

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Internet Services
- Property Taxes
- Statutory Holiday
- Canada Day Celebration
- Volunteer Firefighter
- Voyent Alert!

The Village Office and Public Works will be Closed on Thursday July 1st, 2021 To observe the Canada Day Statutory Holiday



CLASS OF 2021

The Village of Fraser Lake would like to congratulate the Graduating class of 2021.

FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Internet Services

The importance of internet services cannot be understated. Both the Federal and Provincial Governments have initiated programs to assist underserved rural and remote communities with needed improvements to internet infrastructure. These infrastructure improvements have long been needed to ensure rural and remote communities are able to function effectively in the digital world.

Whether you like the technology or not, access to the internet and a basic ability to use the various operating systems has become a modern-day necessity. Whether you are booking an appointment to see a health care professional, working from home, banking online, ordering for your business, working on your education, checking YouTube to see how a repair can be completed, or simply shopping online for something that can not be found in the local stores, access to a reasonably speedy, stable, and reliable internet service is important. This level of service should not only be available to residents in the larger urban centres.

In February, Village staff conducted Internet Speed tests in homes across the Village to demonstrate the level of service in the community. The information was shared with the Province and the Federal Universal Broadband Fund adjudicators to demonstrate the substandard service was being received. Interestingly, our data does not match the data held by the Federal Government which suggests our homes, businesses and other locations are well served with internet speeds of at least 50/10 mbps. From the data Village staff collected, average internet speeds in Fraser Lake were 6 download/1 upload mbps.

The concerns about our internet services in Fraser Lake are like the experiences of many other small and rural communities across British Columbia. The Ministry of Citizen's Services, UBCM and NDIIT have responded by initiating an independent study. The Province hopes to clarify how the internet speeds reported by rural and remote communities compare with the information held by the Federal Government's Broadband Internet Service Availability Map. Our investigation suggests, the data held by Federal Government is not accurate.

With the launch of the Provincial investigation into internet speeds, we have been asked to return to the proverbial drawing board and conduct more speed tests. We need your continued support.

Please go to www.cira.ca website and perform a speed test. In fact, it would be preferable if you conducted multiple speed tests at different times of the day and different days of the week. The great thing about the CIRA.ca site is it feeds the speed test results directly to the Federal Government Broadband Internet Services map. There is no need for further reporting. If you are wary about conducting a speed test, here are some simple instructions on how to complete the test:

- Go to your internet web browser. In my case that is google.
- Type in www.cira.ca. Scroll to bottom of web page and in Other initiatives column click on Internet Performance Test.
- When the page opens, click on "Run a test" then click on the orange Start icon
- A map of Fraser Lake appears. There is an orange pointer on the map. Click on it, hold down the cursor and drag it to the location you are conducting the speed test.
- Once the orange point is in place, click on the **OK button** and let the system do the rest.

Over the years, there have been many conversations about how to grow our community. Without improvements to our Internet Services, new residents, new business, and new industry are likely to pass us by in favour of a community that has high speed internet service. Taking five minutes to conduct your speed test is an important investment in the future of this community. Thank you.

Municipal Property Taxes and Home Owner Grants

Municipal Property taxes have been mailed out and are due July 2, 2021. After July 2, 2021, a 10% penalty will be applied.

The home owner grant reduces the amount of property tax you pay for your principal residence. The home owner grant application process has changed, but program details and eligibility requirements have not changed. Residents in municipalities no longer apply for the home owner grant through their municipality. Everyone must apply either online at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant, or by calling 1-888-355-2700 directly to the province. The online application is fast, easy and secure. To avoid penalty, the home owner grant must be applied for and approved by July 2, 2021.

If you qualify for the home owner grant, you must apply each year to receive it. Anyone with your permission can apply for you on your behalf.

When you apply, you will need your social insurance number to verify your eligibility. Your personal information is encrypted at the time of entry to ensure your information is kept secure.

If you are paying your property taxes through online banking, ensure to make your payment early enough to avoid the penalty charge of 10%. Payment must be received in the Village's bank account no later than July 2, 2021.



Northern Health Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic

Ways to register:

- Online (24 hours a day): getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca
- By phone (7 days a week, 7 am to 7 pm PDT): [1-833-838-2323](tel:1-833-838-2323)

Clinics will run from **July 5-9, 2021**

At the Fraser Lake Arena/
Complex

Property Taxes

Please remember that the due date for property tax payment is 4:00 pm on Friday, July 2nd, 2021.



CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

June 30th - July 1st, 2021

To celebrate Canada Day and our return to the new normal, the Village of Fraser Lake has planned to hold Mouse Mountain Day celebrations again this year. Of course, this assumes the return to Stage 2 of the Provincial Health Orders. Activities that we feel can be conducted while abiding by the Provincial Health Orders include the

boat parade of lights, the fireworks display, the pancake breakfast held by the Legion, our Canada parade, children's events at the recreation complex and Canada Cake. So, if the idea of a community celebration appeals to you, get your boat or your float ready. Its time for some fun. Posters have been distributed around town or

they can be viewed on the Village of Fraser Lake website: www.fraserlake.ca. The Village will post the schedule of events after June 15, 2021 when we hope the Health Orders authorize a return to Stage 2. Please check the Village of Fraser Lake website or Village Facebook page after that date for the Mouse Mountain Day schedule.

Who Is A Volunteer Firefighter?

A volunteer firefighter is a member of our community, perhaps your neighbour, co-worker, or friend. You will see them going to the fire hall every week for the weekly practice night to keep their skills sharp. You will see them at community events, and of course you will see them helping people in the community anytime from the heat of the day to the middle of the night.

Why does a volunteer firefighter volunteer? For some, it's an opportunity to help others and make a difference in their community. For others, it's the chance to do something challenging and exciting like fighting fires or rescuing travellers from automobiles. Of course, there is the camaraderie that exists within every fire hall and the entire fire service. Friendships and bonds are created like nowhere else. There are also those that enjoy learning new skills such as emergency medical response. A volunteer firefighter may be from any walk of life; mechanic, hairdresser, doctor, teacher – you name it. He, or she, may be young and ready to tackle the toughest tasks on the fire ground, or perhaps more experience in life and able to lend a hand in different ways. Shift workers, camp workers, or those with 9:00 – 5:00 jobs - they can all be volunteer firefighters.

There are some common myths about being a member of Fraser Lake Fire Rescue that aren't true:

I must live in the Village of Fraser Lake to be a member. All we require is that you live within a reasonable distance of the fire hall in order to respond effectively to emergencies.

How can I be beneficial with no firefighting background/experience/training?

Most training is held on Monday nights. While there is essential training you must take after joining, it's up to you if you wish to complete additional training such as advanced firefighting, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Hazardous Materials. Members are not expected or allowed to take inappropriate risks at a fire scene, especially if they do not have the experience, training, ability, and aptitude for a particular task.

The Fire Department is just a "social club" to hang-out.

The fire department is a brotherhood, so there is a strong social aspect to the organization - but it is also a highly professional environment.

I don't think I have enough time to be able to join and dedicate to the department"

Members are not expected to give up their careers and family life. Obviously, a volunteer's ability to respond to alarms is limited by being away from the Fraser Lake area for professional or personal reasons, being ill or injured, or having other pressing commitments that must receive priority.

I don't think I would ever fit in at the Fire Department

Our membership is made up of people just like you with families, jobs and active lifestyles that still find time to give back to their community. If you want to help serve the community with a great team, then you will be welcomed!

For more information on joining the Fraser Lake Fire Department please call Fire Chief Pacheco at 250-699-2859.

Voyent Alert! Emergency Call Alert System Have you Registered

In times of crisis it is important that residents have access to timely, trusted and accurate information to ensure their own safety and that of their family and loved ones. In response to this need, the Village of Fraser Lake has chosen Voyent Alert! as the communication service provider for these kinds of events.

The Village of Fraser Lake along with the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako have launched a new Emergency Call Alert System called Voyent Alert! This Mass Notification System allows residents to use an App or sign up online to receive text, email and phone alerts!

We are excited to provide this alert system to our residents.

Voyent Alert! is a multi-purpose communication service used to send alerts and notifications to residents, businesses, and visitors during critical events like fires or floods as well as for relevant day-to-day communications such as snow removal advisories, planned maintenance, water advisories, etc.

Go to <https://voyent-alert.com/community/> and click on "Register Now" to register to receive Voice, Email, or Text alerts.