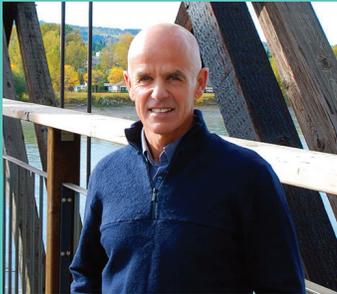


October 2021



City News

Message from the Mayor



Mayor Bob Simpson

We have much to celebrate!

During Quesnel City Council's strategic planning process in late 2019 we had a substantive discussion about our need to broaden and deepen our communications and engagement with residents and ratepayers. As elected leaders, we share a common vision for the

community and we've developed and approved thoughtful strategies and plans to achieve that vision, but we also felt we needed to do a better job communicating our overall vision and strategies to the broader community.

As a result of our discussions in 2019, we committed to a broad-based, in-person consultation and engagement process in 2020 that we dubbed "Vision 2020." Unfortunately, the pandemic that we're still living through interfered with those plans. The current upswing in COVID-19 cases in the North also negated our attempt to hold a community engagement and celebration event this past September.

As you'll see in this community update, we do have much to celebrate! Despite wildfires, floods, and a global pandemic, we

live in a beautiful community, surrounded by nature and full of opportunities to get outdoors to walk, hike, run, bike, ski, ATV, motocross, or snowmobile. Council also continues to make strategic and timely investments in both our core infrastructure and in existing and new amenities. These investments are directly tied to our economic development transition strategy and designed to ensure Quesnel remains a resilient community.

This householder may be a poor substitute for the in-person community celebration we'd planned, but it's currently the most appropriate way for us to illustrate how your tax dollars and the significant grant funding we've obtained is helping to drive the modernization of our City and improve its attractiveness to today's residents, tourists, workforce, and investors.

As you'll also see in this mailer, we've now launched a new public engagement tool that will enable both City and CRD residents to give Council and City staff feedback on an ongoing basis. Our "Let's Connect" platform will be used for both planning new initiatives, like the development of a master plan for LeBourdais Park, and to refine existing ones, like the feedback we're seeking on our accessory dwelling strategy.

As a Council, we hope you'll take pride in each project illustrated in this householder and that you'll engage with us through "Let's Connect" as we continue to evolve our community to meet the expectations of today's residents, visitors, and investors.

- Mayor Bob Simpson

The celebration is delayed, not over!

Due to the rise of COVID cases in Quesnel, and in consideration of the health and safety of all community members, the Let's Connect Community Tour on Saturday, September 18 was postponed to a future date.

In this mailer, explore the City initiatives that were set to be highlighted at the event. These include Sprout Kitchen, the Wonderland and Fuel Management Trail Systems, the Alive After Five from Spirit Square and many more. There may even be a surprise or two for you and your families to enjoy!

The City has launched a new engagement platform that will provide you with updates on new initiatives, offer an opportunity to give immediate feedback and have your questions answered regarding City projects that matter to you.

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Let's Connect Quesnel: www.letsconnectquesnel.ca

Take a tour of our community, Quesnel!

The City of Quesnel has completed many new and exciting projects and initiatives over the last two years and we can't wait to share them with you. Most of these projects fall within the City's Economic Development Transition Strategy, under the pillars: destination development, resident and business retention & attraction, or innovative resource industries.

Learn more about the initiatives in this pamphlet, including how they fit into the City's vision and how they are funded by visiting www.quesnel.ca/our-community/lets-connect-quesnel.



Sprout Kitchen

Sprout Kitchen is a small-scale food processing and innovation hub located at 101 Marsh Drive in West Quesnel. It is operated by the newly formed Sprout Kitchen Society. It includes bookable stations, cooler and freezer storage, cooking and baking equipment, and will soon offer a co-packing service to its members. Part of the BC Food Hub Network, Sprout Kitchen provides space and support for emerging and existing food entrepreneurs from across the region to get their ideas off the ground or scale their business for new markets, creating and expanding sustainable, innovative businesses in our region.

It connects producers to processors and increases the market capacity for locally grown food, plus provides opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and wild harvesters to increase revenue by adding value to their products.



Wonderland Trail Network

The Wonderland Trail Network is located southeast of Quesnel on Quesnel-Hydraulic Road. These multi-use trails for hiking, biking and snowshoeing, have seen huge increases in local use and have become a tourist destination for trail enthusiasts. Trail counter statistics show averages of approximately 50 users per day.

Development of the Wonderland Trail Network has been supported by the Trail Coordinator, a position funded by the City of Quesnel and Cariboo Regional District through the Sub-Regional Recreation budget. These trails are made possible by the hard work and dedication of the Gold Rush Cycling Club.

Free Pass

Admit One

Individual to the Quesnel Museum & Archives!

Take a tour on us on Saturdays 12-4pm until December 31, 2021

Your pass is good for (1) one individual entry into the Quesnel Museum & Archives
on any Saturday, 12-4pm until December 31, 2021.

Quesnel Museum and Visitor Centre

The updates to the Quesnel Museum and Visitor Centre include a new front façade with an accessible and energy-efficient entrance, redesigned layout to improve traffic flow, and a new year-round accessible bathroom. The “behind the scenes” space has been reorganized to meet museum and public health standards, including a meeting room and catering kitchen, an office, and a curatorial workspace. The project separated the ventilation systems for the building and the public bathrooms and addressed drainage issues to reduce safety hazards in the winter.



Fuel Management Trails

The Fuel Management Trail system is 4 loops of hard-packed, low-grade forested paths that wind through a fuel-managed demonstration forest, where trail users can experience what a fuel-treated group of trees looks like.

The 500 metre low-mobility loop has 3 log benches for resting in beautiful surroundings. People of all ages and skill levels can bike, walk, or run on the 3 kilometres of paths.

Effective fuel management of a forest should result in less severe wildfires, greater public and firefighter safety, and faster recovery for forest ecosystems.





Alex Fraser Park Agricultural Event Centre

The demolition of the old Fur and Feather buildings in Alex Fraser Park and the construction of a new multi-purpose agriculture building increases the ability of Alex Fraser Park Society and its associated member groups to host events. Agricultural events support the growth of the sector in our region, while also supporting the visitor economy.

The facility provides offices and meeting space. It can hold agricultural training programs previously difficult to host without a proper venue. The facility may also be used as an emergency animal shelter in the event of a disaster.

Forestry Innovation Centre

The Forestry Innovation Centre houses the Forestry Initiatives Program, which was created to encourage home and business owners to FireSmart their properties, implement our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), advocate for landscape level analysis and restoration, and explore ways to innovate the forest products manufacturing sector. The objective is to build 'home-grown' solutions for Quesnel during our time of transition - to be innovative, resilient and grow a sustainable future for everyone who chooses to call the area home.



Alive After Five

The Alive After Five initiative aims to bring new life to downtown. Improvements have been made to the Spirit Square stage area, including orientation, and improved lighting and electrical capability.

Spirit Centre has a new façade, and added indoor storage for tables and chairs to be used for performances and events.

An evening performance series will be held in 2022. This project is a partnership with the Quesnel Downtown Association.

But wait... there's more!

We're keeping the ball rolling with these City initiatives that tie into the City's long term vision for the community. That vision includes objectives and policies that support positive economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes and strategies for transportation, housing, sustainability and impacts of climate change.



Airport Improvements

The Runway Rehabilitation Project includes realigning runway lighting and electrical work. The Helipad Replacement Project makes way for a larger helipad made of asphalt and concrete, upgrades to the existing storm drainage system, a concrete sidewalk, and paint markings. The airport is an essential transportation link for economic development of our region and critical infrastructure for health and safety, supporting the air ambulance service and wildfire management.

Rec Centre Bike Park & Trails

Located behind the Arts & Recreation Centre, this project includes an up-to-date progressive jump park, a beginner-friendly skills park for small children to safely learn how to ride a bike, a rubberized strider bike area, construction of Flow B trail, and renovation of Flow A trail. Rental bikes will also be available once the project is completed.

The new bike park and trails will help to increase tourism and resident recruitment while providing free, enjoyable outdoor recreation amenities for locals.



New Public Works

The modern Public Works facility, at 1350 Sword Ave, replaces the old, decaying buildings that were in the floodplain of the Quesnel River. The facilities host admin areas for staff, mechanical bays, utility functions, carpentry, gardening, and sheltered and open vehicle storage. This supports City crews who work hard to make Quesnel an attractive, livable city for all to enjoy. This key infrastructure is now secure and safe, and consolidates multiple related functions and assets at one convenient location.

RV Park and Campground

The City RV and Tenting Campground (expected completion in 2022) is located by the Quesnel River. It is anticipated to operate from late spring to early fall for short term stays. This municipal RV Park is unique in our region for its proximity to downtown and access to our trail networks and other amenities. It will encourage visitors to stop within City limits to spend time in our community.



Child Care Centre

The Child Care Centre will be constructed on Webster Ave in 2022. The City plans to partner with Quesnel & District Day Care Society to operate the facility. The approximately 4,800 sq ft facility will provide 8 infant, 25 preschool, and 24 school age spaces. Of these, 23 are existing QDDCS spaces and 34 are new spaces being added to the community, creating new jobs, and supporting families. The 2020 North Cariboo Child Care Inventory and Action Plan noted that 86 additional child care spaces are needed for Quesnel to reach the provincial average.

**Let's
Connect**
QUESNEL



As part of our commitment to communicating and listening more, we've created an engagement platform to help you provide feedback and learn about the community projects that affect you.

Learn more about what public participation looks like within the City of Quesnel.



Register here: www.letsconnectquesnel.ca
or scan the QR code with your phone's camera



**Accessory Dwelling
Unit (ADU)
Development**



Variety in housing options for the community is key in attracting and retaining residents, and ADUs are part of the parcel.

Complete the survey and provide feedback on steps that the City can take to support the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (basement suites, carriage houses, etc) in Quesnel.

Learn more:

www.letsconnectquesnel.ca/adus



**LeBourdais
Park
Improvements**



LeBourdais Park is a centrepiece gathering place for the community and is due for some dynamic upgrades.

Fill out the survey by November 12, 2021 to share your ideas on updates for the spray park and performance stage, a new connectivity trail, and the use of Rotary Ball Park.

Learn more:

www.letsconnectquesnel.ca/lebourdais-park

