



# Thompson Nicola Regional District 2014 Annual Report

Thompson-Nicola Regional District  
[www.tnrd.ca](http://www.tnrd.ca)





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## Message from the Chair

Greetings to all from the Board of Directors and staff of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

The 2014 local government elections resulted in the re-election of the majority of directors in rural areas or in the re-appointment to the board by their municipal councils. Of the six new directors, most have previous experience as elected officials, including our two new electoral area directors who have served on the TNRD Board in the past. This is the first four-year term of office for local government in B.C.

Communication has emerged as a focus for the Regional District. During 2014 we have undertaken improvements, both internally and externally, to enhance the sharing of information amongst staff and the public we serve. The TNRD launched a refinement of communication efforts with the creation of an internal newsletter — the TNRD Buzz — which celebrates staff accomplishments, and an external newsletter — Water Works — that provides operating, capital project and financial information for users of TNRD Utility Systems.

Another key component to improving communications was an increased number of community consultation meetings, with more than 120 events in 2014. These consultations helped to inform residents about changes to existing services, new services, or public-assent processes, and provided a forum for residents to give feedback to TNRD staff. These consultations also included a number of processes where the people impacted were given an opportunity to be heard, and in some cases they elected not to proceed with establishment of new services.

The TNRD also revamped the process by which employees are recognized for their years of service, with an annual event that brings together employees who reach landmark years of service for a celebration.

In 2014, the TNRD Community Services department helped establish fire protection services for both Whitecroft and Paul Lake, which were decided by public assent processes. Community Services also helped usher in a Dangerous Dog Bylaw in Electoral Areas "I" (Blue Sky Country), "M" (Beautiful Nicola Valley - North), "N" (Beautiful Nicola Valley— South) and "P" (Rivers and the Peaks), giving residents in those rural areas a way to deal with dangerous dog attacks.

Community Services also completed the transition of emergency 911 services from the RCMP in Kelowna to E-Comm 911 in Vancouver. This transition maintains the current services at a significantly reduced cost.

The TNRD Development Services Department spearheaded several initiatives in 2014, including amending the Regional Growth Strategy, which includes indicators that will be monitored; and completing the Cherry Creek-

Savona OCP public process and adoption. Both documents will help guide development and growth in the region and in the Cherry Creek-Savona area.

The Building Regulation Bylaw was amended to incorporate B.C. code changes and a new fee structure. An overhaul of bylaw enforcement was also launched, including new staff, a regulatory bylaw update, and enforcement through an adjudication process.

TNRD Environmental Services continued to roll out new solid-waste facilities in 2014 with the opening of a new Eco-Depot in Blue River, and an expanded Eco-Depot in 70 Mile House. These will provide more opportunities for residents to reduce and recycle while saving landfill space. As well, Environmental Services helped establish a transfer station in Brookmere.

On the Utilities side, the capital upgrade for the Blue River Community Water system was completed. This substantial upgrade increases the efficiency of the system. This ensures that the water system can remain operational even in the event of a water-main break and can effectively support the community's fire suppression system.

TNRD Library Services embarked on a Strategic Planning Consultation Process in 2014. It featured a series of interactive events that were open to the public and took place in all 13 library branches across the TNRD. There was also a public survey that was hosted on the Library System's website. The aim was to better gauge how to meet the changing needs of residents in the TNRD, and the findings will help establish strategic priorities and provide overall direction for the Library System.

The Thompson-Nicola Film Commission had a great international success with the Swiss-Canadian film *Shana -- The Wolf's Music*, which was filmed in Lower Nicola and Merritt and stars Lower Nicola Indian Band members as well as local Merritt talent. *Shana* was screened in 10 countries, including Switzerland, Canada, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Greece, often with the local cast in attendance as emissaries. *Shana* also won honours at a handful of film festivals, including wins for best feature film at the Olympia International Film Festival in Pyrgos, Greece, and at Germany's Munster Children's Festival. In 2015, the film will continue touring the film festival circuit, including a screening at the Kamloops Film Festival.

On behalf of the TNRD Board of Directors, please accept our best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous year in 2015, and if there is a way you think we can help you to fulfill your dreams please contact the director of your choice. We all chose to run for office so that we could make a positive difference and we look forward to hearing from you.

With the best of wishes,  
**John Ranta**

## Message from the CAO

It's safe to say that 2014 was an extremely full and exciting year for the TNRD. I would like to begin by expressing appreciation to everyone on the TNRD team. Whether you were serving patrons in a library branch or fixing a broken water line, everyone truly put in an excellent effort. Together, we have been working on improving the culture of our organization – everyone's hard work, dedication and positive attitudes have gone a long way in making the TNRD a fantastic place to work. I'm looking forward to 2015 as I know our work environment will continue to be great.

2014 began with participation from Board members and key staff in the Community to Community Forum hosted by Simpcw First Nation. Our Board and senior management team also conducted a Strategic Planning exercise, which helped define our work over the year. The Chair and I made special presentations to the councils of Cache Creek, Chase, Logan Lake and Merritt in the spring and summer. These presentations provided information about TNRD functions and provided an opportunity for relationship building. The annual Out-of-Town Board Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation event was held in Lytton in August. It is always a great night when we have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the citizens who give of their time and talents to serve the TNRD. November brought us the elections, which resulted in changes for six of the Board Directors. In November we also held a Long Service Awards evening to recognize those staff who achieved service milestones. This year, the TNRD had the pleasure of recognizing an employee with 35 years of service! In December, we were honoured to welcome our new Board to the TNRD through the Inaugural Board Meeting. A Regional Orientation Session later in the month provided all the new member municipality councils, staff, and TNRD Directors a chance to network and learn together.

In addition to the special events conducted through the year, staff remained diligent in ensuring that exceptional public service was provided by the TNRD. Another ongoing initiative undertaken in 2014 was to support the doctor recruitment and retention work in our region. The TNRD hosted events in which the Resident Family Physicians were invited to meet with local elected officials. As we understand the family physician shortage is greatly affecting a number of communities, we are doing what we can to aid in the retention process.

2015 is shaping up to be a fantastic year. The TNRD is scheduled to host a Community to Community Forum in Clearwater in January. The Chair and I are scheduled to make presentations to the District of Barriere and the Village of Ashcroft in July. The Annual Out-of-Town Board Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be in Sun Peaks, and is sure to be a memorable occasion. This year, I will be making it a priority to implement policies that will align the TNRD with the high standards of being an employer of choice. It is my goal to develop the leadership skills of our staff and continue to improve upon our culture of cohesiveness and co-operation. Strong engagement and a positive attitude amongst staff is truly the foundation of the service we provide to region. We want the TNRD to be workplace that fosters everyone's skills and abilities and I look forward to finding new and creative ways to do so this coming year.

**Sukh Gill**

*Chief Administrative Officer*





**BACK ROW (left to right):**

Sally Watson, Rick Berrigan, Tina Lange, Jessa Lightfoot, Willow Macdonald, John Ranta (Chair), Ken Christian, Arjun Singh, Al Raine and Herb Graham

**MIDDLE ROW (left to right):**

John Harwood, Ronaye Elliot, Marg Spina, Robin Smith, Virginia Smith, Ken Gillis and Bill Kershaw

**FRONT ROW (left to right):**

Peter Milobar, Jack Jeyes, Steven Rice, Pat Wallace and Mel Rothenburger

**SEATED AT RIGHT (left to right):**

Jim Rivett, Carol Schaffer and Neil Menard

## Board of Directors



**CHAIR: John Ranta**  
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### "O" (LOWER NORTH THOMPSON)

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### "P" (RIVERS AND THE PEAKS)

**Mel Rothenburger**

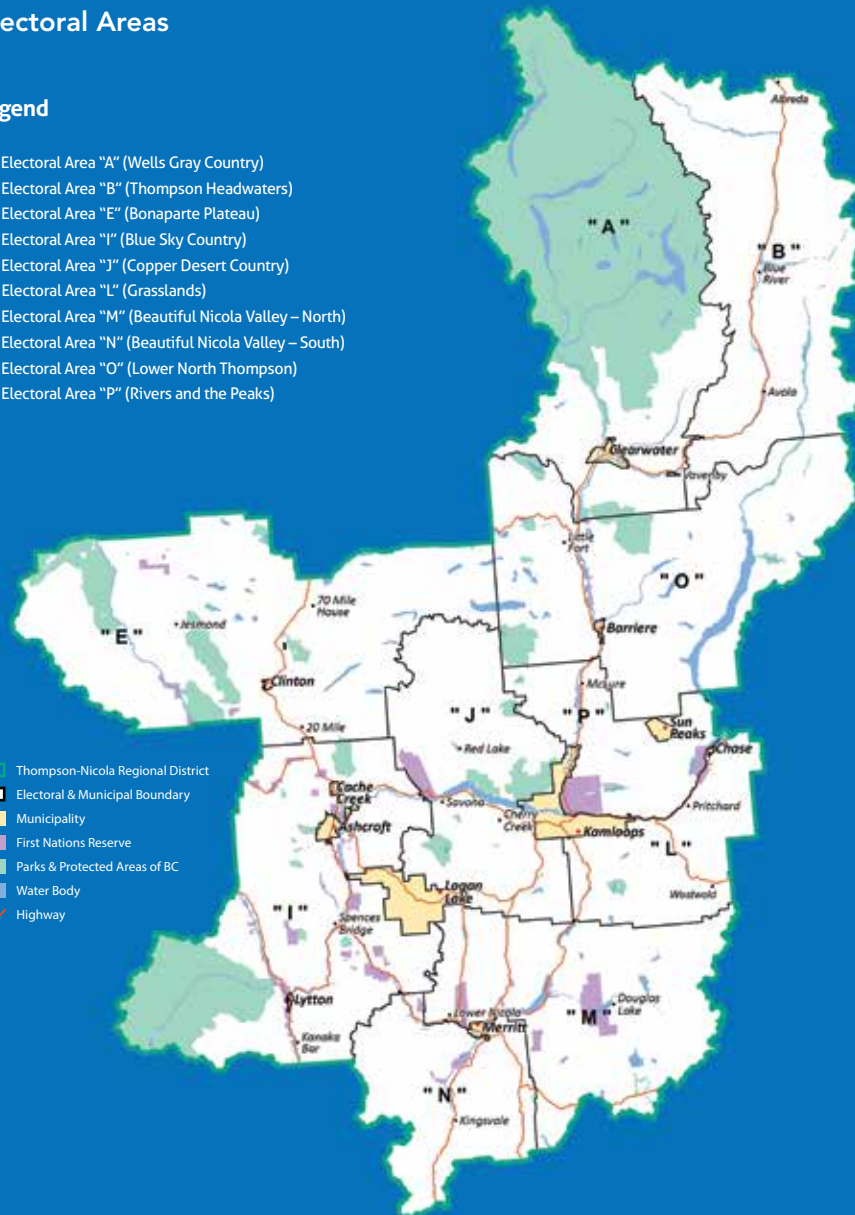
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## Electoral Areas

### Legend

- A Electoral Area "A" (Wells Gray Country)
- B Electoral Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters)
- E Electoral Area "E" (Bonaparte Plateau)
- I Electoral Area "I" (Blue Sky Country)
- J Electoral Area "J" (Copper Desert Country)
- L Electoral Area "L" (Grasslands)
- M Electoral Area "M" (Beautiful Nicola Valley – North)
- N Electoral Area "N" (Beautiful Nicola Valley – South)
- O Electoral Area "O" (Lower North Thompson)
- P Electoral Area "P" (Rivers and the Peaks)

- Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Electoral & Municipal Boundary
- Municipality
- First Nations Reserve
- Parks & Protected Areas of BC
- Water Body
- Highway







Big Bar area — Source: TNRD Film Commission Library



## 2014 Annual Report

### Community Services

#### **Ron Storie** Director of Community Services

- New and existing community services, e.g. fire protection, cemeteries, defined economic development, street lighting, parks including river buoys, numerous grant-in-aid services, E911, transit, train whistle cessation, television rebroadcast
- Grant funding applications
- Emergency Management Program

#### 2014 Key Activities and Accomplishments

- TNRD Parks Function, Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters), Avola - Playground revitalization at Diamond Drive Children's Park (operational, October 2014).
- Blue River/Mud Lake Public Rail Crossing – TNRD assisted in establishing dialogue between the stakeholders and Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and was at the forefront in obtaining this public-rail crossing.
- TNRD Dangerous Dog Function Bylaw 2383 – 2014 was the first operational year for the bylaw.
- TNRD TV Rebroadcast Services Area "A", "O" and "P" – Board of Directors resolved to discontinue TNRD TV Rebroadcast effective Jan. 1, 2015.
- More than \$1.4 million in Federal Gas Tax – Community Works Fund funding was approved for eligible projects. In addition to funding upgrades to TNRD-owned facilities, funding was provided to community groups to upgrade community owned buildings. Including the following:
  - The TNRD and District of Clearwater contributed \$45,000 and \$25,000 respectively towards completion of North Thompson septage receiving facilities, which had received \$1.48 million from the Federal Gas Tax Innovations Fund.
  - The District of Barriere and the TNRD provided \$10,000 each towards a new chiller for the Barriere Curling Club building.

- \$70,000 for improvements to the Walhachin Soldiers Memorial Hall was leveraged with \$30,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and \$35,000 for improvements to the Lytton Legion was leveraged with an equal amount from NDIT.
- The TNRD received \$50,000 in funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) for the creation of a photo library and development of promotional rack cards.
- The TNRD 70 Mile House and Area Community Fund Bursary was established with \$9,576 in NDIT funding, to match an equal amount provided by the community.
- Wages were approved for two Job Creation Partnership Positions.

2014 Emergency Services Activities

Emergency events

- 2 interface fires
- 3 transportation of dangerous - goods incidents
- 11 house fires
- 30 flood incidents
- 1 tour bus rollover

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Operations

- BLUE RIVER                      20 Ha

SAR Operational Funding

- 5 x \$10,000.00  
  (Wells Gray; Barriere; Kamloops;  
  Logan Lake; and Nicola Valley)
- 1 x \$3325.00 (South Cariboo)

Search and Rescue (SAR) Capital Funding

• Wells Grey	\$20,046 (spring) \$8,460 (fall)
• Barriere	\$1,612
• Kamloops	\$24,456 (spring) \$15,931 (fall)
• Nicola Valley	\$0
• Logan Lake	\$1,688

The inclusion of the Village of Lytton to the TNRD Emergency Program.



The Avola Playground Rehab



## 2014 Annual Report

# Finance and Information Technology Services

**Douglas Rae** Director of Finance

### Finance

- Accounting and Financial Reporting – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Thompson Regional Hospital District
- Budgeting and Investments
- Payables/Receivables
- Payroll
- Purchasing
- Billing Utility & Other services

### Information Technology

- Computer Information Services
- Data Programming
- Website Development and Maintenance

## 2014 Key Activities and Accomplishments

The Finance and Information Technology (IT) department provides support and service to all departments of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District as well the Board of Directors and the general public. Our chief goal is to ensure good stewardship and accountability over all financial matters and to provide timely, transparent and clear reporting. From an IT perspective, reliable access to technology, risk management and security are key. In 2014 Finance and IT worked closely with the other departments on the implementation and maintenance of various programs and services.

### Finance Activities in 2014 Included:

- Providing professional advice to elected officials and other departments
- Preparing 2014 provisional and annual budgets
- Preparing year-end financial statements and support for auditors
- Reporting required for the \$3.5 million + in grant funding received

- Carbon emission (CARIP) reporting for 2013 year, achieving carbon neutral status
- Readied 3 new services to start in 2015
- Updates to policy manual and corporate practices
- Implemented new integrated payroll accounting and reporting system
- Other reporting as required by legislation

### Information Technology Activities in 2014 Included:

- Providing technical support for all TNRD departments
- Replacing of systems/equipment with Energy Star compliant systems/equipment throughout the organization
- Implementation of new tablet devices at Board and senior staff level
- Expanded remote access and virtual meeting capabilities

### Key Initiatives for 2015

#### Finance

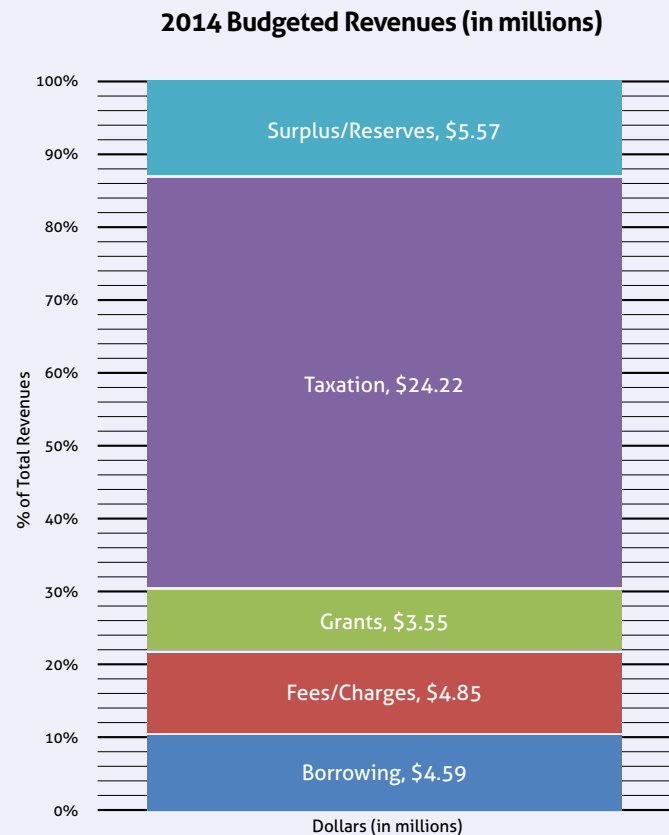
- Development of an Asset Management Plan
- Overhaul purchase order system and identify other efficiency gains
- Test and integrate the of scheduling module into the new integrated payroll accounting and reporting system
- Further streamline and update financial reporting processes, provide greater data and analysis on website
- Continue to support all departments with advice and analysis
- Policy development and implementation

#### Information Technology

- Creation of IT Department strategic plan
- Update and expand on Disaster Recovery and Business Continuation Plan
- Expand remote access and virtual meeting capabilities
- Third-party IT risk assessment
- Policy development and implementation

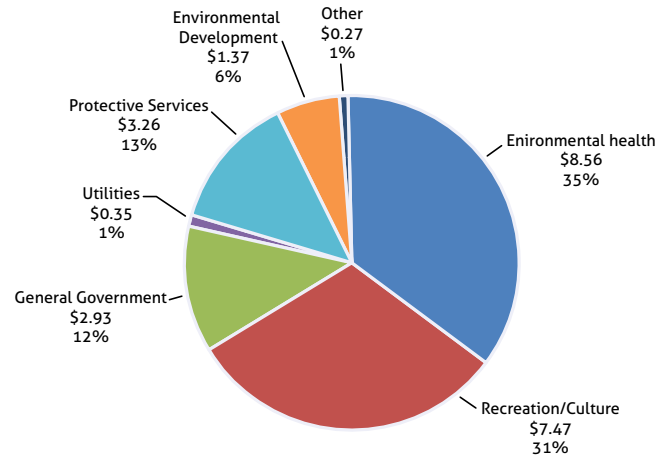
### 2014 Budgeted Revenue and Expenses Charts

The following graphically summarizes the budgeted sources of revenue, along with a breakdown by function of the expenses budgeted for 2014. Expense figures are inclusive of operating reserves and net of collection and debt payments, etc.

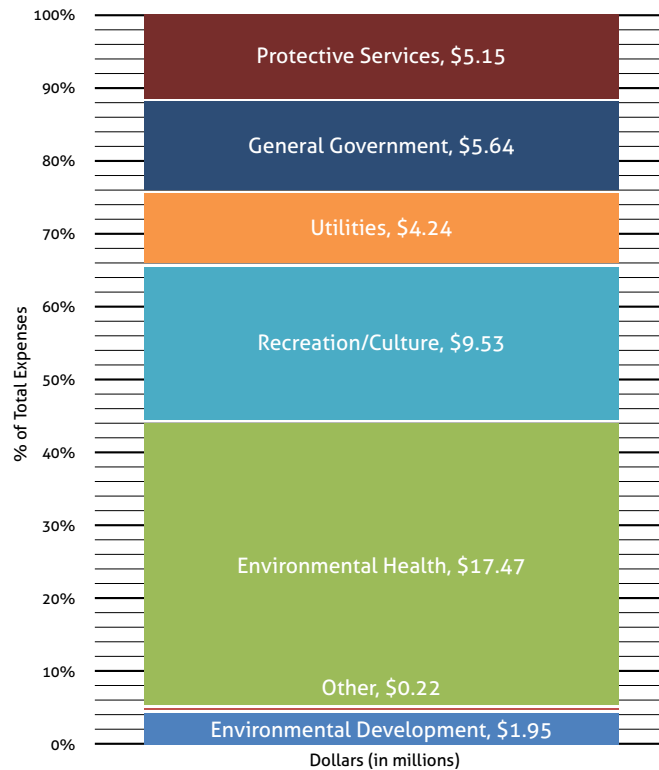




### 2014 Taxation Revenues by Function (in millions)



### 2014 Budgeted Expenses (in millions)



There is much more financial information available on our website ([www.tnrd.ca](http://www.tnrd.ca)) or upon request.



*Shuswap Rd Crop Fields — Source: TNRD Film Commission Library*



## 2014 Annual Report

# Environmental Services – Environmental Health Services

**Peter Hughes** Director of Environmental Services

- Solid Waste Management
- Electoral Area Waste Collection
- Noxious Weed Control
- Mosquito Control
- West Nile Virus Prevention
- Septage Disposal

## 2014 Key Activities and Accomplishments

### Solid Waste Management

Two new Eco-Depots were opened to replace older transfer stations in 70 Mile House and Blue River. The new facilities offer more user-friendly and safer services to the public, including increased recycling opportunities. They also offer better working conditions for site attendants.

Upgrades were made to the Knutsford transfer station, including rebuilding the walls and installing new safety railings, which make unloading easier and safer for customers.

Construction began on a new septage-receiving station in partnership with the District of Clearwater. This new facility will replace old septage receiving ponds in Blue River and at the old Clearwater landfill.



*70 Mile House eco-depot. Scale and scale house from site entrance.*

Recycling and diversion programs were increased at most solid-waste management facilities. Examples include the expansion of wood-waste diversion; increased locations for electronics and paint recycling; the expansion of used-oil recycling depots; and the introduction of an asphalt-shingle recycling pilot project.

The illegal dumping clean-up program, in partnership with the Conservation Officer Service, continues to investigate public reports of unauthorized dump sites. Environmental Services also continues to support community clean-ups by waiving tipping fees and providing clean-up kits, which include high-visibility vests, gloves, bags, and litter pickers.



*Blue River eco-depot recycling bay*

Upgrades and maintenance work is ongoing at the two remaining landfills in Heffley Creek and Lower Nicola to ensure they operate efficiently while reducing environmental impacts. Projects in 2014 included: completion of surface water diversion upgrades; landfill-gas generation assessment of both landfills; and continued monitoring to ensure the surrounding environment is protected.

Monitoring and maintenance of closed landfills once operated by the TNRD is also ongoing. This includes maintenance of methane-oxidation beds at closed landfills in Logan Lake,

Clearwater, Chase and Barriere. Methane-oxidation beds reduce greenhouse gases generated from landfills by converting methane into carbon dioxide.



*Methane oxidation bed at the Clearwater landfill*

Environmental Services hosted six backyard composting workshops in communities throughout the TNRD and continued to sell backyard composters at a subsidized rate to encourage backyard composting.



*Denise and Mel Anderson (worm farmer) at a worm-composting workshop in Clearwater*

The Wildsafe (formerly Bear Aware) program made many presentations in schools and at community events throughout TNRD. Environmental Services continues to inform TNRD residents how to minimize conflict with wildlife, particularly around household garbage.

#### Invasive Plant Program

The TNRD continues to deliver a landowner assistance program to help control the spread of noxious weeds. Assistance is provided through education, biological control (insects) chemical control rebates, and an equipment loan-out program.



*Dalmatian insect used for biological control of invasive plants*

In 2014, \$69,443.17 was rebated to landowners for weed control on private land; 98 equipment loanouts were made; and a total of 11,730 insects were collected and distributed. Forty two insect releases were made on public lands and 33 releases were made on private lands. Education was done through school presentations, attending community events and through one-on-one visits with landowners.

#### Mosquito Control Program

The TNRD administers a nuisance mosquito control program within Electoral Areas "A", "O", "J", "L" and "P". Member municipalities included in the service area include Barriere, Chase, Clearwater, Kamloops, Logan Lake and Sun Peaks. The mosquito-control program focuses on environmentally sound practices of controlling mosquito larval populations with a biological agent before they emerge as adults. Controlling adult mosquitos is much more costly, less efficient, and requires use of board-spectrum insecticides. No adult mosquito control was done in 2014.



*Helicopter treatment of larval mosquito populations is the most effective way to control nuisance adult mosquitos*



## 2015 Key Activities

- Improvements to the Westwold transfer station, which will make unloading garbage easier and safer. The recycling area will also be expanded.
- Improvements to the Logan Lake Eco-Depot, which involve a needed expansion of the recycling and diversion area.
- Commissioning a new Clearwater septage receiving station.
- Continuing to improve the recycling and waste-diversion programs regionwide, including composting workshops, recycling behaviour-change campaigns, expanding asphalt-shingle recycling, introducing a gypsum-recycling pilot, and continuing to pursue partnerships with product-stewardship organizations to deliver programs at TNRD facilities.
- Focusing on gaining operational efficiencies and increasing customer service at all solid-waste facilities.
- Continuing to deliver invasive-plant control, mosquito control and Wildsafe programs.
- Monitoring closed landfills and making improvements to methane-oxidation beds to ensure maximum greenhouse-gas reduction is being achieved.

## 2014 Annual Report

# Environmental Services – Utility Services

### **Peter Hughes** Director of Environmental Services

#### Water Systems

- Black Pines
- Blue River
- Del Oro
- Evergreen

#### • Loon Lake

- Maple Mission
- Pritchard
- Savona
- Spences Bridge

#### • Vavenby

- Wallachin
- Sewer Systems
- Paul Lake
- Pritchard

Utility Services currently oversees the operation of 11 water systems and 2 wastewater systems within the Regional District. The TNRD applies for federal and provincial grants on a continual basis to assist with improvements needed under provincial guidelines and to provide good quality water and sewer services for residents using TNRD community services. Upgrades and proactive maintenance have enabled quicker problem detection and repair resolution. Although this active approach resulted in more boil-water notices and water-quality advisories in 2014 compared to 2013, early detection

and resolution of otherwise hidden problems will prevent future problems and improve long-term efficiency. Several projects are in progress that will help Utility Services to achieve these goals through ongoing system improvements.

## 2014 Key Accomplishments

The challenge of ensuring a reliable source of clean and safe drinking water is one of the largest and most important services the TNRD provides for 11 water systems in the region. Operating these water systems, working to meet provincial health standards and making plans for future necessary improvements are just some of the tasks involved in managing these multi-million dollar resources.

### Water

- Issued 12 boil water notices (8 in 2013)
- Issued 6 water quality advisories (4 in 2013)
- Issued 12 boil water rescinds (9 in 2013)
- Leak detection project in Blue River, Vavenby and Del Oro
- Inventory of system assets with mobile GIS data collection



*The new Del Oro pumphouse under construction*

### **Del Oro**

- Built a new pumphouse with LED lighting and installed a new pump motor for the Del Oro Water System, new BC Hydro transformers and power supply

### **Loon Lake**

- Rebuilt the Loon Lake pumphouse roof and started building maintenance
- Secured right-of-way for reservoir and access road



*A new roof for the Loon Lake pumphouse*



*Blue River project - dedicated line to reservoir*

### **Vavenby**

- Repaired leak under the pumphouse in Vavenby
- Installed new head works/water meter

### **Pritchard**

- Continued leak repairs on failing services in Pritchard
- Installed LED lighting at pumphouse

### **Blue River**

- New water main project completed, including dedicated line to reservoir
- Improved electrical efficiency that reduced power consumption

### **Spences Bridge**

- Water Conservation Education Program; handed out water conservation kits to each household

### **Walhachin**

- Relocated new air relief valve

### **Evergreen**

- New head works designed - pump design completed, ordered new water meters, installed LED lighting, and started building maintenance.



**Savona**

- Shoreline habitat restoration completed
- Installed LED lighting
- Started building maintenance, installed new door

**Black Pines**

- Shoreline habitat restoration completed
- Started building maintenance, installed new door
- Conceptual engineering design for new intake completed

**Sewer****Paul Lake**

- Septic-tank pumping program for all Paul Lake sewer system customers completed
- Inventory of system assets with mobile GIS data collection

**Pritchard**

- New water & sewer line design completed (to new development)
- New pre-screening engineering design completed (for sewer plant)
- Inventory of system assets with mobile GIS data collection

**2015 Key Activities**

We will continue to seek efficiency improvements to further reduce our ongoing operating costs in 2015.

**Water**

- Lower energy consumption by upgrading to LED lighting
- Update and consolidate regulatory bylaw for all water systems
- Utility rates review
- Black Pines new intake grant application
- Savona new reservoir grant application
- Install new pumps in Evergreen
- Install new pumps in Vavenby
- Replace the pressure reducing valve in Walhachin and Maple Mission

**Sewer**

- Pritchard sewer pre-screening grant application



## 2014 Annual Report

# Thompson-Nicola Film Commission

**Victoria Weller** Film Commissioner

The TNFC represents and promotes locations, services, amenities and talent within the TNRD to the motion picture industry.

### Mission Statement

*In co-operation with Creative BC, to attract and encourage motion picture and digital media productions that will result in expenditures in, or exposure of, the Thompson-Nicola Film Commission area.*



Also in big-budget Hollywood blockbuster news, *Night at the Museum 3: Secret of the Tomb* was filmed in the desert between Kamloops and Cache Creek. More than 200 crew members travelled to the TNRD to film the movie's opening sequence, which was set in a 1930s archeological dig site in Egypt. The set bustled with donkeys and camels, and background extras as diggers and Egyptian labourers. More than 100 persons were hired locally as crew and talent. The production designer was Kamloops' own Martin Whist (*Robocop*, *Super 8* and *Warm Bodies*).





Lytton and its "colourful" residents were the focus of the new CBC comedy series *Of All Places*. For five days in May, comedian Jonny Harris interviewed local celebrities, such as philosophy artist and poet Ken Glasgow among others.



(Above) Lytton CBC *Of All Places*.  
(Left) Jonny Harris on Ken Glasgow HOG art piece in Lytton BC.



A Japanese Samsung commercial, featuring a large robot strutting through the desert valleys of Walhachin to Cache Creek, and Ashcroft to Spences Bridge, was filmed over two days. Quilchena was also the setting of the wandering robot. The commercial will be shown across Japan, Asia and Australia.



The film commissioner and production team scouting for background locations where the small robot will be blown up to look enormous.



Jamie Payton, Kamloops-based Stunt and Animal Wrangler, and TNFC member Denise Recchi.

The Italian documentary *Revelstoke: A Kiss on the Wind*, which follows the footsteps of an Italian immigrant named Angelo Conte, who helped build the original CP Rail track between Walhachin through Kamloops to Revelstoke, was filmed at

several historic buildings in the TNRD. Locations included the old post office on West Victoria Street in Kamloops and CP Rail. The documentary maker Nicola Moruzzi, the subject's great-grandson, also interviewed Kamloops residents who work with immigrants, and conducted research in museums and archives in Vancouver, Revelstoke, Walhachin and Kamloops.

The Vancouver production *Wrecker*, about an evil tow-truck driver who terrorizes the highways, filmed for 15 days in the region. Shooting took place on Old Hamilton Hill Road and at Mario's Towing in Merritt; Spences Bridge Tire & Mechanical and Big Horn Traders around Spences Bridge; the Eagle Motorplex in Ashcroft; Savona's Roadhouse Café and along Barnes Lake Road, Douglas Lake Road, the Merritt-Spences Bridge Highway 8, the Trans-Canada Highway from Lytton to Kamloops, and Highway 5A between Kamloops and Merritt.

Other productions in the region included: *Namaste*, a DIY yoga instructional video filmed along the shores of Nicola Lake and in the grasslands of Quilchena; and the TV series



*Namaste, Nicola Lake*

*The Whispers*, which shot sequences using our desert areas as a stand-in for Africa. Aspiring Vancouver directors also ventured into the TNRD to film short films such as *Riggers*, about oil workers who get stranded on the prairie (in Merritt area actually), and *The Orchard*, filmed in and between Spences Bridge and Ashcroft.



*The Whispers*



*The Orchard, filmed in and between Spences Bridge and Ashcroft.*





With Northern Development Initiatives Funding, the TNFC created and distributed a Film Tourism rack card advertising our ThompsonNicolaMovieMap.com. In partnership with Explore Gold Country Tourism, the TNFC worked with Kelly Funk to acquire high-end photographs of key locations for advertising. The Film Commission also produced 2-3-minute-long tourism vignettes including:

- Sundance Guest Ranch, Ashcroft
- 2 Motorcycle Circle Tours, featuring Harley Davidson bikes, and a mixed group of bikes
- Left Field Cider, Logan Lake/Merritt
- The Wind & The Pillows B&B Retreat, 70 Mile
- Historic Hat Creek Ranch, Cache Creek
- Desert Hills Ranch & Store, Ashcroft
- Agri-Tourism in Gold Country
- Camping in Gold Country
- Golfing in Gold Country
- Museums in Gold Country



In 2014, the TNFC reached its goals by:

1. Attracting and facilitating productions in the TNRD, which resulted in expenditures in the region.
2. Built awareness of the beauty and opportunities in the TNRD for filming, economic development and tourism.
3. Supported local initiatives by being a Gold Sponsor of the Kamloops Film Festival and financially supporting the local cast and crew of *Shana: The Wolf's Music* to attend the screening.
4. Providing cash awards for regional filmmakers who entered the Kamloops Independent Short Shorts Competition, and created a TNRD Short Film Bursary Fund for aspiring regional directors.





Ashcroft area — Source: TNRD Film Commission Library





*Hoodooos, West of Lower Nicola — Source: TNRD Film Commission Library*



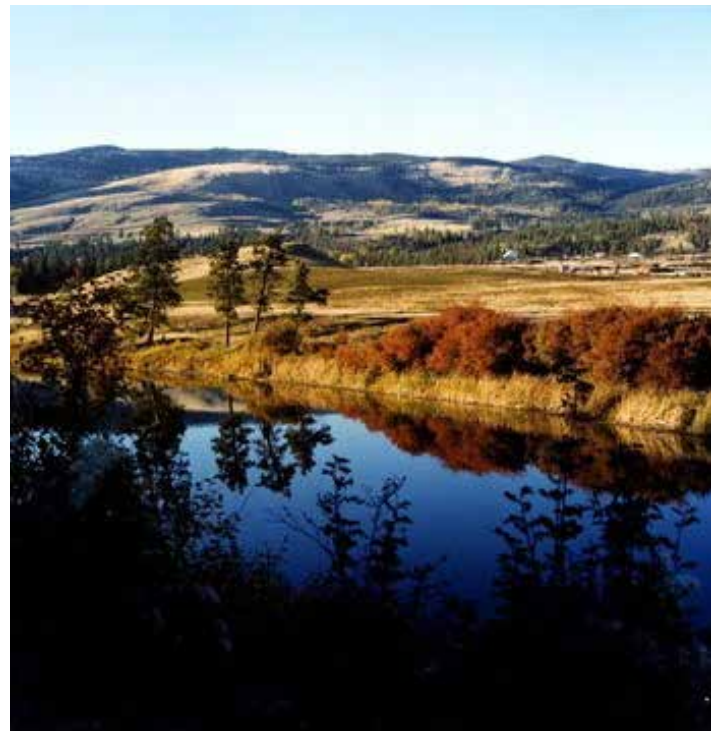
## 2014 Annual Report

### Development Services – Planning

The Planning Services Department is responsible for land-use planning across all unincorporated electoral areas within the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. It also provides planning services on a contractual basis for some member municipalities and general support on an ad hoc basis for others. The Regional Growth Strategy is administered for the entirety of the region and its member municipalities. The primary purpose of Planning Services is to encourage growth and manage development in a sustainable manner throughout the TNRD.

**Regina Sadilkova** Director of Development Services

- Long and short range planning
- Development applications/permits
- GIS (mapping and spatial analysis)
- Bylaw enforcement
- House numbering (E-911 Support)





## 2014 Key Activities and Accomplishments

### Applications

Planning Department staff processed 121 zoning bylaw and Official Community Plan amendments, subdivisions, ALR applications and inter-agency referrals during 2014. This year's activity levels decreased slightly from that of previous years. In addition to applications and referrals, 39 bylaw enforcement files were processed and completed.

### Long Range Planning

The Regional Growth Strategy indicators were researched and established by board resolution. As well, the Cherry Creek-Savona Official Community Plan was adopted. The Fringe Area Policy was brought forward with our member municipalities for reconsideration. Changes were adopted, including a cross-referral for municipal boundary extensions and major changes along the municipal boundaries.

### Geographic Information Systems

GIS division improved access, accuracy, and reliability of our web-based mapping program *myRegionView* along with establishment of a permit tracking system. Use of *myRegionView* in 2014 more than doubled as customers became more familiar with navigating the program, finding

the information they were seeking, and making custom maps for their individual purposes. Our system includes ever-increasing baseline information for the TNRD's smaller member municipalities (as we digitize and add their data) as well as additional information for all electoral areas.

### Contract Planning Services

2014 was a challenging year for our contract services. We provided ongoing contractual support for the District of Clearwater and for Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality as well as providing support for any member municipality on an as needs basis.



## 2014 Planning Activities

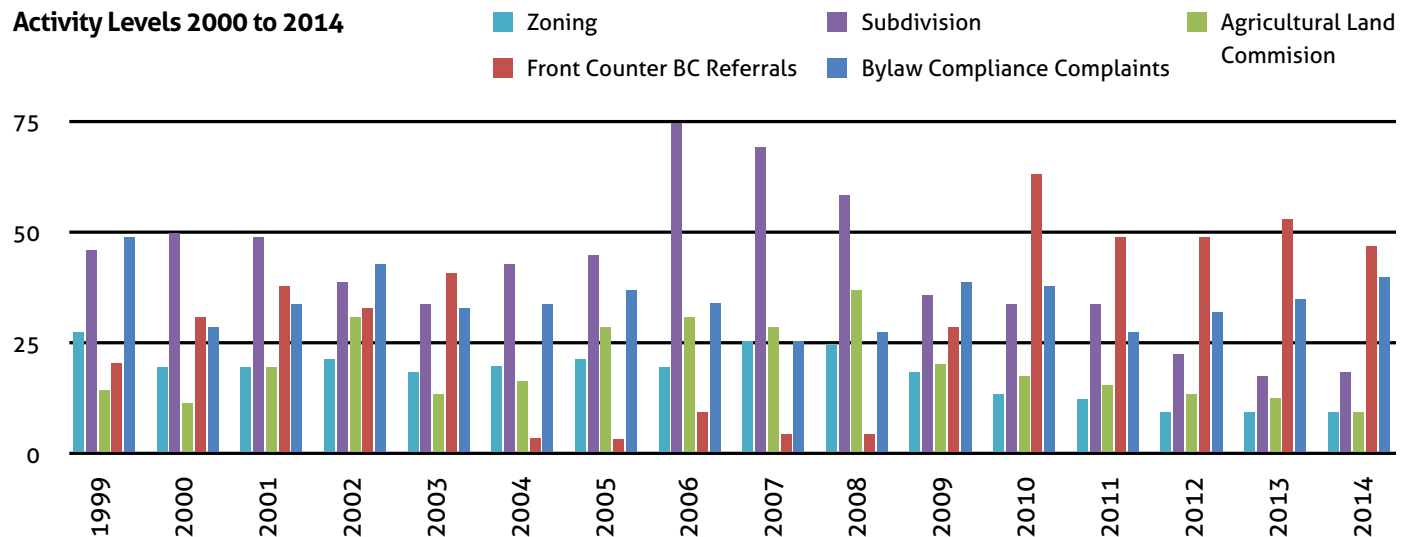
- Cherry Creek-Savona Official Community Plan adoption and roll out
- Creation of a new RVP: Recreational Vehicle Park Zone within Zoning Bylaw No. 2400
- Continued Planning/GIS support for the region's smaller member municipalities
- Completed a rewrite and overhaul of the TNRD Subdivision Servicing Bylaw, especially as impacts proof of water and required volume of water
- Continued support for the Region's Emergency Management and E-911 programs
- Completed and closed several bylaw enforcement legal actions



## Key Initiatives for 2015

- Consideration & adoption of new Advisory Planning Commission Bylaw
- Commence overhaul of bylaw enforcement under new adjudication and bylaw notice ticketing all with a view to expediting and encouraging compliance
- Housekeeping with regards to the Region's OCPs to provide more consistency and recognize municipal boundary changes and new municipalities
- Publish first report on the adopted Regional Growth Strategy indicators
- Continued participation on the Harper Creek and Ajax Mine Project Working Groups – provide planning advice to the Provincial and Federal Environmental Assessment agencies
- Participate in National Energy Board hearings for the Trans Mountain Pipeline Twinning project
- Rommence replacement of Land Use Contracts with zoning as prescribed by new legislation

Activity Levels 2000 to 2014







*Dog Creek Road Ranch — Source: TNRD Film Commission Library*



## 2014 Annual Report

# Development Services – Building Inspection Services

**Regina Sadilkova** Director of Development Services

- Building and Plumbing Applications and Permits
- Building and Plumbing Inspections
- Building Bylaw Enforcement

Building Inspection Services administers Building Regulations Bylaw No. 2066, 2005 within all electoral areas of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. Building Inspection activities are undertaken to provide a monitoring function for reason of health, safety and the protection of persons and property related to building construction.

TNRD building inspection services are contracted out to the municipalities of Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Chase, Logan Lake, Clinton, Lytton and Clearwater. Each municipality has its own building and zoning regulations. All building permit applications for these member municipalities are processed through the main TNRD office located at 300-465 Victoria Street in Kamloops.

In addition to the main Kamloops office, the TNRD provides scheduled services to the public out of satellite offices located in Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Chase, Logan Lake, Clinton, Lytton, Clearwater and Merritt.

In 2014, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District issued building permits with a total construction value of \$50 million. With the previous three years remaining virtually unchanged at \$40 million, 2014 brought nearly a 25 per cent increase in construction activity and the first upward trend in the past



*Clearwater Shopping Centre 2015*

four years and the highest values seen in the past six years. Residential starts also increased over the previous year by 20 per cent with 112 units created compared to 93 in 2013. A total of 354 building permits were issued, up eight per cent from the previous year.

Following substantial changes adopted in 2013 to the B.C. Building Code, 2014 brought the next wave of amendments dealing with energy-efficiency requirements in residential buildings. In preparation of full implementation early in 2015, Building Inspection Services began preparing bulletin and guide information for homeowners and residential builders. Consultation has been ongoing with the Canadian Home Builders' Association with a view to making the transition to the new requirements as easy as possible. Due to the substantial nature of the changes, a great deal of effort will be required in educating homeowners on these changes throughout the course of 2015.

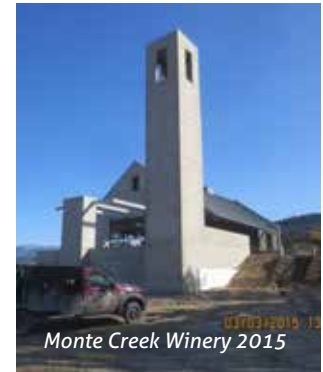
Following a review of building permit fees and long-term budget planning, the Building Regulations Bylaw was amended to include a fee increase for the first time in more than 18 years. The increases are considered modest and maintain the Thompson-Nicola Regional District near the median level when compared with similar local governments. The increases will however have a positive effect on tax requisitions and long-term sustainability of inspection services. Upon completion of the 2013/14 Building Bylaw amendments, Building Inspection Services assisted its member municipalities in revision of their respective building regulations bylaws with a goal of unifying fees and administrative requirements across the region.

### Major Non-Residential Projects Issued in 2014

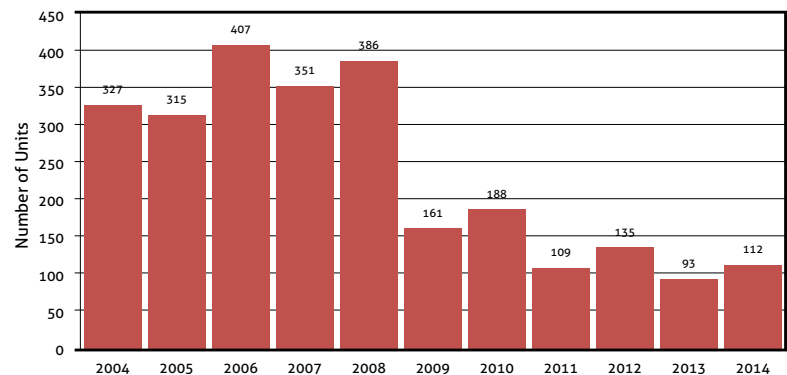
- 2420 Miner's Bluff Road – Winery
- 7540 Clinton Station Road – Water Treatment Facility
- 365 Murtle Crescent – Clearwater Shopping Centre
- 2536 Harper Ranch Pinantan Road – Pinantan Convenience Store/Residence
- 435 Ranch Road – Ashcroft Elementary School alterations

### 2015 Key Activities

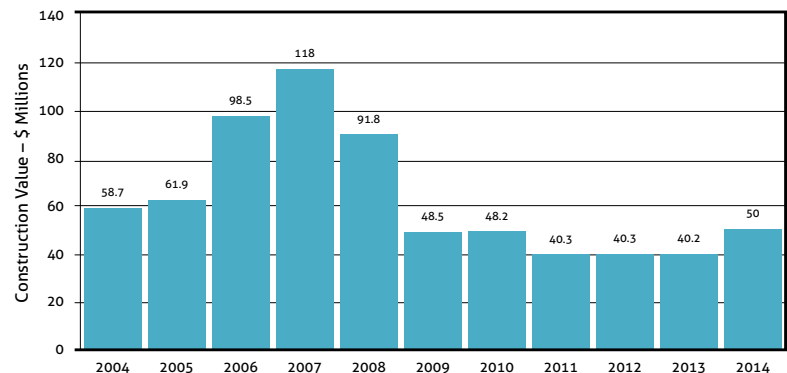
- Acquisition and training of permanent plan-checking staff
- Training for staff and the building community on changes to energy-efficiency requirements in the code
- Continue the permit-issuance and inspection process for new construction within the TNRD



**TNRD - Residential Units Created**



**TNRD - Total Construction Value**



## 2014 Annual Report

### Legislative Services

#### **Carolyn Black** Director of Legislative Services

- Corporate and legislative services
- Board and Committee agendas and minutes
- Corporate records management
- Elections and Public Assent processes
- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy
- Preparation of bylaws
- New service establishment and service amendment processes

#### General Local Election

In 2014, general local elections were held throughout British Columbia. The Legislative Services department is responsible for conducting elections for the Thompson-Nicola Regional District in accordance with requirements within the Local Government Act and accepted nominations for the offices of director for each of its 10 electoral areas.

In four of the electoral areas, directors were acclaimed. Elections in each of the remaining six electoral areas were conducted, allowing eligible electors to choose their local representative for the next four years by voting. Six polling stations were open on two advance voting days and on general voting day 25 polling stations were open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. The Board adopted its new Election and Assent Voting Bylaw in 2014, allowing mail-in voting for the 2014 general local election.

#### Post-Election

Following the election, an inaugural board meeting and ceremony was held. The 26 board members made their oaths and elected a new chair from amongst its membership. Two orientation sessions were held for both new and returning elected officials following the inaugural meeting.



## Other Public Assent Processes

In 2014, legislative services staff conducted 4 large-scale public assent processes for the establishment of new local services:

- April Whitecroft Fire Protection service area establishment petition
- June Spences Bridge community park referendum
- June 70 Mile Fire protection service area establishment petition
- June Paul Lake Fire Protection service area establishment and loan authorization petition

Two of the public assent processes received sufficient public support and resulted in the establishment of new services (Whitecroft fire protection and Paul Lake fire protection).

## Bylaws and Bylaw Amendments

Several services were established or amended during 2014, including establishing a noise-control service and an alternative-waste collection service in Electoral Area "N" (Brookmere transfer station). The emergency-planning service was amended to include the Village of Lytton and the fire department establishment bylaws for Blackpool, Pritchard and Vavenby were amended to provide consistent remuneration for firefighters.

## Member Municipality Financing

Regional Districts finance long-term debt for its member municipalities through the BC Municipal Finance Authority. In 2014, the TNRD secured \$2,348,000 for the City of Merritt for Central Park improvements, an asphalt project, a public works utility building and a new fire hall. \$23,200,000 was financed for the City of Kamloops for construction of a wastewater treatment plant.

## Name changes approved for 3 electoral areas

The request for name changes for three of the TNRD's electoral areas was received in 2014. Electoral Area "L" (Grasslands), Electoral Area "M" (Beautiful Nicola Valley – North) and Electoral Area "N" (Beautiful Nicola Valley – South) join the other seven electoral areas with added descriptors to their official names.

## 2014 Annual Report

# Library System

**Marc Saunders** Director of Library Services

### Library Branches:

Ashcroft, Barriere, Blue River, Cache Creek, Chase, Clearwater, Clinton, Kamloops Downtown, Kamloops North Shore, Logan Lake, Lytton, Merritt, Savona, Bookmobile

## 2014 Accomplishments

The Library System embarked on an extensive public consultation process in 2014 to ask patrons what they want from the library, now and in the future. The consultation had three main goals: To gather input to help shape a strategic plan; to build awareness and support within the larger community; and to establish strategic priorities and overall direction.

Twenty three public meetings were held at each library branch, five bookmobile stops, and at various community events

throughout the Regional District. There was also a public survey hosted on the Library System's website. More than 2,400 residents engaged with staff over a five-month period, resulting in four strategic directions:

1. Connect more residents with the unique benefits the library has to offer through partnerships and marketing initiatives.
2. Strengthen the community with lifelong learning opportunities.
3. Serve the community as a commons to discover, connect and inspire.
4. Bridge the digital divide in our community with staff expertise and technology.

### New Integrated Library System

In the spring, the Library System moved to a new computer system that is expected to enhance and improve the library experience for all patrons.

This web-based catalogue is now the primary tool for the public to view the library's collection as well as to place requests for specific material. For library patrons, the benefits

will include a more visually appealing discovery layer that will better showcase library holdings. The new catalogue will also support more sophisticated search techniques, “Did You Mean?” suggestions, popular choices, tag clouds and user-contributed tags.

### Increased Digital Materials

To keep pace with the migration toward electronic devices (i.e., tablets, eReaders, smartphones) by patrons, the Library System has added a new e-magazine service called Zinio and a new e-book service, OneClick. As well, the existing Overdrive Advantage e-book service was expanded. The Zinio e-magazine service offers free access to hundreds of popular magazines, while the OneClickdigital service offers popular fiction and nonfiction audiobooks that cardholders can download and listen to on their computers or mobile devices. As a result of these efforts, e-book circulation has increased by 19 per cent.

### Changes and New Services

Throughout the year many new or improved services were introduced at Library System branches across the Regional District, with the aim of making the library experience better for patrons, including:

- Installation of self-checkout machines in the Clearwater and Barriere libraries
- Introduction of a new service for the visually impaired through the National Network for Equitable Library Services
- Expansion of programs related to science at the Merritt Library
- Centralization and expansion of the graphic-novel collection for the Library System
- Increased children’s programming at the small branches
- Centralization of magazine processing, making them more accessible in the catalogue
- Launching of the Teen Summer Challenge
- Initiating a pilot project that put large-print collections in retirement homes
- More Summer Reading Club programs at a number of branches

## 2015 Key Activities

The Library System will continue to monitor the progress of the Strategic Plan, and if conditions warrant, specific actions and initiatives may need to be revised or updated. In 2015, the Library System will be working towards these goals, as laid out in the Strategic Plan:

- Making more people aware of the services and programs offered by the library
- Improving access to wireless and Internet computers
- Increasing library memberships
- Increasing participation

## 2014 Partnerships

- Kamloops Writer Festival
- Bright Red School Bus
- Literacy in Kamloops (Link)
- Books for Babies with Interior Health
- Thompson Rivers University Library
- Kamloops Museum and Archives
- Nicola Valley Museum and Archives
- Chase Literacy Group
- KELLI
- Red Cross
- School Districts throughout the TNRD
- Logan Lake Wellness, Health & Youth (WHY)
- Highland Valley Copper Mine for Mother Goose support in Logan Lake
- District of Logan Lake
- Logan Lake Literacy Group
- Ashcroft Bridging Literacy Group
- Strongstart
- Make Children First
- Ashcroft Hospital Intermediate Care
- Merritt Railway Club
- Literacy Merritt
- Success By 6 groups in Barriere and Clearwater





*High Bar — Source: TNRD Film Commission Library*



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