



# Director's Corner

## Wells Gray Country-Electoral Area 'A'

### TNRD

**TNRD BOD's Meeting Highlights May 7<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Emergency Management & Protective Services Committee met at 10am. Roland Stanke, Mayor of Clinton was elected as the chairperson. I was elected as Vice Chair of this committee. Steve Schell, Manager of the Kamloops Fire Centre provided an update on their reorganization and status in preparation for the 2009 fire season. Clearwater, Barriere and Chase have joined the TNRD Emergency Program Service.

Funding for various emergency service organizations was allotted. Of note for area 'A' was \$70,717.34 to Wells Gray Search and Rescue. This will be referred to the TNRD Board of Directors for approval at a future board meeting.

Terry Kress, TNRD Manager of Emergency Services provided an update to the TNRD Board of Directors regarding the recent fires in 70 Mile House and Kelly Lake areas. The TNRD Emergency Operations Centre was activated at Level 2 from Saturday Afternoon until Monday morning.

The Board approved a recommendation from the Drinking Water and Utilities Committee to extend the moratorium with regard to acquiring new community water systems until June 2010. Due to changing regulations the current 11 TNRD Water Systems are still undergoing upgrades and staff time is not available to undertake new systems. Turbidity monitoring equipment funding of \$400,000 from a "Towns of Tomorrow" grant is \$144,000 short of the total project cost. The project will be going ahead and the funding shortfall will be met using Electoral Area surplus funds.

The Federal Gas Tax funding program has been extended for a few more years and allotments have increased. This is great news as it will allow us to continue with needed energy saving infrastructure upgrades to community facilities in Wells Gray Country. As an added bonus, some budgeted projects are eligible for this funding. I will be able to utilize grant funding in place of direct taxation, thereby reducing taxation requirements to some functions.

On a final note I received a cheque for \$250 for the Clearwater Rotary Club. These discretionary grant funds will be used to assist with the May Day parade next weekend.

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Disclaimer: These comments are personal comments of Wells Gray Country Electoral Area 'A' Director Tim Pennell and in no way reflect the comments, opinion or position of the Thompson Nicola Regional District Board of Directors