Community Market;
- Ken Gawryluk, who managed the project on behalf of the District;
- Our Public Works & Parks staff who did an outstanding job on the project;
- Jim Bellavance of Cordwood Industries, who worked closely with Ken and our team to ensure the successful completion of our new community market and gathering place;
- The Regional District of Fraser Fort George for donating compost soil for the gardens and landscaping; and
- Sonic Concrete & SDL Electrical for donating supplies and time to the project;
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In addition, we would like to thank the Northern Development Initiative Trust for generously supporting this project with a grant of \$30,000. Northern Development Initiative Trust has been a

very valuable partner for the District of Mackenzie by supporting 39 District and not-for-profit led projects in Mackenzie over the last two years. Thank you again to everyone for their dedication and hard work to create this beautiful new space for residents and visitors to enjoy.



BCAA Playspace

Yet again, Mackenzie residents demonstrate unparalleled volunteerism by coming together on Saturday September 29th to install the new BCAA playground. Your hard work went a long way and we now have an awesome new play space for our younger generations to enjoy. For those who have not yet seen it, be sure to stop by next time you visit the Recreation Centre or skate park, you won't miss it. A big

thank you to BCAA for supplying the play structures, Mackenzie Community Spaces for organizing the funding campaign, all the voters for helping us win, Public Works for coordinating the installation and all the volunteers who came out to put it up. We are lucky to live in such a dynamic and tight-knit community!

Morfee Well

The District of Mackenzie has recently completed the multi-phase Morfee Well Project using funds generously provided by the Province of British Columbia and the District's capital budget.

This project involved a complete overhaul of one of the two pump houses on Morfee Lake Road. The wells in these pump houses pump water from an underground aquifer below

Morfee Lake up to the water tower at the top of Little Mac Ski Hill and it is then distributed throughout the community.

We now have the capability to run both pumps at the same time at maximum flow rate, but in most cases only one pump is necessary. Water from the new well has been successfully tested for purity and is now being introduced to the reservoir.

Gantahaz Pumphouse Replacement

The Gantahaz Residential Subdivision Community Water System consists of two operational water wells (Well #1 and #4), a back-up well (Well #2), a water reservoir, and an underground distribution system to each individual lot. Water is pumped from the underground aquifer at Production Well #1 and #4, where it is then directed to the reservoir. Water is then distributed on-demand to homeowners through the use of a booster pump.

The District of Mackenzie has undertaken a project to upgrade Well #1.

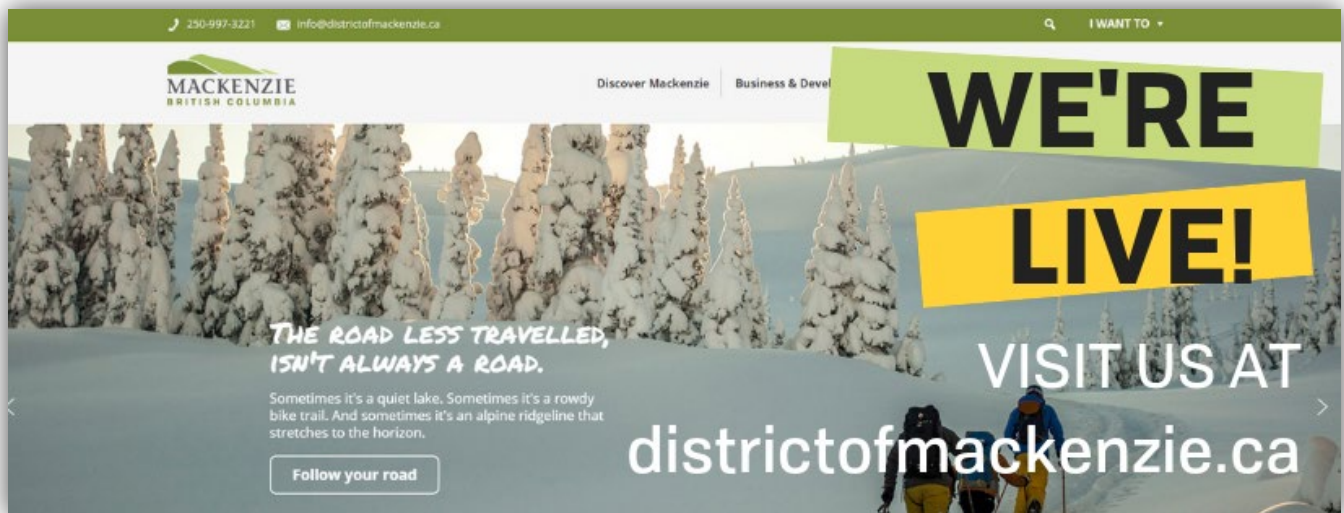
We have started to excavate and build forms for the new foundation. Framing will start immediately following the backfilling and demolition of the existing building. The completion date for this project is weather dependent, but we are aiming for a 2018 completion.

Thanks to all the donors, contractors and Public Works staff who are contributing to the provision of Mackenzie's water supply security for years to come!

New District Website!

The District of Mackenzie's branding initiative, Phase Two, has led to the creation of this spiffy new website! Our Wild and Free brand was developed with input from the community, including the work of local photographers, and we feel it represents all

the things we love about Mackenzie. Thank you to the Northern Development Initiative Trust for supporting this strategic marketing investment with a \$10,500 grant. We hope you find the new site informative, engaging and easy to use. Enjoy!



Cicada Ball Diamond Upgrades

In response to the recent increase in ball diamond use, the District of Mackenzie was able to secure \$30,000 in grant funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust to upgrade the Cicada Ball Diamonds. Investments in the realignment, installation of new fencing

and significant infield improvements were performed in Fall 2017. Ball Diamond four has been upgraded and an official unveiling ceremony took place on July 12th 2018, followed by the first annual Daren George Memorial Tournament.



Public Works and Bylaw Updates

It has been a busy summer and fall for Public Works. Keep an eye out for some of these improvements around town:

- Town fire hydrants have been inspected and/or replaced in the past few weeks.
- Old bear-resistant garbage cans around town are being replaced with new, bear-proof ones. We are almost there!
- Concrete pads are being poured and old wooden picnic tables replaced with new recycled plastic picnic tables around town and down at second beach.
- Construction of the Mackenzie community non-service campsite is currently in progress, with the first road loop completed and the installation of concrete pads, recycled plastic picnic tables and garbage cans currently underway. This campground will include 8-10 tent and non-serviced RV sites.



New Bear Proof Public Garbage Cans (above).

Big thanks to Public Works for keeping our community looking sharp, functioning smoothly and moving forward!

Levelling of the new non-service RV sites



New concrete pads at second beach.



Unsightly Properties Bylaw

The District of Mackenzie has updated its Unsightly Properties bylaw (Bylaw No. 1394) to improve clarity, consistency and enforceability, as well as contribute to Council's strategic priority of investing in attractiveness, streetscape and general appeal of the community. This bylaw requires owners of property in Mackenzie to maintain and present a tidy and inviting community.

Key changes to the previous bylaw include:

- Sections added referencing Derelict Structures, Derelict Vehicles, Discarded Materials, Recreational Vehicles and Equipment

Parking Protocol

In accordance with Zoning Bylaw # 1368 and our updated Unsightly Properties Bylaw #1394, the District of Mackenzie is cracking down on parking infractions, particularly of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers. The following tips will keep Bylaw Enforcement from knocking on your door:

You may park as many licensed vehicles as you own on your residential driveway, as long as the driveway is between 4.0 and 6.5 m wide.

No more than two (2) boats, vessels, recreational vehicles or trailers, or combination thereof can be parked in front of your home, and must be on the main driveway or improved driveway. Residents may store as many of these items behind the principal building as the owner wishes as long as they are operable.

You may only have one unlicensed vehicle per parcel, unless the vehicles are completely enclosed in a building or structure.

For further information, please refer to zoning bylaw #1368 or contact Public Works at 250-997-3882 (press 0).

- Sections added to regulate maintenance of grass and vegetation, graffiti and pests; and
- Increased fines to align with other municipalities in the region and promote compliance.

Education will precede enforcement of the new bylaw, so that residents are aware of the updated requirements before being penalized for infractions. A reasonable time frame to correct transgressions is granted prior to enforcement. The bylaw can be found on the District of Mackenzie website.



Garbage Pick-Up Revamp

Similar to many communities in BC, the District will be purchasing a new garbage truck with an automated side-arm for picking up garbage bins (so that our operators don't have to do it manually).

With our current garbage truck soon requiring replacement, Council and staff felt this would be a good opportunity to explore a more modern garbage pick-up system that would not only meet the current needs of residents, but also encourage the reduction of household waste, be safer for our operators and more cost-effective for the District and taxpayers.

Benefits of the new system include:

- 1)** Increased safety for operators
- 2)** More streamlined and efficient garbage collection
- 3)** More effective use of staff resources
- 4)** Potential reduction in waste

We will be purchasing new standard size bins for every residence that will complement the truck, as it can only pick up a specific style of bin (see below). More details on the cost of the bins will be made available as they are decided.



Cannabis Legalization

On October 17th, recreational cannabis became legal in BC conditional on municipal bylaws being followed. The District of Mackenzie underwent an extensive public consultation process in order to approach legalization in a way that would be welcomed by Mackenzie

residents. Bylaws regulating cannabis consumption, cultivation and retail sales include: Business License Amendment Bylaw No. 1399, 2018, Smoke Free Places Amendment Bylaw No. 1400, 2018, Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1401, 2018 and Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 1402. Stay tuned for a summary fact sheet to be published on the District website soon!

2018 Business Walk

Business development is a cornerstone of economic health and vibrancy in our community. In order to gain an understanding of how the District can best support our local businesses we launched an annual Business Walk program, which we use to check in with Mackenzie businesses and find out more about the state of business from local operators. District staff shared last year's business walk findings with business support services in the community, and worked with them to help improve and promote the support programs available to meet the specific needs voiced by business owners.

This year, on October 4th, teams of elected officials, District staff, and business service representatives visited 40+ store-front town

and industrial site businesses to conduct interviews with business operators. Once again, the event was hugely positive and insightful. Our business support organizations will have access to the results in order to keep adjusting their services to the current needs. If you were not able to participate, there is still opportunity to contribute feedback! Please contact Emily Kaehn at ekaehn@district.mackenzie.bc.ca or 250-997-3221.

Further information on the Business Walks program can be found on the District of Mackenzie 2018 Business Walks Webpage. Thank you to all the volunteers and participants who continue to support our business community!

Plaid Friday – November 23rd!

Calling all holiday shoppers!

Start your holiday shopping this year with unique gifts, great deals and awesome, local independently-owned businesses. Get out your best plaid and enjoy a relaxing alternative to "Black Friday" by spending some time (and dollars) at your favourite local businesses. Love Mackenzie will also be partnering with the Mackenzie Community Market in hosting an

evening "Plaid Friday Winter Market" showcasing the fabulous wares of many of our Mackenzie businesses and non-profits. Stay tuned for event details on the Love Mackenzie Facebook page.

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How did Plaid Friday Start?

The concept of Plaid Friday was conceptualized in Oakland, CA – a community known for their strong shop local campaigns. It strives to bring back the days when shopping for friends and family during the holidays was a pleasurable and leisurely activity. Communities and businesses throughout the US and Canada now participate in the campaign.

What's with the Plaid?

The plaid pattern represents weaving the individual threads of small businesses together to create a strong fabric that celebrates the diversity and creativity of independent businesses. It also is pretty much the uniform of Northern BC!

Save the Date and Celebrate!

Join us in wearing plaid on November 23, 2018 in celebration of our local business community!

Plaid Friday – November 23, 2018

#plaidfriday #lovemackenziebc

www.lovemackenzie.com

