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## Miworth Transfer Station: How to Manage An Expensive Mess?

**T**he transfer station ... It's the one topic that every Miworth resident likes to moan about. It's dirty, it's smelly, there's fly-tipping, bins are overflowing, loose garbage is scattered by the wind and it all attracts scavenging wildlife.

In the beginning, garbage collection and disposal in Miworth was an ad-hoc affair with neighbor helping neighbor, taking household refuse to landfill.

Then Harvey Clark, a longtime resident of Miworth, noticed that elderly residents were having difficulty disposing of their garbage and got Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RD-FFG) to set up a transfer station for household refuse as a pilot project.

That pilot project has been expanded into the transfer station that we use today. It is still classified as a pilot project.

Since 2004/2005, RD-FFG has managed to install gates and attendants at all the 17 transfer stations it operates — except Miworth and Summit Lake.

Progress has been slow, as the work of getting gated and manned facilities requires a site plan, a contract, construction, a public survey of the main users of the site for hours and days of operation, and an attendant contract, before it is put up for bid. Sometimes this takes several attempts until a bid is submitted, or accepted.

At the unmanned Miworth transfer station, the existing contract for removal of the full bins includes keeping the site clean. When the RD-FFG gets a call that the site is a mess, the staff will send out an extra clean-up crew.

The total weight of material removed from the Miworth transfer station is not recorded. However, in 2017-2018 the cleanup crew was called out 23 additional times to the Miworth transfer station and dealt with over 4,000kg of illegally dumped and overflow material from the site. This was more than three times the amount of material dealt with a decade earlier, and almost double the number of callouts.

### New Community Sign for Transfer Station

#### SEE PAGE 4

There are three RD-FFG waste management services, meaning there are three budgets associated with waste and recycling.

The Solid Waste Management budget for 2019 is almost \$23 million, of which just over \$3 million will come from taxes paid by all seven rural areas, Prince George, Valemount, McBride and Mackenzie. Rural District Area C, which includes Miworth, will receive \$107,222 of the 2019 budget. The objectives of the Program are to reduce waste to landfills, enhance the environmental protection aspects of solid waste management, and improve the way we manage residual waste destined for landfill disposal.

The Rural Transfer Station budget for 2019 is \$533,710, of which \$437,500 is covered by taxes paid by the seven rural areas. The Regional District's Rural Transfer Station Service is the equivalent of a municipal waste collection system within those electoral areas. Funds raised from this budget pay the landfill tipping fees charged when waste

*(Cont. on Page 6)*



## Here's a roundup of what Miworthians have been chatting about on the MCA Facebook page in recent weeks.

**November 26** Dennis Baker had plenty of eggs for sale. But they were soon all snapped up.

**November 30** The fund-raising bottle drive earned over \$300 for the MCA. Did you know that MCA has an account at Nechako Botte Depot? You can drop off bottles there at any time and ask for the money to be credited to the Miworth Community Association account. You don't even have to wait for the bottles to be counted! Every dollar goes towards improvements for the whole Miworth community.

**December 1** The internet woes continue. Telus leads in connections, but speed issues and a lack of information continue to annoy residents.

**December 1** A great night out at the hall was had by all at the Home Routes concert series. Greenbanks proved to be a success and a lively crowd of around 50 Miworthians and their guests enjoyed a night of great music and fun tales from the road.

**December 1** R3 Recycling gets recommends from satisfied Miworth customers. Call 250-963-9073 to find out what they take, how much they charge and when they pick up.

**December 7** That big bull moose is back on the road. Drive carefully.

**December 8** Santa made a much appreciated guest appearance at the hall for the Christmas brunch. Many kids and minds satisfied.

**December 15** Temperatures plummet. Cars dive into ditches. No injuries. All good, just dented pride and fenders and helpful passers-by.

**December 20** Have you accidentally left your keys in the mailbox? You're not alone. Thanks to all the helpful neighbours reuniting people with their keys.

**December 26** New ice and new nets at the hockey rink for all Miworthians to enjoy. Don't forget, MCA has a ton of skates and hockey gear over at the hall for the use of all community members.

**December 26** Suspicious activity: an unfamiliar white pickup was spotted cruising the neighbourhood. Lost visitors looking for an address, or something more nefarious? Stay alert, Miworth.

**December 28** First big test of our snow-clearing capabilities for the season. We're alright, but the city plows are nowhere to be seen.

**December 29** A big dump of white stuff creates power outages and the community pulls together in a flurry of neighbour-helping-neighbour activity to get driveways and windrows dealt with. Stay home, eat chocolate, drink wine and forget trying to get into town for a day or two is the advice on the Facebook page.

**December 30** Danielle and Kim have teamed up to take on the MCA Social Director role. Stay tuned for big plans ahead.

**January 2** A freedom-loving Otway dog goes walkabout, creates a kerfuffle playing in the road at the transfer station, evading capture and causing worries. Owner traced. Problem solved.

**January 6** That big bull moose is back. Drive carefully between the transfer station and Otway ski centre.



**January 6** Thanks to Chelsea who press-ganged the pint-sized 'volunteers' who cleared a lot of snow at the MCA hall.

**January 6** Xplornet down. Telus internet customers grateful they still have a connec-

tion, despite slow speeds.

**January 9** Does it seem that CN's trains are getting longer and more frequent, causing more delays? Here's a useful reminder: Miworth residents can call the CN emergency line to have the trains stopped any time there is an emergency, such as someone going into the hospital, emergency vehicles coming out to Miworth, or a vehicle stuck on the tracks: call 1-800-465-9239. This number is posted at all the crossings.

**January 9** Wilkins Park is so pretty right now. Get out there and hike the trails in the fresh air.

**January 9** Close calls with snow-covered cars and trucks. Drivers, please clean the snow off your vehicle roof, mirrors, lights and all windows before you set off. Your reduced visibility and dislodged snow/ice flying into the road are a danger to yourself and other road users.

**January 11** Thanks to Steve Boon for adding to the information you will need when calling the CN emergency number (1-800-465-9239) about emergencies and the railway crossings: The line through our region is the Nechako Subdivision. Road crossings are identified by Mile markers:

- LaFarge - Mile 5.35
- Simco - Mile 6.31
- Catherine - Mile 8.70
- Lookout - Mile 10.94.

Drive safely crossing the lines. Being a few minutes late won't kill you. A speeding train surely will.

**January 15** Be careful driving in the area of the transfer station — again. Our regular moose playing in the road has been joined by a friend and there are now two mooses (meese?) to avoid.

**January 18** RIP Syl Miese, former Pineviews captain who organized the many ballgames with the Miworth Mashers. Our condolences go out to his family and wife of 51 years, Linda Christine.

# RD-FFG Offers Free Disposal of Old Appliances at Foothills

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George says its staff have begun the process of evaluating all transfer stations and the possible future direction of how the RD will interact with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and Stewardship Agencies. These are the businesses that the province has charged with responsibility for their own products, such as tires, batteries, drink containers, small electronics.

As part of this initiative, the RD-FFG has partnered with the Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable (MARR), an agency operating on behalf of producers, to accept old fridges, freezers and other appliances containing ozone-depleting substances free of charge at the Foothills landfill. It previously charged \$22.50 per unit for disposal.

The free program also covers other items containing refrigerants and harmful gases, including: wine coolers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, washers, dryers, range hoods, ranges, built-in ovens, surface cooking units, dishwashers, food waste disposal units, trash compactors.



The cost of dropping off "small loads" of up to 100 kilograms of household garbage at the Foothills landfill will remain unchanged, at a modest \$6.

RD-FFG directors voted last November for an across-the-board 5.9 percent increase to the fees it charges for handling various types of solid waste beginning in 2019. The hike means the basic weight-based tipping fee

at the Foothills landfill is now \$90 per tonne, an increase of \$5 over the current rate, with higher fees applied to more difficult-to-handle refuse.



## A Great Wine and Paint Night

The wine and paint night on January 18 was a huge success. We had 22 ladies in attendance. Such a great turnout! Carla

Joseph from Hummingbear Cree-ations, a well known artist in the PG community, taught the class and provided all the art supplies. She had door prizes at the end of the event and a few lucky ladies took home one of her prints.

## IN BRIEF

### MOVIE & POPCORN NIGHT

Join us for a family movie night. Come in your PJs, bring teddy bears and



blankets for a family night of fun. The next Movie Night will be on Friday 1st February at 6.30pm, hosted by Nicole Hamel. Price is \$2 per person. Bring a treat to share. Movie title TBA. Watch out for updates on the MCA Facebook page.

### MEMBERSHIP

As of the beginning of 2019, MCA had a paid-up membership of 113 households. Membership is \$25 a year per family. Some members have trouble using the online PayPal system. Other payment methods are available. Please contact Steve Boon, Membership Director, for information and assistance. Email [miworthcommunityassociation@gmail.com](mailto:miworthcommunityassociation@gmail.com)

### MIWORTH VOICE

The next Miworth Voice will publish in March 2019. Send stories, advertising and announcements (remember, advertising is free to MCA members) before 1st February to [nigela@lightspeed.ca](mailto:nigela@lightspeed.ca)

### YOGA WEDNESDAYS

You don't have to be good at it, everyone is welcome, whether it's your first time or you're a seasoned yogi.

Please join us on Wednesdays at the hall for Yoga!



A weekly class for beginner to intermediate lets you improve your strength, flexibility and peace of mind.

Time: 7pm - 8pm. Cost: \$75 for 6 sessions or \$15 to drop in. Must be 19+ to participate. Please bring your own yoga mat/towel

Contact Angela LeFebvre on 250-617-9462 if you have any questions. All new yogis should arrive 15 minutes prior, to sign a waiver.

Tea (herbal, white, or green) is provided.

## New Signage Plan for the Miworth Transfer Station

The community events sign at the transfer station has seen better days. The whole structure is beginning to fall apart. And changing the text is difficult, especially when the lettering is frozen.

It's time for an upgrade.

The good news is that the Miworth Community Association was recently awarded a modest grant to build a new, more secure and weatherproof sign. The Fraser-Fort George Endowment Fund grant was secured by Gary Dean, former Vice President on the Miworth Community Association. Grateful thanks go to Gary as well as a big thank you to the FFG Endowment Fund Foundation!



Our new Vice President, Loraine Lavallee, is in the process of gathering cost quotations for new signage. If you know a local business you'd like to recommend for the job, please let Loraine know on 250-564-1997.

### Community involvement in the project

This FFG Endowment Fund Foundation prioritizes those projects that involve community volunteer participation, so Loraine is counting on MCA members to help out in June or July when the concrete footings can be poured.

Help is also needed to install some Xeriscape (low maintenance) landscaping around the signage that will make the entrance to the transfer station

look a bit more like a community space and not just a dumping ground for building waste and broken furniture.

## Miworth Community Association Bursary

*A Grade 12 graduating student in Miworth will receive \$500 towards study or training in 2019/2020.*

**D**o you have a Grade 12 student in your family? Is that student going on to post-secondary study or training in the next academic year (September 2019 to August 2020)? If so, he or she may be interested in applying for the Miworth Community Association Bursary.

Application process for this year: Students should write a letter to the Miworth Community Association executive outlining how well they fit the criteria provided and their future plans, along with a copy of their April report card and a reference letter from a community member and/or teacher outlining character, leadership qualities and community service in Miworth and elsewhere.

**Applications must be received no later than May 21st, 2019. Applications should be mailed to Miworth Community Association, 13510 Flint Road, Prince George, BC V2M 7B9 or hand-delivered to an executive member.**

The executive will determine which applicant has earned the most points based on the criteria provided. One qualified student will be awarded the bursary. The money will be given to the winner after he or she gives evidence that their post-secondary tuition has been paid. The criteria for the award are:

**PARENTS:** Three year membership of MCA (required), 3 points; Helping out at MCA function (past year), 5 points; Executive member of MCA (past 3 years), 8 points. **STUDENTS:** Community service, 4 points; Helping out MCA (in last year), 5 points. **PLUS:** Academic record: Each "A", 2 points; Each "B", 1 point (note: points from academic record can be gained to a maximum of 10 points).

### GUIDELINES FOR AWARDING BURSARIES

- Award will not be split (full amount to one person)
- Highest number of points wins
- Must present tuition receipt to receive bursary
- Must be used prior to end of the next academic year (September 2019 to August 2020)
- If there is a tie, then the student with the highest number of points for community involvement shall win; if there is still a tie, a name shall be drawn.



## West My Friend: MCA Hall, Feb. 15

*The Home Routes concert series returns to Miworth on February 15 with a performance by BC indie folk acoustic trio West My Friend.*

Described as everything from indie-roots to chamber-folk, West My Friend has an acoustic blend of instruments and three-part harmonies that challenges the conventions of popular music. Inspired by artists such as Owen Pallett, Joanna Newsom, Bright Eyes, The Decemberists, and the Punch Brothers, and forged from a sonically adventurous acoustic music scene on Canada's west coast, West My Friend is proving to be a key part of a new generation of grassroots folk music. Website <http://www.westmyfriend.com>

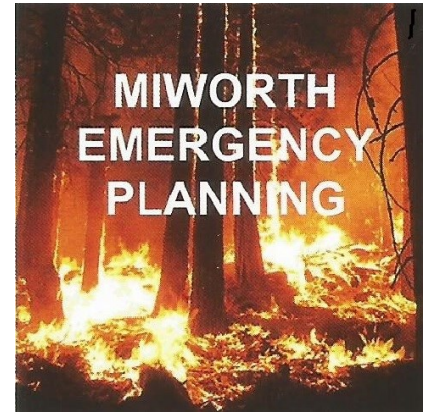
Home Routes concerts are live acoustic shows performed by professional world-class artists in the intimate settings of living rooms or small community spaces. A non-profit organization, Home Routes is Canada's only coast-to-coast roots music network.

Miworth concerts are held in the MCA hall unless otherwise stated (follow the MCA Facebook page for updates). Entrance is \$20 per person (kids under 12 are free) and audience members are encouraged to bring a snack/ dessert to share.

### CONCERTS COMING UP

**Saturday March 16 – Justin Lacroix (MB)** Winnipeg's bilingual singer-songwriter Justin Lacroix infuses the timeless sounds of folk, roots-rock and blues with expansive vocals and imaginative guitar riffs. Through his stories of love, loss and life on the road, Justin delivers a message of optimism and connection to the world around him. Website: <http://www.justinlacroix.com>

**Sunday April 14 – Dana Wylie (AB)** Dana has carved a uniquely wandering path through music; she cut her teeth in jug bands, bluegrass bands and cover bands in Taiwan, toured steadfastly with her own band in the UK, released three critically-praised albums, then landed back in Canada to pursue a Masters in musicology. Her new album, *The Earth That You're Made Of*, expresses the grounded but revelatory wisdom of the pilgrim who thinks she may have just found her way home. Website: <http://danawylie.net>



For detailed information on Miworth's fire emergency plan:

**[Miworthemergency.weebly.com](http://Miworthemergency.weebly.com)**

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# Santa Joins MCA for Christmas Brunch

*There was a great turnout as always for the annual MCA Christmas Brunch on 8 December. Santa made a special appearance and handed out gifts.*



*Our grateful thanks go out to everyone who attended, as well as the volunteers who worked hard preparing the food and decorating the MCA hall.*



## It's Time to Hit the Ice!

Now the cold weather's here, we've got brand new ice and brand new nets at the hockey rink for all Miworthians to enjoy.

MCA also has a lot of skates and hockey gear at the hall for the use of all community members.

Go play!

Thanks to Paul for the ice and to Reid Roberts for delivering the nets and getting everything set up and ready.

## Miworth Transfer Station (Cont. from Page 1)

from rural transfer stations is ultimately deposited in a regional landfill. Miworth's portion of the Rural Transfer Station budget for 2019 is \$64,556.

The Waste Reduction Services budget for 2019 is \$439,000, of which \$350,000 is covered by taxes paid by the seven rural areas, as well as McBride, Mackenzie and Valemount, but not the City of Prince George. The purpose of this service is to provide a waste reduction service to the Regional District's rural and small communities for collecting, processing and marketing recyclable materials collected through the drop-depot bins. Recyclable materials collected in rural areas account for 45 percent of the total amount of materials diverted through the drop-depot system. Miworth's portion of the Waste Reduction budget for 2019 is \$42,588.

A solution to the problems at the Miworth transfer station is not currently on the table. RD-FFG is naturally reluctant to increase its costs by adding gates and an attendant, and is equally reluctant to ask residents to cough up more in taxes to help pay for any upgrade.

In the meantime, the MCA will install a new community signboard and some landscaping underneath (*see Page 3*) to improve the general look of the facility and hopefully discourage illegal dumping and antisocial behavior.

Thanks to Regional District representative Lara Beckett for providing the RD-FFG figures.