



# From the Mayor's Chair

A monthly report from the Office of the Mayor

September 2009



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## HOCKEYVILLE MANIA HITS TERRACE

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As I stood at the edge of the George Little Park during the third period of the Canucks / Islanders game being played that night in the Terrace Sportsplex, I watched in amazement as the crowd numbering in the thousands cheered and clapped and watched every move on the jumbo sized screen. It was obvious many were having the time of their lives. It's a sight I won't soon forget.

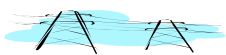
I realized while watching this scene just how important the Hockeyville victory was for Terrace. It was much more than winning a national competition about our hockey and community passion. It was even more than winning the \$100,000.00 to help us with our Sportsplex development. This was about the entire community getting involved, working together and accomplishing something that we can all be proud of and talk about for years to come. This was about proudly sharing our community with the rest of Canada and letting people know why we feel so blessed to live in the mountains and natural beauty of Terrace, British Columbia.

Hockeyville has rejuvenated our community spirit and has given us new confidence to achieve our goals. Hockeyville has reminded us that all we have to do to be successful is to work together. We just need to get involved, help our neighbours, be passionate about our community, and share ideas.

We proved to the country that we can accomplish anything we set our minds to, but more importantly, we proved it to ourselves.

The positive national exposure of this event for Terrace is huge. During a number of media interviews from across Canada and into the U.S., many of the questions I answered were focused on Terrace, not the hockey game we were hosting. "Where exactly is Terrace, British Columbia" was one question. "Can you tell us a little about Terrace? What is it like there? What makes Terrace tick?" What an opportunity to promote our wonderful city. I was so proud to share our little slice of paradise.

Below is a picture of the Local Organizing Committee for our Hockeyville 2009 campaign gathered around the Stanley Cup, along with Jacques & Bibiane Dion who were visiting from last year's winning community of Roberval, Quebec.



## NORTHWEST TRANSMISSION LINE POWERS REGION

What a week! We had barely finished cleaning the ice from our NHL game with the city still buzzing from the excitement of the Hockeyville experience when the press release hit.

The news coming from the federal government that they would be contributing up to \$130 million dollars to develop the Northwest Transmission Line was met with a collective roar of approval, applause, and excitement throughout the entire province.

This project brings economic development opportunities that will generate huge numbers for employment and diversification in the northwest. The numbers are staggering. Up to 5,500 direct jobs and up to 18,000 indirect jobs could be created over the next several decades. The report on the Electrification of Highway 37 prepared by our Northwest Power line Coalition, also shows that \$15 billion dollars of capital expenditures will flow into our economy over time.

In addition, the project will attract many green power opportunities like wind, geothermal and biomass sources. It could also advance a potential connection between southeast Alaska and the North American transmission grid via British Columbia.

Through the excitement of this announcement we heard from the Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) that more consultation must take place to ensure this project is built with minimal impact to their traditional lands. Governments must respect the consultation process outlined in Chapter 10 of their historic treaty. Terrace council has agreed to help the NLG by speaking with appropriate ministers later this month at the UBCM Conference to ensure this consultation continues. The NLG support business and economic development throughout the Nass valley. They also are actively seeking partners to help develop both domestic and commercial "green" hydroelectricity projects on Nisga'a Lands. The power line should be a good fit.

It really has been an exciting time for Terrace! So what could possible be next? How about the Olympic Torch celebration? We're planning a big street festival around this event that you won't want to miss. And don't forget that Terrace will be hosting the 2010 B.C. Winter Games. Thousands of athletes and visitors will be flooding our community during this event injecting hundreds of thousands of dollars into our local economy. So bring on the power line! Bring on the torch relay, and let the 2010 B.C. Winter Games begin!

## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECTS WILL HAVE LASTING BENEFITS FOR TERRACE

You just have to take a drive or walk around the downtown core to know that some major changes are taking place. The work recently completed on the 4600 block of Lazelle Avenue with the interlocking brick sidewalks, pedestrian friendly corner peninsulas, many new young trees planted and the soon to be installed Bear Lights, have transformed a drab strip into a real downtown gem.

The Millennium Trail Downtown Gateway project is moving along at a nice pace as the contractor races to complete this project before the cold weather hits. The large flywheel that will be installed close to the overpass will add huge impact as you travel into our downtown core.

The George Little Park will be getting a "big" revitalization this year and into the spring of 2010. The city was able to take a \$300,000.00 capital expenditure and leverage it through a matching grant from the province. We then used the \$600,000.00 to apply for a matching federal government grant in the Community Adjustment Fund

delivered through Northern Development Initiative Trust.

With \$1.2 million dollars to work with, we were able to accelerate our project timelines, allowing us to complete the park project this year and into next spring without further impacting our budgets in future years. I'm sure you'll be impressed with the changes you see in our downtown park next spring. There's a conceptual drawing with the planned changes for George Little Park on our city website at [www.terrace.ca](http://www.terrace.ca)

Terrace Council adopted a Tax Revitalization bylaw for our downtown zone in the Spring of this year to encourage new businesses to come to the area and to encourage existing owners to renovate or expand.

We won't be slowing down with our downtown revitalization initiatives. There are many projects already slated for 2010 that will be equally exciting. These projects will create very positive short and long term benefits for our community.

## TERRACE IN MOTION



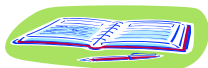
At the July 13th Council meeting Council approved a grant application to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & the Arts to support the community in hosting an Olympic Torch Relay celebration. Council also agreed to provide \$600 for the cost of stenciling high-flow intersections with "Terrace is Hockeyville" in preparation for the upcoming NHL Game.

At the July 27th Council meeting Council initiated an alternate approval process for three proposed boundary extensions and discussed plans for the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention.

During the August 10th Council meeting Council heard from Northwest Addictions Services about the dire need for a Detox facility in the Northwest. Council voted to

support an application to transfer a liquor license in order to keep the Skeena Beer and Wine Store open and the Final report from the City's former Forestry Task Force was accepted.

At the August 24th Council meeting I made a motion to research the possible creation of a Community Foundation for Terrace.



## MAYOR'S SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

September 2 - meeting with Terrace Economic Development Authority.

September 2 - Hockeyville Committee meeting with the start of the ten day countdown to the Hockeyville weekend

September 11 - meeting with Minister Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure

September 14 - National Hockey League puck drop to open the Vancouver Canucks and the New York Islanders game at the Terrace Sportsplex - Hockeyville weekend

September 15 - Terrace Economic Development Authority Annual General Meeting at the Bear Country Inn

September 16 - Northern Development Initiative Trust Board meeting in Prince George

September 17 - State of the City address at the Terrace & District Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

September 18 - meeting at Nisga'a Lisims Government to discuss economic and tourism opportunities

September 21 - Regular Council meeting

September 22 - Terrace & District Chamber of Commerce Luncheon featuring British Columbia Chamber of Commerce President, John Winter

September 25 - Meeting with MLA John Rustad

September 25—Meeting with Encorp Recycling President Neil Hastie

September 25 - Seniors' Fitness Park opening ceremonies and ribbon cutting at the George Little Park

September 28 - October 2 - Union of British Columbia Municipalities conference in Vancouver

September 28 - Vancouver Airport Authority Reception to unveil the Terrace Video that will be broadcast through the Vancouver Airport during the 2010 Winter Olympics