



Bridge River

Lillooet News

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ELR flush after hefty donation Anonymous donor

DENNIS STRANACK

What was at first believed by East Lillooet Recreation Society members to be an oversight by the society's bank turned out instead to be a generous and timely donation by a supporter who doesn't want any recognition for their gift.

"I went into the bank on Monday to get the balance for the East Lillooet Rec. Society, so I was handed the balance by the teller. She asked if I wanted the activity on the account and I said no, just the balance," society president Mike Moore said.

"As I was walking away, I read it and it said \$5,163 in our account. And I thought 'this is strange; they never took out the money to cover our lease?'"

That was the same conclusion reached at the next East Lillooet Recreation Society meeting, and it was under that assumption that society treasurer Taylor Ferron went back to the bank last week to confirm that that was accurate.

"Taylor went back to the bank on Tuesday, went in just to see what was happening and discovered that someone had donated \$5,000 to the East Lillooet Rec. Society," Moore explained.

Ferron, who is the society's treasurer, took up the story.

"I walked into the bank because I actually thought the government didn't cash the cheque. I walked in there and Roxanne said 'I knew you would be back.' She said we just had an anonymous donation and she's like 'don't even ask me who it is because I'm not telling you' so that was that," Ferron said.

"We are super thrilled and very appreciative of the donation that was made because that's a lot of money for us. Before that we would have been left with \$160 in our bank account."

The check Ferron and Moore were talking about is the one to cover approximately \$7,000 to post a security and for other expenses to comply with conditions of its lease with the provincial government. That lease covers the society's occupancy of the property in East Lillooet that provides space for the Lillooet Rod and Gun Club, the Mile 0 Riding Club and a training facility for the Lillooet Fire Department.

The society can breathe a bit easier for the next few decades, with its lease on the property locked in for 28 years, and all the bureaucratic hoops and related expenses of renewal now out of the way.

"We have some time to fundraise and put money away for the next time," Ferron said.

"It's all covered," Moore added, adding that another donation for \$100 had come in all the way from Victoria from a digital subscriber to the BRLN who said she plans to continue contributing to the society.

"Now we've got enough money that we don't have to struggle to pay our insurance and upkeep and what have you. It's wonderful," he said.

Ferron and Moore both said they respect the donor's desire for anonymity, but want to make the appreciation of all society members very clear.

"Whoever deposited the money, the teller knows who it is but she won't say and we are not pursuing it any farther other than thank you, thank you, thank you," Moore said.



Beardog Café owner Stella Garcia and her buddy Cedar enjoying the autumn sunshine and a little exercise on the REC Centre lawn last Thursday morning.

Quality manager visits council to talk highway maintenance **Big changes at Dawson**

DENNIS STRANACK

With winter tires hopefully installed and winter roads just a question of 'when,' Dawson Road Maintenance quality manager David Rhodes made a pit stop at the Nov. 18 district council meeting to share some expertise about the road surface that rubber is going to meet.

The company, known until recently as Interior Roads has increased in size dramatically and quickly, prompting the name change.

Dawson Road Maintenance, that's more to reflect the broader scope of what we do in other service areas," Rhodes told council.

"We were successful bidding on four of them; we bid on many we were suc-

cessful on four. And considering previously we had two maintenance contracts, here in the south Cariboo and we also had the central Cariboo, we've now included the northern part in the east, which is the Fort St. John/Fort Nelson side and also the Smithers down to Stewart side, so that's created a huge growth in our company. We've doubled in size... within a few months."

That is not an insignificant adjustment he said, referencing both the new standards that are in place for road maintenance and structural changes within the company given its dramatic growth spurt.

"Through that process I hope that you bear with us, as we sometimes stumble.

We now answer to a board of directors... there's a whole different set of circumstances in the way that we do business. We're trying to do business like a \$100-million-a-year company should do business, not like a corner grocery store."

Rhodes said while there are definitely challenges involved, the management changes have created an atmosphere of excitement within the company.

"It's going to be a benefit to the communities, it's going to be a benefit to the travelling public and hopefully it's going to be a benefit to the organization."

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has released all of the highway maintenance contracts for renewal in the last 18 months. Most have already been renewed with a few remaining to be

dealt with next year.

With winter approaching, he wanted to give a bit of an update on the new standards for road safety that are in place, mainly the change in the size of winter sand that will be used on some roads.

The previous was grade was 12.5 mm, and the new size for the main roads is 9.5 mm. That's for A class and B class road; so, as it affects local drivers, that includes

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Quote of the Week:

"What life expects of us is what we celebrate."

Jose Eduardo Aguinaldo



**\$2.50
including
tax**

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