



# From the Mayor's Chair

A monthly report from the Office of the Mayor

April 2010

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## A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

The opportunity and optimism throughout northern B.C. is growing every day. We appear poised for a substantial positive change in our economy.

Regionally, the infrastructure development of the Northwest Transmission Line will draw billions of dollars in mining and green energy development opportunities. Northern Development Initiative Trust's new 'Industry Expansion Program', a partnership with Business Development Bank of Canada, will create the capacity for industrial diversification and expansion adding millions of dollars to the local economy. The completion of the Rio Tinto Alcan modernization project, further expansion of the Prince Rupert Container Port, development of the Kitimat Bulk Port operation, a revitalized forestry industry with the introduction of new markets and new technologies, and the work of Initiatives Prince George to solidify Asia Gateway opportunities, all will aid in the economic recovery of the region.

These larger regional initiatives are important in our plans to diversify, but the area of economic development that continues to drive our economy is our small and medium sized businesses. Our local entre-

preneurs are the ones that have kept our community strong. City Council recognizes this and we've focused on leveraging capital for infrastructure projects to ensure Terrace remains a vibrant community where businesses will thrive.

The Downtown Revitalization Strategy, which was listed as a City of Terrace priority in the later part of 2008, has already brought significant progress to improving the look and feel of our downtown zone and has created a positive environment for business.

Improvements include the expansion of the Millennium Walkway to create a Gateway to downtown, the rebuild of the 4600 block of Lazelle Avenue, and the \$1.2 million dollar makeover of the George Little Park.

The Downtown Revitalization Strategy includes a tax rebate for existing or new businesses to upgrade their operations, which creates further incentive for businesses to expand or open new in Terrace.

Downtown improvements will be continuing this year with many exciting projects on the way.

All these initiatives, both regionally and locally, translate into a robust economic future for the area.

## MITCHELL STEVENS—NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NISGA'A NATION



On April 19th, Councillor Bidgood and I travelled to the Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) offices in New Aiyansh to meet Mitchell Stevens, the recently elected President of the Nisga'a Nation. Joining us in that meeting from NLG was Edmond Wright, the Secretary-Treasurer, and Les Clayton, Director of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations.

Terrace Council recognizes the importance of strengthening relationships between our communities. Here are a few ideas that will help us achieve this goal.

\* We need to ensure that we treat our neighbours with the same level of respect and welcoming attitude that we receive when travelling through any one of the Nass Valley villages.

\* The Terrace business community should revive the idea of filling a bus full of business people to tour through the Nass as a way to

reach out and show our appreciation for the business they bring our city and so they can see for themselves how eager our neighbours are to have that connection.

\* It would be beneficial for all of us to become familiar with the Nisga'a Final Agreement. I've read this treaty and it's an eye opener. At the meeting, I was given an extra copy of the Agreement as well as a book called, 'Understanding The Nisga'a Treaty'. Copies of these books can be found at the Terrace Public Library.

\* There are many ways we could be involved in partnerships with the Nisga'a Lisims Government in the areas of economic development, tourism, and sporting events. These partnerships would help strengthen our community relationships and create more jobs at the same time.

I'm looking forward to building on these opportunities with Mitchell Stevens and other members of the Nisga'a Lisims Government.



## CONNECT WITH COUNCIL—COUNCILLOR BRIAN DOWNIE

Brian Downie arrived in Terrace in 1990 as the Kalum Forest District Manager of the B.C. Forest Service office, with Kathy, his wife of 36 years, and sons, Fraser, Stephen and Brett. Brian was elected to City Council in 2005 and is in his second term.

Before moving to Terrace, Brian and the family had lived in Smithers and Prince Rupert over most of the past twenty years. Prior to starting his career, Brian graduated from the University of B.C. in forestry and his career allowed him to serve as Manager of forestry programs in Smithers. Kathy was a nursing graduate in Ontario and worked in Prince Rupert, Smithers and Terrace hospitals. Brian retired in 2003 and Kathy in 2005, and their boys are currently living in the Northwest Territories, China and Vancouver.

Growing up in a scouting family, and later

as the boys enjoyed their hockey, Brian became a keen volunteer. In Terrace, he is proud of the volunteerism and the commitment that Terrace residents make to improve community life in our City. As a Rotarian, and active in many community events, Brian has worked with many incredible volunteers to better the City.

*“Hockeyville and the 2010 BC Winter Games are prime examples of how volunteers are mobilized for a positive impact on the community, and how we all can demonstrate the spirit of this City.”*

So what does Brian want to accomplish on City Council?

He believes that Terrace has tremendous strengths that attract people to Terrace and to entice them to stay. “New businesses are being started with young entrepreneurs.

Many are here because of our northern outdoor lifestyle. By working hard on those opportunities, we will attract more youth back to the community.”

Brian is an active promoter of Terrace and is proud of the strong relationships the City has with our neighboring communities. Seizing on where we can work together, Brian believes that Terrace and Northwest British Columbia will succeed as a supportive, diverse and welcoming region.

*“Terrace is on the verge of an economic recovery, and with a concerted effort, we will enjoy future opportunities for the City.”*

Councillor Brian Downie



## TERRACE IN MOTION

The Housing Needs Task Force presented their recommendations to Council at the April 12 Council meeting. At the same meeting Council heard presentations from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers regarding the Canadian Postal Service Charter and from two individuals requesting the installation of audible traffic signals at the intersection of Kalum and Lakelse. During the Committee of the Whole portion of the April 12 meeting a request from BC Transit for increased funding was considered and it

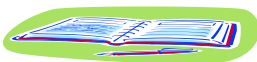
was recommended that Council increase the Transit budget by \$22,125 this year and invite BC Transit to attend a future meeting to provide a rationale for the 51% increase in costs. Council also approved two Development Permits and awarded the contract for the reconstruction of 4900 Scott Avenue & 4900 Lazelle Avenue to Magnum Road Builders Inc.

At the April 26 Council meeting Council reviewed the 2010—2014 Financial Plan and

2010 Tax Rates. Council approved the first, second and third readings of the 2010 - 2014 Financial Plan Bylaw and the 2010 Tax Rate Bylaw. Presentations were made regarding the 100th anniversary of McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd; the Heritage Park Museum Society's Strategic Plan; Kermodie Tourism Society's plans to operate the Visitor Information Centre ; an update from the Youth Advisory Committee and a presentation from Terrace Economic Development Authority

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## MAYOR'S SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2010

April 8 - meeting with Terrace Art Association, City Hall

April 10 - Lakelse Avenue Greenspace Project fence cutting ceremony, old Esso site

April 12 - Regular Council meeting, Council Chambers

April 13 - meeting with Nisga'a Village governments, with Chief Administrative Officer, Ron Poole, Ginglox Village

April 13 - Youth Advisory Committee meeting

April 14 - meeting with CEO of Canadian Bio-Coal, Terrace Economic Development Authority (TEDA) and Skeena Nass Centre of Innovation in Resource Economics (SNClRE)

April 14 - Committee of the Whole meeting, Council Chambers

April 15 - Terrace & District Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, Best Western Hotel

April 16 - panel discussion with Public Administration students with Councillor Brian Downie and Councillor Brad Pollard, NWCC

April 16 - Terrace Legal Services Open House, Kalum Street offices

April 18 - Greater Terrace Beautification Society's Annual Garbathon

April 19 - Meeting with Nisga'a Lisims Government President Mitchell Stevens, Secretary Treasurer Edmond Wright and Director of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations, Les Clayton, with Councillor Bruce Bidgood, NLG Boardroom, New Aiyansh

April 21 - Northern Development Initiative Trust Board meeting, NDI Boardroom, Prince George

April 22, 23 - Minerals North Conference, Prince George

April 23 - Freda Dising Art Exhibition, Frieda Dising North Coast School of Art

April 24 - Pacific Northwest Music Festival Gala Evening, REM Lee Theatre

April 26 - Public meeting for 2010 Financial Plan, Council Chambers

April 26 - Regular Council meeting, Council Chambers

April 27 - BCTC Hearing on the Northern Transmission Line, with Councillor Brad Pollard - Dease Lake, B.C..

April 29, 30 - TransCanada Yellowhead Highway Association AGM, Prince George