



Watering Restrictions

It could be another long, hot, dry summer. In order to ensure that the reservoir remains at a level to provide adequate fire protection to the community, as well as to provide ample water for residential, commercial and industrial use, it is imperative that consumers on the City water system make every effort to keep non-essential water use to a minimum.

For outdoor uses, please ensure that you are observing the sprinkling regulations. Water only as needed. It is not necessary to use the entire allotment of time allocated under the sprinkling regulations. The sprinkling hours are very generous in order to accommodate a wide variety of individual schedules, please only sprinkle when necessary.

If you are using an automatic irrigation system, you may apply at City Hall for a variance to the sprinkling hours to allow you to water during the early morning hours. This will minimize evaporation, as well as take pressure off the City water system during peak water use times. For information on sprinkling regulations visit the City website at www.city.grandforks.bc.ca or contact City Hall at 442-8266

Be Conservative!

Water Conservation In the Yard

1. Try to water during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler, to minimize evaporation.
2. Water your lawn in several short sessions rather than one long one. This will allow the water to be better absorbed.
3. Fertilize less. This is particularly important prior to or during dry periods
4. Consider using more efficient irrigation systems such as a soaker hose or drip irrigation.
5. Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
6. Raise the mower blade during dry weather. Cutting the grass higher encourages deeper rooting.
7. Use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If it goes in easily, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.
8. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.

Water Conservation In the Home

1. Only run full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher
2. Check showerhead and other faucets for drips or leaks. Fix leaks immediately
3. Use water conserving plumbing fixtures
4. Take shorter showers
5. Turn off the water when you are brushing your

6. When washing dishes don't let the water run to rinse them. Fill up one sink for washing and one sink for rinsing.
7. Use the short cycle on your dishwasher, some dishwashers can wash dishes without pre-rinsing them

Excerpts taken from the CCMWA "WaterSmart" website

City Hall

Please note that City Hall is back in its permanent location at 420 Market Avenue.

Due to the renovations, the Market Avenue door can no longer be used to access the City Office, please use the 4th Street entrance

Spring Clean Up

The annual spring clean-up of residential yard waste will commence on Monday May 3 for approximately three weeks. City crews will begin on Riverside Drive, work west along the north side of Central Avenue to the City boundary, then east along the south side of Central Avenue and then into Ruckles Addition. Please have your spring clean-up materials ready to go, as once the crew has passed your area, they will not return.

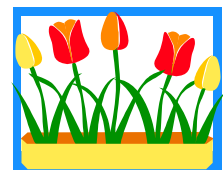
Spring clean-up material must be placed so that it is visible and accessible, away from fences, electrical poles, cable boxes, etc.

Tree prunings must be no longer than 2 meters (7 feet) in length, and compostable materials such as grass and leaves must be in a separate pile. Last spring, the RDKB began chipping wood waste at the landfill rather than burning it. So, now all yard waste that goes to the landfill must be either compostable or chippable. The City will no longer collect piles that contain rocks, dirt, building or other non-organic materials.

In order to keep Grand Forks looking neat and tidy, please

don't start to accumulate your spring clean up piles too far in advance of the spring clean up.

Remember, the landfill accepts tree prunings and compostable yard waste free of charge all year long, so it is not necessary to wait for the annual spring clean up to take your yard waste to the landfill.



West Nile Virus

Nice weather in B.C. also means the start of mosquito season. Mosquitoes are usually just considered a nuisance and bites are uncomfortable, but a small percentage cause infections that can lead to serious illnesses.

Protect yourself and your family by covering up and avoiding mosquito bites

The West Nile Virus

The West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne virus that, in rare situations, can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). The virus was named after the West Nile region of Uganda, where the virus first appeared in 1937. The risk of becoming seriously ill as a result of infection by West Nile is low and most people infected experience no symptoms or have very mild illness.

How to tell if a mosquito bite is serious

Most mosquito bites cause itching and minor irritation. However, in a small percentage of cases West Nile Virus can be introduced through mosquito bites. You should seek medical attention if you have any of the following symptoms; ongoing fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, confusion, severe headache, sudden sensitivity to light, extreme swelling at the bite site.

How is the virus spread?

West Nile Virus is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected by biting an infected bird. In addition it appears that West Nile can be transmitted through transplanted organs, blood transfusions and breast milk. The virus is not spread by direct person-to-person contact or from animal to human contact.

How to protect yourself

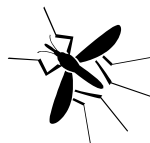
When you are outdoors in areas that have mosquitoes, wear long pants and long sleeve shirts.

Provide screens for windows and doors

Use insect repellent

Eliminate any type of standing water outdoors such as wading pools, birdbaths, etc. or change the water frequently (every 3 days)

Clear out dense vegetation or long grasses where mosquitoes like to breed



2004 Council Meeting Dates

Monday January 5, 2004
Monday January 19, 2004
Monday February 2, 2004
Monday February 16, 2004
Monday March 1, 2004
Monday March 15, 2004
Monday April 5, 2004
Monday April 19, 2004
Monday May 3, 2004
Monday May 17, 2004
Monday June 7, 2004
Monday June 21, 2004
Monday July 19, 2004
Monday August 16, 2004
Tuesday September 7, 2004
Monday October 4, 2004
Monday October 18, 2004
Monday November 1, 2004
Monday November 15, 2004
Monday December 6, 2004
Monday December 20, 2004



Mayor's Office Hours

Mayor Raven will be available in his office at City Hall on the first and third Monday of the month from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. He welcomes members of the public to come in and discuss any City issues of interest or concern to them.

Contact Information:

• General enquiries

City Hall -Phone 442-8266 / Fax 442-8000

Public Works - Phone 442-2434 / Fax 442-8263

• Emergency Phone Numbers

Sewer and Water—442-3355

Electrical—442-2033

Roads—442-9496

Fire—911

(Please note: Non-emergency after hours calls will be charged the call-out overtime rate)

Protecting Your Home and Property from Wildfire

Reports indicate that the 2004 summer season weather conditions could be very similar to those experienced in the summer of 2003. These conditions could again lead to another volatile forest fire season.

As a resident of rural British Columbia, forest fires are a fact of life and the best protection is prevention. Although preventative preparation does not give a 100% guarantee that you will not incur fire damage, it will reduce the risk.

The Ministry of Forests, in conjunction with other agencies, has produced some very informative bro-

chures detailing steps to take to make your home and property "Fire Smart". These include tips on fire behaviour, fire suppression, fire safe landscaping, tree pruning, fire wise construction, recommended building location and more. Copies of these brochures can be obtained from the Ministry of Forests website at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/>, or by contacting the local fire centre office in Castlegar at 250-365-4040.

For further information on steps you can take to protect your home and property contact City of Grand Forks-Fire Chief Blair Macgregor at 442-3612.