

Local news



Take it easy! Citizen carrier Jeff Paulson shows his ingenuity on Patricia Boulevard as he gets the news out with the help of a cart he built expressly for his paper route. Although the temperature says spring, roads are still narrow from winter snow clearing, requiring caution from motorists and cyclists alike. Citizen photo by Brock Gable

HABITAT TOPS AGENDA

B.C. trappers hit town

by ARNOLD OLSON
Citizen Staff

Habitat is the watchword for the B.C. Trappers' Association annual general meeting in Prince George this weekend, says president Mike Green.

"That is foremost in our minds, because we see substantial impact and habitat loss through a variety of sources," he said in anticipation of the meeting at the Columbus Community Centre on Domano Boulevard.

To get more information than they have on that subject, the trappers have invited six speakers to their Friday afternoon meeting, which will be open to the public.

The speakers are: Jon O'Riordan, assistant deputy minister (Environment); Wes Cheston, assistant deputy minister (Forests); Cyril Sheldford, former MLA and current Forest Resource Commission member; Ernie Grey, of the United Native Nations; MLA Dave Zirmhelt (NDP-Cariloo) and Paul George of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

"We should uncover some good information," Green predicted.

The speakers are expected to tackle some tough questions: When will integrated forest management become a viable branch of the Forest Ministry, having a commitment, a budget, accountability and equal representation?

Green pointed out the Environment Ministry has no mandate over the land base and is, in effect, powerless.

"It needs to be changed, to properly carry out the mandates they have for wildlife."

Green said the trappers are working with Alcan, regarding, "the massive reduction in water flow," of the Nechako River, because of the Kemano Completion project, now under way.

He said the trappers have been negotiating with Alcan, "to get them to admit their responsibility to the trappers in terms of the wildlife impact the flow reduction will have."

Wildlife inventories are being made, predicted impacts are being identified regarding beaver, muskrat, mink and otter, and ways to enhance the habitat to offset the predicted effects are being researched, he said. "Our primary interests are for habitat, not compensation."

Green said some headway is being made regarding the long-term

international anti-fur lobby.

While that hasn't disappeared, the more violent and destructive groups and individuals have been classified as terrorists by the U.S. government, he said.

As well, the U.S. has dropped some of the groups as non-profit organizations which qualify for tax-deductible donations, Green said.

He said B.C. and Canadian police forces have been alerted to some threats to trappers and meat processors. In B.C., the threats have been in the Lower Mainland, he said.

"We are probably closer now to arriving at a better-understood, better-managed fur industry than we've been ever before in our history," Green said.

"We are making our points everywhere. We are an industry with a long history of sustainable development. We're legitimate, we're humane and we're well-regulated and we're necessary."

The North American fur industry has survived for more than 400 years, Green pointed out, and in that time trappers have not been responsible for species extinctions.

Despite a 50-per-cent habitat loss through farming, logging, and other industrial development, as well as community development, roads and power lines being pushed through the wilderness, trapping and the animals have survived.

He said as habitat is lost, some reduction in the amount of wild fur trapped is bound to happen.

Music festival results

Christine Buhr and Maia Stewart were selected Monday as solo singers to represent this region in the provincial music festival in Victoria. They were named during the vocal championship competitions at Vanier Hall.

Die Meistersinger Children's Choir was named as the choir to compete in Victoria.

Winners of Monday's awards, trophies or scholarships were:

Christine Buhr: Enchainement Productions Inc. \$25 junior musical theatre award, Viking Construction Ltd. junior vocal solo \$50 scholarship, the Prince George Theatre Workshop trophy and the Sonia Church junior girls' solo award.

Sarah Hartley: Astoria Inn junior folk song trophy.

Robyn Caldwell: Brown family junior sacred solo trophy.

Tanya Calvert: Wilson family \$75 best potential female vocal scholarship and the Beta Sigma Phi intermediate and senior girls'-women's solo trophy.

Kirsten Hartley: the Caldwell family intermediate and senior folk song trophy and the Overwaitea Foods, intermediate and senior sacred solo trophy.

Vicky Sjahall: Kum Duk Lim intermediate and senior lieder trophy.

Maia Stewart: International Woodworkers of America \$100 intermediate or senior vocal solo scholarship, the Barbara Newby intermediate and senior art song trophy and the Monica Becott intermediate and senior musical theatre trophy.

Erin Gaffney and Claire Wilson: Rose Loewen junior vocal duet trophy.

Kirsten and Sarah Hartley: Kentucky Fried Chicken intermediate and senior vocal duet trophy.

Julie Stormer, Rachael Heese and Brent Schroeder: Lily Chow vocal ensemble trophy.

Monday's class competition winners for the Prince George and District Music Festival were:

VOCALS

Class V00, folk song, traditional air, age 10 and younger: Yvonne Jones.

Class V01, folk song, traditional air, age 12 and younger: Erin Gaffney.

Class V02, folk song, traditional air, age 14 and younger: Sarah Hartley.

Class V03, folk song, traditional air, age 15 to 18: Tie between Tanya Calvert and Kirsten Hartley.

Class V103, art song, age 15 to 18: Maia Stewart.

Class VC11, combined school chorus, Grade 3 and under: Immaculate Conception School primary choir.

Class VC13, combined school chorus, Grade 7 and under: Spruce-land Festival Choir.

Class VE12, vocal duet, age 14 and younger: Erin Gaffney and Claire Wilson.

Class VE13, vocal duet, age 15 and younger: Kirsten and Sarah Hartley.

Class VE42, two-part ensemble, age 14 and younger: Brent Schroeder, Julie Stormer and Rachael Heese.

Class VE22, vocal trio, age 14 and younger: Rachael Heese, Brent Stormer and Julie Stormer.

Class V41, girls' solo, age 12 and younger: Katherine Jakeway.

Class V42, girls' solo, age 14 and younger: Christine Buhr.

Class V43, girls' solo, age 15 to 18: Tanya Calvert.

Class V83, opera, age 15 to 19: Maia Stewart.

Class V93, lieder, age 15 to 18: Vicky Sjahall.

Competitions continue today, with instrumentalists performing at the Westwood Mennonite Brethren Church hall and band competitions Wednesday morning and afternoon at Vanier Hall.

The honors performance to cap the Prince George Music Festival will be held Friday in Vanier Hall from 7:30 p.m.

B.C. medical payments: \$1.6 billion

VICTORIA (CP) — The B.C. government spent more than \$1.6 billion in Medical Service Plan payments for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989, the Finance Ministry said Monday.

The largest payment of just over \$2 million went to Vancouver radiologist A. E. Manning. The payments represent the gross totals for the year and do not reflect physicians' net incomes.

The report also shows almost \$11 million was paid for out-of-province medical services.

Most B.C. physicians were paid between \$100,000 and \$200,000, with specialists receiving more.

Male suspect questioned

An early-morning break-and-enter at a house in the 4000 block of Glendale Drive, near the northern city limits, resulted in a male suspect being questioned, report Prince George RCMP.

Residents of the house were awakened at 1:10 a.m. to find two males in their house. One of the occupants gave chase and a television was dropped by the suspects.

Police spotted someone running from the area and gave chase, eventually catching a suspect.

Tel union plans meet on pact

Ninety-five delegates of the Telecommunications Workers Union meet March 24 at a special convention in Vancouver to talk about their next step in negotiations with B.C. Tel.

"They'll consider where we go from here," said Roy Olsen of Prince George, a member of the union's bargaining committee. "We're on a holding pattern till then."

The bargaining committee will meet once or twice before the convention to prepare the program.

Members recently turned down, by a vote of 3,490 to 3,305, a contract settlement proposal that would have provided a wage increase of seven per cent during the first year and six per cent during the second.

The union has approximately 10,400 members. About 630 live in Prince George and district, Olsen said.

'Nothing new' in murder investigation

There are no new leads in the Cherice Jacobsen slaying in Stockton, Calif., Capt. John Marnoch of the Stockton police, said today.

"The investigators worked all day yesterday and into the early evening and still there is nothing new," he said about the shooting Friday of the 16-year-old Prince George girl.

Marnoch said although gang involvement is unlikely, "we can't discount anything 100 per cent because we don't know what happened."

"Any conversations we've had with gang members do not indicate involvement. We can't reference it (gang involvement) with anything we have," he said.

Jacobsen was gunned down in a parking lot outside the Christian Life Centre in Stockton.

A memorial service was held Monday in Stockton. The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the Emmanuel Pentacostal Church in New Westminster.

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Local groups get chance to argue for bigger grants

About 50 non-profit organizations in Prince George are waiting anxiously today to learn what Prince George city council is recommending for 1990 annual grants.

At the first of three grant meetings Monday, council took its first look at the numbers city advisory committees are suggesting be doled out to non-profit social, cultural, promotional and miscellaneous organizations.

Rather than giving final approval to grants totalling about \$645,000, committee members decided to inform organizations today of recommendations and give unsatisfied organizations the option to appeal at a budget meeting Monday.

Final grant approvals by council are scheduled for March 26.

On the other hand, council is requesting both the Prince George Library and the Visitors and Convention Bureau have representatives attend the meetings to discuss 1990 plans and answer questions.

In the case of the Visitors and Convention Bureau, council must consider a request to increase the base budget to about \$226,000 from \$212,000 in 1989 for operating costs and tourist promotion programs like motor coach tours and vehicle traffic.

Council will also discuss plans to design and build a new tourist bureau at the corner of Patricia Boulevard and Victoria Street at an estimated cost of \$375,000, of which \$125,000 will be paid from a GO BC grant.

The library board wants to retain a 1989 surplus of \$21,110 to conduct a community survey on the public use of the facility rather than use the money for 1990 operating costs, including plans to extend opening hours to Sundays.

If council agrees, it will mean adding \$16,102 to the 1990 provisional budget figure of \$1,387,194 to cover increases in operating costs, salary increases and internal debt costs to bring the total 1990 allocation to \$1,403,296.

The library's 1989 grant was \$1,306,569.

Confusion over the source of the surplus money caused council to defer the matter for more information.

The majority of allocations recommended by advisory committees are as follows, with substantial differences between requests and recommendations indicated in brackets:

■ Social grant requests totalled \$182,360 with \$111,700 recommended: Crisis Centre, \$16,000; Healthiest Babies Possible, \$3,000 (requested \$10,000); Canadian Mental Health Association, \$13,500; John Howard Society, \$5,000; Intersect, \$5,000 (requested \$10,000); Big Brothers, \$6,000; Child Development Centre, \$10,000 (requested \$15,000); Elizabeth Fry Society, \$4,000; Moms and Kids Drop-In Centre, \$14,000; Family Focus Society, \$500; Northern Association of Disabled Workers, \$500 (requested \$3,460); St. Patrick's House, \$18,000; Active Support Against Poverty, \$10,000 (requested \$15,000); St. John Ambulance, \$5,000; Canadian Paraplegic Society, \$1,200.

Some would get nothing

Those recommended to receive no money at all include Brain Injured Society (requested \$5,000), PRIDE (requested \$500), Salvation Army (requested \$12,000), Youth Shelter Society (requested \$12,000), Healthy Communities Conference (requested \$700) and Gung Ho Senior Recreation Association (requested \$5,000).

■ Cultural grant requests totalled \$145,550 with \$95,250 recommended: Studio 2880, \$12,000; P.G. Symphony Orchestra, \$13,000 (requested \$25,000); PG Music School, \$4,000; PG Art Gallery, \$40,000; Community Arts Council, \$5,000; PG District Music Festival, \$2,000; Fraser-Fort George Museum, \$9,550.

Cultural groups receiving no money at all include Confederation Artists (requested \$6,600); Society of Musicians and Artists (requested \$3,000) and Bel Canto Children's Choir (requested \$500).

Not included in the total is the Canadian Northern Children's Festival, which is to receive \$20,300 in park employee wages and materials.

■ Promotional grant requests totalled \$151,861 with \$36,000 recommended:

Fort George Railway Museum Society, \$5,000; Prince George Float Society, \$10,000 (requested \$20,151); Simon Fraser Days, \$12,000; Queen Aurora Society, \$2,000 (requested \$6,210) and Mardis Gras Society, \$7,000.

The Central B.C. Railway and Forest Industry Museum Society and Prince George Auto Racing Association each requested \$50,000, but the recommendations are for no money at all. Both matters have been referred to the finance and audit committee.

Miscellaneous grant requests totalled \$54,386, with \$56,100 recommended.

The majority of these requests are for grants in lieu of rent for city facilities like the Civic Centre, charitable organization business licences or property taxes.

Other recommendations include SPCA, \$5,900; Fort George Highway Rescue, nothing (requested \$500); Prince George Road Runners, \$400 (requested \$921); Prince George Iceman Relay, \$300 (requested \$980).

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