



**COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
SEMI ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY 2013 TO JUNE 2013**

Mr. Mayor, Fellow Councillors, Staff, Media and Town Citizens, it is a pleasure to report to you this evening on the activities in the Community Services Division of the 6 months from January to June of 2013. The Community Services Division has 9 physical facilities in its jurisdiction and several other programs, services, and committees to oversee.

At the **Museum** from January to June 2013 the visitor count was 1,546.

The following Exhibits were featured:

Nov-Feb: Lest We Forget (partnered with local Legion)

Mar-June: Our Local Métis Story (partnered with local Métis and both school boards). This was a popular exhibit for locals and visiting school groups in June. Coming up in July-August the main display will be Bone China – featuring past businesses and collectibles.

In the first half of 2013 the Museum was also the beneficiary of the Museum Technology Fund that will digitize the vast newspaper collection and reorganize the database to be easily searchable. The Museum staff have been Serving tea & scones on Market Thursdays throughout summer.

Some Thursday afternoons see every table filled. Another initiative that staff continue work on is the Borderland Walking Tour using QR codes. Many businesses are supporting the technological project and the Museum is looking at applying for some funding to research building history, map different Town tours, and also purchase smart devices that could be loaned out.

Summarizing developments at the **Fort Frances Daycare** in the first 6 months of the year, includes a submitted Request For Proposal to the Rainy River DSSAB for the extended day program at J.W. Walker. We are very excited to continue and expand the partnership that we have with the RRDSSAB. We will be working to complete licensing, enrolment & staffing of the program that begins at the end of August.

The Day Care enrolment average remains strong at 88% capacity.

With the announcement that the Rainy River District has been under funded by \$1.4 million for Child Care, we are looking forward the new funding framework and how this will benefit all of our sites, parents, and employees.

The Best Start Hub remains a Parent interactive program that continues to partner with various community organizations and programs to reach

families in the community; programming is offered at the Centre as well as in various locations in the Community. Programming includes:

- Roots of Empathy
- Infant Massage
- Make the Connection
- Stroller Club
- Breast Feeding Support Programs
- Drop In Play

The **Fort Frances Public Library** continues to offer programs and services to meet the growing needs of the community. The Library reduced its hours of operation from 70 hours per week to 59 hours per week, resulting in a cut to part-time staffing hours. This reduction is a reflection of a zero percent increase to the Library's budget. The new hours began the week of March Break (March 11-15th). Despite the reduction in hours, the Library continues to be busy. The Library remains committed to assisting families, seniors, adults and other members of the community in their pursuit of education, knowledge, recreation and technological literacy. Programming is expanding to be more inclusive; including program outreach in the community targeting seniors, first nation clients and families. In addition, the Library is in the process of building new partnerships and strengthening and revisiting on-going partnerships. The stats are in for January - June, revealing a very busy and successful 6 months.

Stats from Jan.—Jun. 2013

IN-PERSON VISITS: Gate count: 44,334

MEETING SPACE: 107 meetings in the Shaw Community Hub, 489

study/research/business, meetings in Room 1 & 2

USERS BORROWED: 59,466 Items, Includes 6,021 items delivered to shut-ins

INTERLIBRARY LOANS: 381 items borrowed/loaned from Jan.—May

IN-PERSON COMPUTER/INTERNET USE: 5,038

LIBRARY PROGRAMS: 183 sessions AND 2,401 attendees

The **Sister Kennedy Centre** saw a successful Spring with several Seniors making the trip to Kenora to celebrate Seniors Day and as well enjoyed the 2nd session of Tai Chi with great participation.

The **Memorial Sports Centre** had a busy end to the hockey & skating season this Spring and is currently engaged in the popular summer programs for young students with favourable enrolment. Fitness continues to be at the forefront for many people in Fort Frances with over 400 regular active participants in the fitness & pool area. Citizens may also notice in the fall that there has been a great deal of work done to the facility that includes a painted auditorium, a kitchen refresh, as well as updates to the

dressing rooms in both rinks. The MSC is poised to begin a jam-packed fall and winter schedule of activity for the townsfolk to enjoy.

At the **Sorting Gap Marina** it has been a very busy summer so far with many regulars stopping by often for ice cream and refreshments. The facility also played host to a very successful Dragon Boat Festival & Tug-of-war on July 1st & 2nd. We're also excited to host the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship again this year after a 3-year hiatus as the tournament moved to the Memorial Sports Centre temporarily.

Kiwanis Sunny Cove Camp is enjoying another full summer of youth camps, 6 weeks in all and numerous other functions being hosted at Russell Hall. For the first time, the camp took pleasure in the Town of Fort Frances Appreciation Dinner that was a tremendous success as a good time was had by all.

The first 6 months of 2013 has been a busy and prosperous time for the Community Services Division. The division forced to say goodbye to one of its long-time faithful stewards, Graham Matheson, who will be sadly missed by many. We look to carry on a legacy of high quality service and commitment from a facilities maintenance perspective. The Community Services Division would like to extend a sincere thank-you to all of the

patrons and citizens who provide us the reason, on a daily basis, to furnish the best facilities that we can in Fort Frances.