

Bar planned for work camp near Valemount

ARTHUR WILLIAMS
Citizen staff

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George board of directors put its support behind a proposed bar to be built at the Trans Mountain Pipeline work camp near Valemount.

ATCO Frontec Ltd. applied for a liquor licence to operate a 130-seat lounge at the 600-room work camp, located on Whiskey-fill Road roughly six kilometres southeast of Valemount. The regional district's board of directors voted in support of the application, but the B.C. Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch holds the final decision-making authority.

The regional district received no feedback from the public on the issue. Director Dannielle Alan, who represents the Robson Valley-Canoe area, said she believes the district would have received feedback if it had held a public hearing in the area, instead of just soliciting written statements.

"I'm very disturbed at the lack of comment we're receiving on an issue that I know has people interested in it," Alan said.

Alan also raised concerns about the lounge's compliance with provincial health regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson, who sits on the board as a director, said he's in

favour of the application.

"Trans Mountain has arranged a shuttle service from the camp," Torgerson said. "(An) All WorkSafeBC and, of course, public health orders would apply."

In its application, ATCO Frontec said the lounge would be open from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., seven days a week. It would not be open to the general public, only workers at the camp and their registered guests.

"The concept will be to market Valemount Lodge Lounge as an on-site lounge to provide a safe and controlled environment for the work force to consume alcohol," ATCO's application said.

Teen driver dies after truck collision

TED CLARKE
Citizen staff

An 18-year-old Prince George man has died following a collision with a semi-trailer truck on July 22.

Dallas Ramsay was rushed to University Hospital of Northern B.C. just after midnight Wednesday after the small car he was driving ran into the back end of a truck on Highway 97 near Terminal Boulevard.

Ramsay, the lone occupant of the car, was placed on life support in an induced coma and died later that day of his injuries. The truck driver was not seriously injured.

"It's believed that alcohol and a high rate of speed are contributing factors to the collision," said Prince George RCMP Staff Sgt. Chris Riddle.

The incident is the first fatal traffic accident of 2020 within city limits.

Ramsay, known as DJ, was a student at Prince George Secondary School. A Go Fund Me Page has been set up by his friend, Isaak Grigg, to help the family through the tragedy. The link to the page is <https://bit.ly/30LasAR>.

The Prince George Traffic Services unit and the B.C. Coroner are continuing their investigation into the incident.

CNC gets funding for health care program

Citizen staff

The province announced \$180,000 in new funding for the College of New Caledonia to offer a health-care assistant program at its Quesnel campus.

Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Melanie Marks announced the funding as part of \$4.4 million in additional funding for training health care professionals.

"For years, British Columbians have been calling for more trained health professionals in their communities," Mark said in a press release. "We heard that call to action and we're investing in valuable, in-demand training in every corner of the

province so that students preparing for careers in health care, or health professionals upgrading their skills, are able to provide quality health care when and where it is needed. It is because of the work of these unsung heroes in health care that we are at a place to safely build back the best B.C."

The one-time funding is designed to respond to local and emerging needs across B.C., and will also offer opportunities for existing health care professionals to upgrade their skills.

"We are committed to training, recruiting and hiring a new generation of health-care professionals at all levels, including respiratory therapists and critical care nurses,

who are vital members of the health-care team," Health Minister Adrian Dix said in a press release.

"Respiratory therapists and nurses working with patients during the COVID-19 pandemic have a high-risk role because of their hands-on work treating patients with breathing difficulties and I thank them for all they do."

Coast Mountain College also received funding for a health-care assistant program at its Kitimat campus. Other funding recipients included BCIT, Camosun College, North Island College, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Okanagan College, Thompson Rivers University and Vancouver College.

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REQUEST FOR COMMENT
CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE
OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN BYLAW NO. 8383, 2011, AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 9063, 2019
Subject Properties - 1880 Bowser Avenue; 1912, 1924, 1936, 1942, 1948 Willow Street; and 1947 Vine Street

The City of Prince George is proposing an amendment to Schedule B-6: Future Land Use of City of Prince George Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 8383, 2011, to facilitate an expansion of the Gustafson's Kia site (e.g. customer parking, vehicle sales and a compound area for excess vehicle stock) on the subject properties. This application to amend the Official Community Plan also includes a rezoning application (Bylaw 9064, 2019).

Please visit the City of Prince George website at www.princegeorge.ca/landuse for more detailed information.

The City requests written comment from any person, organization, or agencies that may be affected by this amendment. Please forward any written submissions by **5:00 pm, August 14, 2020** to the Development Services Division at 1100 Patricia Boulevard, PG V2L 3V9, Fax: 561-7721, Email: devserv@princegeorge.ca

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Lawsuit filed against RCMP officer facing criminal charges

MARK NIELSEN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

One of three Prince George RCMP officers facing criminal charges from an arrest caught on video that suggests excessive force was used is now also facing a civil lawsuit from one of the two men apprehended.

Cst. Joshua Grafton is named as a defendant in a notice of claim filed July 23 on behalf of Cuyler Richard Aubichon. The Attorney General of Canada and the B.C. Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General are also named as defendants.

Aubichon and Nathaniel Lazarus Basil

were arrested during the early morning of Feb. 18, 2016 in an alley off the 2000 block of Oak Street when they were found in a stolen pickup truck.

A video from a security camera on a nearby home shows an RCMP officer using a service dog to pull Aubichon out of the truck and onto the ground before elbowing him in the head.

Aubichon is claiming Grafton is the dog handler and that he “deliberately misused the dog to terrify and caused severe bodily harm.”

He says Grafton not only encouraged the dog to bite him on the arm while removing Aubichon from the truck but allowed the

dog to continue biting him while he was face down on the ground. He also claims Grafton punched and elbowed him and kicked him in the stomach and used a baton on his head while he was on the ground.

Injuries Aubichon says he suffered include bite marks to his face and a hand, bruising over a forearm as well as his sternum, bleeding to the back of his head from the baton and unspecified injuries to his upper thigh and ribs.

Grafton has been charged with assault, assault with a weapon, and obstruction of justice and, in separate information, Cst. Wayne Connell and Cst. Kyle Sharpe have

been charged with assault causing bodily harm.

Three other officers were involved in the apprehension of Basil, who had got out on the other side of the truck. His arrest was largely out of the camera’s view but it appeared one of the officers had stomped on him.

Aubichon and Basil were later sentenced from the incident to one year probation for possessing stolen property over \$5,000.

Aubichon is seeking general and aggravated and punitive damages. The defendants have not yet filed responses and the allegations have not yet been tested in court.

District study looks at lack of broadband internet

ARTHUR WILLIAMS

Citizen staff

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is partnering with Mackenzie, McBride and Valemount to conduct a study into the need for broadband internet service in the rural areas of the district.

Earlier this month the district board approved a \$79,000 contract for TANEx Engineering Corp. to conduct the study, with the cost shared between the district and three rural municipalities.

Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson, who

sits as a director on the district board, said lack of high-speed internet access adds to the disparity between rural and urban British Columbians.

“COVID has really highlighted this,” Mackenzie Mayor Joan Atkinson said. “There were many people in Mackenzie who had to go to work to work, because they didn’t have broadband in their homes.”

The goal of the study is to inform a strategy to improve internet service in an area which has limited economic activity and access to education and social services.

District chief administrative officer Jim

Martin said TANEx was picked because it has done similar work for the Regional Districts of Kitimat-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako, as well as the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation.

“There is value in a cohesive approach,” Martin said.

Director Pat Crook said trying to attend district board meetings remotely really brought home the challenges faced by rural residents.

“I couldn’t even do a Zoom meeting,” he said. “It’s a serious issue in the smaller communities.”

Mayor Lyn Hall said the issue about high-

speed internet access has been one the North Central Local Government Association has been tackling for years.

“This broadband issue has been around for a very long time. It’s not just rural B.C., its rural every province in the nation,” Hall said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has just highlighted the changes and new ways of delivering services that has already been happening, he said.

“We’re going to see a new education delivery model for (Kindergarten to Grade 12) and post-secondary students,” he said. “It’s going to be online.”

Suspect accused of indecent act turns himself in

Citizen staff

A man accused of committing an indecent act on a city bus earlier this month has turned himself in to police.

On July 12 at approximately 5:15 p.m. a man boarded a city bus near the corner of Wiebe Road and Vance Road. The suspect went to the back of the bus, and then engaged in an indecent act.

He then disembarked the bus near the corner of Victoria Street and Fourth Avenue.

The suspect was described as a South Asian man, approximately 20 to 30 years old, wearing a white T-shirt, blue pants with a white stripe and green flip-flops.

Police released information about the suspect last week. The Prince George RCMP thanked the members of the public that assisted with this investigation.



CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

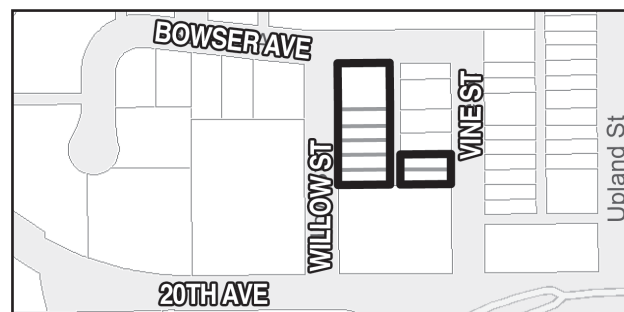
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