

January 2020

CITY OF
Quesnel

Forestry Initiatives Program

Updating you on the reinvention of Quesnel's forest sector

Highlights from 2019

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

The CWPP encompasses Quesnel and surrounding areas, and high-priority fuel treatment units to:

- Prevent the likelihood of homes, business and critical infrastructure losses to wildfire
- Reduce extreme fire behaviour directly adjacent to communities
- Improve ecosystem resiliency to natural disturbance and climate change (wildfire and insects)

In 2019 we treated 56 hectares around the Quesnel Airport, 10 Mile Lake Provincial Park, and Dragon Mountain communication towers.

We also are continuing to collaborate with FP Innovations on a research project to develop more effective fuel management and better fire behaviour fuel models.

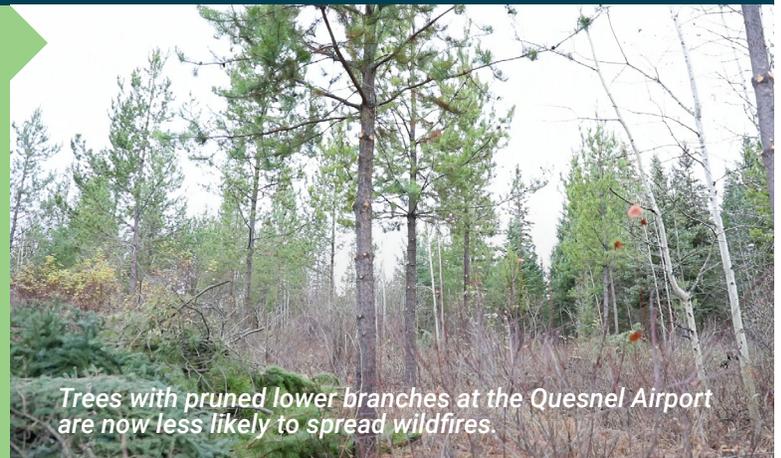
FIRESMART

In 2019 we held four FireSmart Community Champion workshops, a Wildfire Preparedness Day, and attended Quesnel Farmer's Market with BC Wildfire Service.

We completed FireSmart assessments of private properties and City-owned buildings.

\$500 rebates were available residents to help with FireSmarting their properties.

Want to learn more about protecting your home? Visit firesmartbc.ca and look for our 2020 events on page two!



Trees with pruned lower branches at the Quesnel Airport are now less likely to spread wildfires.

FORESTRY INNOVATION CENTRE

A one-of-a kind spot in BC, no other community has a hub like this set up for innovation and collaboration.

We held our grand opening in September and our first open house in November. We also received the Woo WORKS Award for the use of local wood in the centre and for our support of the BC wood industry.

FORESTRY OF FUTURE THINK TANK

In September, we focused on human resources skill development and training to match the changing harvesting practices and equipment in the forestry sector.

The session resulted in nine recommendations ranging from enabling rapid development of training for fuel management and ecosystem based management to exploring innovative and sustainable manufacturing opportunities utilizing the types of fibre available in Quesnel.

Goals for 2020

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

Planning is underway to conduct fuel management treatments in Pinnacles Park, South Hills range land, Sugar Loaf Park, Dragon Mountain Road, West Fraser Road, Garner Road, and in the Claymine Trails area.

BC Wildfire Branch is planning to create major fuel breaks in the forested lands surrounding the City's CWPP area.

FORESTRY INNOVATION CENTRE

The Forestry Innovation Centre will be busy this year!

We are working with the College of New Caledonia and BC Wildfire Service on developing fuel management training materials and opportunities.

We are also helping determine curriculum based forestry opportunities both in class and at the Forestry Innovation Centre.

The team is continuing to attract partnerships with agencies interested in conducting research into fuel treatment best practices, innovative manufacturing streams, lighter footprint harvesting and more.

As well as working with Canada's Young Entrepreneur Leadership Launchpad (YELL) to expose students to Forestry as a high-tech career.

NEW FORESTRY INITIATIVES COORDINATOR

Meet Lacy Scuffi! Originally from Quesnel and raised in Parksville, Lacy graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. After working in silviculture around Vancouver Island and California, she moved to Quesnel and pursued a career in the pulp industry for nine years. Lacy plans to apply her life-long passion for sustainability and community development to support Quesnel in becoming a leader in forestry innovation. Reach out to Lacy with questions and ideas about the Forestry Innovation Centre at fic@quesnel.ca.

2020 EVENTS

The Forestry Initiatives team plan to be at multiple events throughout the year! Visit us to learn more about the program.

2020 Quesnel Trade Show

April 18 - 19 | West Fraser Centre

Quesnel Farmer's Market

Specific dates to be determined

Wildfire Preparedness Day

Date and location to be determined

Open Houses

Dates to be determined | Forestry Innovation Centre

Watch for event updates at www.quesnel.ca/forestry.

FIRESMART

We will be continuing education and outreach, as well as conducting FireSmart assessments of City Parks and Trails.

Did you know? United Way has provided for a local crew to perform fire mitigation assessments and activities on residential properties for residents facing mobility or mental health barriers, or are unable to complete the activities themselves – free of charge. For information contact quesnel@unitedwaytnc.ca.

