

Summer 2023

# City News

CITY OF  
**Quesnel**

## Message from the Mayor



On behalf of my City Council colleagues, I'm pleased to present our 2023 Capital Projects Plan. Take some time to read through our plan and discover how your hard-earned tax dollars are being diligently directed to fund needed capital projects for the future of our City. The 2023 construction

season will see significant improvements to our Riverfront Trail and Fraser River Walking Bridge, especially with upgraded lighting for public safety. Now that we have a \$6 million grant approval for the Johnston Bridge rehabilitation project, detailed planning on this long awaited project can proceed. Look for new and ongoing improvements to Lhtako Dene Park as we further our commitment toward meaningful Indigenous reconciliation.

Local bikers will be happy to see construction of phases II and III of our Bike Park. Other bike and hiking trails are progressing in partnership with our North Cariboo neighbours through the Cariboo Regional District. Plans are coming together for long overdue improvements to the Dragon Lake boat launch. As well, our brand new Quesnel Downtown RV Park and Campground is now welcoming RV and tenting guests.

Ongoing capital improvements to our streets, sidewalks, bridges, storm drains, water, sewer, parks, landfill, etc. are always high on our annual "to do" list.

Capital projects started last year are nearing completion, including a full renovation of No. 1 Fire Hall downtown, a sparkling new childcare centre in West Quesnel and a new reservoir on Dragon Lake Hill.

This is an opportune time to give a shout-out to the organizers of our 2024 Lhtako Quesnel BC Winter Games. This bi-annual sportfest is less than a year away - February 22 to 25. Sign up for the 2024 Games newsletter. For a fulfilling, fun and socially educational experience, why not sign up as volunteer for our a 2024 Lhtako Quesnel BC Winter Games? [bcgames.org/newsletter](http://bcgames.org/newsletter)

How about taking in a long awaited concert coming to our West Fraser Centre in downtown Quesnel? Tickets are now on sale for the Friday, August 4th concert when the Juno award winning country music duo The Reklaws will debut in Quesnel. The online ticket purchase portal can be found at [www.quesnel.ca/reklaws](http://www.quesnel.ca/reklaws)

In closing, Council and I thank our hard working staff and workers in all departments, because without their dedicated service, the projects and services that we are so proud to provide would not be possible. Thank you all. Well done!

- Mayor Ron Paull



## Bridge entrance and trail upgrades

Upgrades are coming to the east entrance of the Fraser River Footbridge and to the Riverfront Trail from the footbridge to the hospital. At the footbridge entrance, the paving stones will be replaced with a mixture of concrete and paving stones and new steel railings will connect to the bridge. New overhead lights will be installed throughout the entrance and will continue down the north entrance connector to the trail system. Overhead lights will also be installed along the Riverfront Trail from the footbridge to below the hospital.

The connector leading up to the Golden Centre will be regraded and paved to meet the accessibility standards in the BC Active Transportation Guide.



## Dragon Lake Boat Launch

Knowing the Dragon Lake Boat Launch is in disrepair, the City has submitted an application for a Crown land tenure for this boat launch. Until that tenure is approved and funding is secure, the City cannot maintain this boat launch. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure currently has right of way for this water access.

The City is currently in the research and planning stage of this project. More information will be released when project details are confirmed.

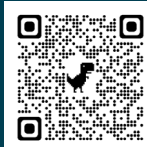
## RV Park and Campground is open!

The Quesnel RV Park and Campground is located beside the Quesnel River. 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.



**BOOK YOUR CAMPSITE!**

[quesneldowntownrvpark.com](http://quesneldowntownrvpark.com)



## Johnston Bridge Rehabilitation

The City of Quesnel has received \$6 million through the Canada Community-Building Fund to use towards the Johnston Bridge renewal project. The remaining funding (\$5.4 million) for the project will come from the City's Utility Reserve Funds and Capital Reinvestment Reserve. Repairing the Johnston Bridge will add an estimated 25 years of service life.

In October 2018, the City was made aware of the deterioration of the Johnston Bridge which lead to a temporary closure of all traffic. It was then re-opened with a 10-tonne weight restriction. Since then, the City has been working with inspection agencies and engineering professionals to assess its condition.

This year, the City is finalizing the project designs and continuing to coordinate with Telus and Fortis Gas regarding planning and engineering for the removal/relocation of their utilities to complete bridge repairs.

This project will include the replacement of the bridge bearings, plates, light bracing, railing and sidewalk, along with structural repairs to the girders and cross bracing. The City will also replace a 50+-year-old watermain that crosses the bridge.

The full project is expected to take two years to complete; the utility removals and relocations in 2024 and the major bridge repairs in 2025. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic will be impacted during final planning and construction.

Subscribe to the City to stay updated on the bridge closures coming in 2024 and 2025 - [quesnel.ca/subscribe](http://quesnel.ca/subscribe)



## Quesnel Bike Park - Phase II & III

The Quesnel Bike Park is a new, rapidly growing park in the City of Quesnel, located behind the Quesnel Arts and Recreation Centre. This FREE bike park is designed for mountain bikers of all skill levels and features several different areas, including a pump track, a dirt jump area, a rubberized strider zone, a balance park, drop zone, and a network of downhill trails.

In 2023, updates will include a revamped machine-built flow trail, lighting for the paved pump track and strider zone, a sun shade and picnic area, Strawberry Shortcut green zone with 3-4 trails dedicated to beginner riders, a new blue trail and a new black trail, as well as the completion of the pump track.

In 2024, projects will include two new black trails and a blue technical trail.



Photo: Taykoe Gaetz



Concept designs, Lhtako Dene Park

## Lhtako Dene Park

The next phase for Lhtako Dene Park will begin this spring. The new park sign will welcome visitors to the Territory of the Lhtako Dene Nation. The sign will be situated between two Lhtako Dene Nation flags. The welcome sign and a dipnet and sockeye salmon sculpture will be the main features at the park entrance.

We look forward to working with the Lhtako Dene Nation on this project and continuing to recognize their traditional territory, history, and cultural presence throughout the Quesnel area. This park will be a place where people can gather, learn, celebrate culture, help build community and strengthen relationships.



LHLAHDUT'EN  
TOGETHER

## BC Winter Games

The Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games run from February 22 - 25, 2024. Volunteers will be needed for efforts of all kinds - both before and during the BC Winter Games.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

[bcwintergames.ca](http://bcwintergames.ca)



## Summer Concert - The Reklaws!

**Join the party on August long weekend!** The Reklaws are a one-of-a-kind duo made up of siblings Jenna and Stuart Walker, proud to bring the party to every stage they stand on. They will make their Quesnel debut at the West Fraser Centre on Friday, August 4, 2023 at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Buy your tickets: [quesnel.ca/reklaws](http://quesnel.ca/reklaws)



## More projects

**Patchett St** \$750,000  
Storm drain replacement, road rebuild and paving. This project supports dewatering the West Quesnel Land Stability area.

**Road paving** \$549,500

- Ryan Rd
- Ritchie Ave
- Reynard St
- Dyke Rd
- Robertson Ave
- Ryder St

**St. Laurent Ave/Vaughan St parking lot** \$100,000  
Storm drainage and a light standard will be installed. Paving the parking lot will finish this project.

**West Fraser Timber Park Trails** \$200,072  
WFTP will see improvements on 2,600 meters of trail, including realignments, point of interest construction, and new trail alignments. The project will increase access and safety of community recreation by making necessary improvements to this multi-use trail network.

Project funding: Investing in Canada Infrastructure

**Sidewalk - McNaughton Ave - Reid St to Front St** \$62,500  
The sidewalk on the south side of McNaughton Ave from Reid St to Front St will be replaced.

## Active Transportation Plan

Quesnel is committed to promoting active transportation, and the Active Transportation Plan Update and Expansion is the latest step in achieving that goal. This plan will update strategies and network plans to improve options for connections between different modes of active transportation, incorporating new and future developments while recommending infrastructure, policies, and new connections to further encourage use of our active transportation network.

[letsconnectquesnel.ca/active](https://letsconnectquesnel.ca/active)



## Vulnerable Populations Service & Housing Options Review

We are seeking to understand the needs of vulnerable populations in the Quesnel area to determine the types of housing and support services required to minimize the risk of becoming homeless. The project will be led by the City of Quesnel, in partnership with Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation, Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation, and the ?Esdilagh First Nation, as well as BC Housing, Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction, local social agencies, and community stakeholders.

[letsconnectquesnel.ca/vulnerable-populations](https://letsconnectquesnel.ca/vulnerable-populations)



## Water Treatment System

The City's drinking water is out of compliance with new (2019) Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. Health Canada's Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) for Manganese is now set at 0.12 mg/L and currently the City of Quesnel water quality ranges from <0.01 mg/L to 0.6 mg/L (average of 0.22 mg/L).

Manganese is a naturally occurring element that can be found in rocks, soil, and water. While manganese is an essential nutrient that our bodies need in small amounts, exposure to high levels of manganese through drinking water can have adverse health effects, especially to infants.

The City has hired drinking water engineers to create a water treatment system design to remove manganese from the drinking water. They have completed conceptual designs and ARE now furthering the design phase. Chlorination and filtration using pyrolusite media is selected as the preferred treatment option.

[letsconnectquesnel.ca/water](https://letsconnectquesnel.ca/water)



## ARC Swimming Pool Referendum

Voters have turned down the Cariboo Regional District's proposal to borrow \$35 million for the proposed upgrades at the Quesnel and District Arts and Recreation Centre, with 1,085 "yes" votes and 1,664 no votes, with a minor increase in voter turnout.

The North Cariboo Joint Advisory Committee will review and consider options to address the future needs of the 40-year-old facility.

[quesnel.ca/PoolUpgrade](https://quesnel.ca/PoolUpgrade)



## LeBourdais Park Improvements

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

The community gave their insight into potential upgrades in late 2021. Based on the community's feedback, the City has installed three sun shades!

[letsconnectquesnel.ca/lebourdais-park](https://letsconnectquesnel.ca/lebourdais-park)

