

Recreation Commission May 9

Igor Construction has been awarded the contract for the tile installation. Staff is still expecting final quotes for tile removal from this contractor as well. Staff is also waiting for approval of the new tile installation test results by Interior Health. Nonetheless, it is expected that removal of the existing surface will start in late August with the new tile surface being installed in early September.

Flip N' Fun has had a successful opening in the Curling Rink. Currently the equipment takes up about 1/3 of the empty ice surface. The installation this spring of a new cooler for the curling rink costing about \$35,000 will not interrupt gymnastic activities which may go into July.

Many grant applications that have been successfully applied to improve the facilities over the years. The pool has benefited from Gas tax grants and New Horizons grants. The arena has benefitted from the ScotiaBank Hockey grant and BC Gaming grants. Currently, there is a request for gas tax funding to do the engineering on a heat exchange system between the pool and the arena. There is probably enough wasted heat to provide for both buildings and the new Community Center as well.

Seniors have long requested handrails around the pool deck but this is prohibitively expensive. The Recreation Commission recommended that 4 walkers be purchased for mobility aids within the pool area.

Assembly of BC Housing project May 14

The rapid assembly of the 3 rental housing units on 19th belies the careful designing that went into the project before the crane arrived. This instant village has been delivered to Grand Forks by a provincial government attempting to assist our community with a critical housing shortage. Unfortunately, there still is no clear long-term vision for the wide range of housing necessary to fill that shortage. Council has been trying to grapple with that and at the same time IMAGINE the vision for our city that will include vital flood mitigation works and the revitalization of a vibrant downtown core.

Rethinking flood mitigation in the downtown core

We need to build flood mitigation and prevention infrastructure into our downtown core. Just because we were unsuccessful with the Natural Disaster Mitigation Fund application for 3 million dollars we must persist in visioning and building a new dike trail that will protect Riverside Drive, Granby Road, and the Highway 3 businesses east of town. Along the way we must reinspire confidence in the business community so that they will do their part to shape and vitalize our historic city. Soon we will have a clear idea of what senior governments are going to contribute to this work, but it will be up to our community to make it happen and to shape the solution to our visions.

And on a personal note

Kathy and I were pleased to hear from so many citizens in our community who congratulated us on our son's successful career in pharmaceutical research. Ryan was a 1997 graduate of GFSS and it was great to see the Gazette tell his story in this past week's issue.