



## THOMPSON-NICOLA

REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Region of BC's Best

**TO:** Electoral Area "B" Residents      **DATE:** April 5, 2023  
**FROM:** Community Services Coordinator – Sherri Madden  
**SUBJECT:** Services Update for Electoral Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters)

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### **PURPOSE:**

To provide the community with an update on the Electoral Area "B" services which fall within their area.

### **AREA "B" COMMUNITY PARKS**

- The TNRD is awaiting final confirmation from RSTBC, on the addition of 2 currently unauthorized trails in Blue River, to the existing RSTBC/TNRD Trails Partnership Agreement.
- Bids received for the planned 2022 jetty repair at Eleanor Lake were well in excess of the allocated budget. The plan has now moved to removal of the jetty and extension of the existing dock to end at the beach.
- Trails map brochure will be updated in 2023 and will be available at Blue River businesses, as well as online at [blueriverbc.ca](http://blueriverbc.ca).
- The trail wayfinding signage and trailhead kiosks will be installed in 2023.
- The pedestrian suspension bridge over the Blue River was completed in December 2023, and the trail systems on both sides of the river are now connected. The bridge was designed for pedestrian traffic and doesn't support motorized us.
- The TNRD is continuing to work with Simpcw on trail naming and cultural assessment for the Blue River trails system.
- The Blue River Trails Working Group will continue to play an important advisory role in the implementation of the 2021 Blue River Trails Master Plan and will work under an amended Terms of Reference.
- The Blue River Community Association will continue to run the summer concession out of the Don Forsyth Beach House at the Blue River Community Park.

### **AREA "B" CEMETERY**

- Cemetery maps have been created and installed into the map kiosks at the Avola and Blue River Cemeteries. Listings of who is buried, what plots are reserved, and what plots are available, will be added at a future date.
- The bylaw governing the Avola, Blue River and Little Fort Cemeteries is being reviewed and updated.
- Future expansion of the Blue River Cemetery is planned, and a portion of current taxation is going to a capital reserve which will fund the expansion.

### **AREA "B" COMMUNITY HALLS**

- \$25,000.00 will be provided to the Blue River Community Association for operation of the Blue River Community Hall in 2023.
- A kiosk outlining various items in Avola's history, will be installed at the Avola School House after the pipeline project has moved off the site. Avola residents will be asked for their input in the development of the information to be contained on the site.

**AREA "B" REBROADCAST**

- Working on lease agreement for the Avola rebroadcast site.
- Working on service improvements for the Avola and Blue River radio rebroadcast.

**AREA "B" ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

- Tourism marketing for Blue River and Avola continues, with 12 months of campaigns planned for 2023, to show up on various internet platforms, increasing the traffic to the blueriverbc.ca website.
- A photography shoot was completed in March, increasing the digital assets which can be used to market Blue River and Avola.
- New community entrance signs are planned for Avola and Blue River, with the MOTI permitting process beginning this spring.
- The North Thompson Valley Marketing Committee continues to work with the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association to market the North Thompson Valley and drive traffic to the local tourism websites.
- The Explore Blue River Tourism Working Group will be established early in 2023, to allow tourism operators to provide input and advise on tourism marketing activities for the area.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- The TNRD Board has repealed the Thompson Headwaters Services Committee Bylaw and will now undertake twice a year broad community meetings to provide opportunity for residents to review budgets, services and provide input. The first meeting was held in October 2022, and the second on April 5, 2023.