



THOMPSON-NICOLA

REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Region of BC's Best

TO: Electoral Area "B" Residents **DATE:** October 13, 2022
FROM: Community Services Coordinator – Sherri Madden
SUBJECT: Services Coordinator Update for Electoral Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters)

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 a response 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 in excess of the allocated budget, so this project will be rebid for completion in spring 2023.
- Trails map brochure has been completed and is available at Blue River businesses, as well as online at blueriverbc.ca.
- Trail wayfinding signage is being designed and will be installed in the spring.
- Construction of the pedestrian suspension bridge over the Blue River has begun, and is anticipated to be completed by November 30, 2022.
- Highway directional signage was installed for Diamond Drive Park in Avola, to provide the travelling public with information on what is available at the park.
- 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 continues to play an important advisory role in the implementation of the 2021 Blue River Trails Master Plan.
- The TNRD has entered in to a 5 year agreement with the Blue River Community Association, 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 was provided to the Blue River Community Association for operation of the Blue River Community Hall in 2022.

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 3 months of campaigns recently completed on internet platforms, which increased the traffic to the blueriverbc.ca website.
- A photography shoot was completed in July, and a tourism video was completed in the spring, 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, to be installed once permits are received from MOTI in the 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.
- A Blue River Tourism Working Group will be established early in 2023, to provide input and advise to tourism marketing activities for the area.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The following contracts are currently open for bids, closing on October 21 at 2:00
 - Blue River Parks & Cemetery Maintenance 2022-2025
 - Little Hell's Gate Regional Park Maintenance 2022-2025
 - Avola School House, Park & Cemetery Maintenance 2022-2025
- 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.