

Spring 2025

CITY OF
Quesnel

City News

Message from the Mayor



On behalf of my City Council colleagues, I'm delighted to present our City of Quesnel 2025 Spring City News newsletter. Please find a few minutes to read about how your hard-earned tax dollars are being diligently directed to fund needed capital projects for the betterment of our great little City.

Improvements are slated this year to roads, streets, sidewalks and crosswalks, including Hutchcroft St, Higdon Ave, Walkem and Bowron Aves, Barlow Ave and McLean St parking lots, entrance of West Fraser Timber Park, Ritson Ave and Pentland Cres. The Phillips Rd South widening project, from Neighbour Rd to Quesnel-Hydraulic Rd, is also planned for this summer. As well, a crosswalk at the bus stop near 654 North Fraser Dr will be upgraded to improve pedestrian safety.

School District 28's construction of the new Carson Elementary School continues, along with the accompanying Nadeau St and access improvements. We apologize for necessary traffic delays and period road closures.

The long-awaited Johnston Bridge rehabilitation project continues this year with Telus removing their infrastructure from the bridge. Looking ahead, Phase II will begin in 2026 as it addresses critical structural and safety enhancements that will extend the bridge's service life, including associated road and sidewalk improvements. On the Moffat Bridge, an over-height advanced warning system is being installed to alert drivers approaching the

underpass from the west, preventing dangerous and costly high-load contact with the bridge under structure.

In response to feedback from growing numbers of users of our Downtown RV Park & Campground, eight additional RV sites have been upgraded with 30-amp electrical service, providing campers with more reliable power during their stays.

Look for ongoing improvements to Lhtako Dene Park, including much needed lighting, as we continue our commitment toward meaningful Indigenous reconciliation. As we prepare for our City's Centennial on March 21, 2028, the rose garden in front of our Visitor Centre and Museum is receiving a facelift, with a redesigned garden layout that will feature wide, level pathways that will meet wheelchair accessibility standards, allowing those with mobility challenges to enjoy the beauty of the garden and park.

We're updating our Official Community Plan and Master Zoning Bylaw to better address housing needs, align with new provincial requirements, and streamline development approval processes. This project is being undertaken with ongoing community engagement and feedback opportunities. To learn more, visit: letsconnectquesnel.ca/official-community-plan-update

Remember that planned capital improvements to our recreation facilities and some parks are not covered in this report, as they are shared with the Cariboo Regional District through North Cariboo Sub-Regional Recreation.

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 proudly provide would not be possible. Thank you all. Well done!

Mayor Ron Paull

Overlay Paving

In an ongoing effort to improve our roads and community infrastructure, several key paving projects will be taking place during the 2025 construction season:

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| • Hutchcroft St and Higdon Ave | \$65,000 |
| • Barlow Ave and McLean St parking lot | \$70,000 |
| • Entrance of West Fraser Timber Park | \$45,000 |
| • Ritson Ave | \$165,000 |
| • Pentland Cres (from Perry St to Patchett St) | \$110,000 |





Rose Garden Refresh

The rose garden, located in the parking lot at the Quesnel Visitor Centre and the Quesnel and District Museum and Archives, is getting a facelift, with a brand-new layout that will make it more accessible to all visitors. The redesigned garden will feature wide, level paths that comply with wheelchair accessibility standards, allowing individuals with mobility challenges to enjoy the beauty of the garden.

In addition to the accessibility improvements, the garden's redesign is also driven by the aim to make the space more inviting for visitors during significant community events, such as graduation season, when many people take photographs in the area. One of the newly designed paths leading towards the Shiraai House was specifically laid out to offer an attractive and picturesque background for photos, while another path leads to the Billy Barker statue. With these enhancements, the rose garden will not only become a more accessible space but also a beautifully designed backdrop for lasting memories and community events.

Phillips Road South Pedestrian Widening

The Phillips Road South widening project (from Neighbour Rd to Quesnel-Hydraulic Rd) is planned for this summer. By expanding the roadway, this project will enhance active transportation and provide a safer, more comfortable route for all traffic.

Crosswalk Upgrade on North Fraser Drive

Thanks to a funding contribution from the ICBC Road Improvement Grant, a crosswalk at the bus stop near 654 North Fraser Drive will be installed and upgraded to improve pedestrian safety to the bus stop. This project will focus on better visibility, lighting, and clearer markings, making it safer for both pedestrians and drivers.

Quesnel Downtown RV Park & Campground Electrical Upgrade

In response to feedback from campground users, upgrades have been made at the Quesnel Downtown RV Park & Campground to enhance the camping experience. A total of eight additional RV sites have been equipped with 30-amp electrical service, allowing campers to enjoy more reliable power during their stays. This improvement is particularly important for RV users who require more electricity for air conditioning, appliances, and other amenities during their stay.



Walkem St and Bowron Ave Infrastructure Updates

Walkem St and Bowron Ave are undergoing significant upgrades as part of a comprehensive

infrastructure improvement project. The work includes:

- Installation of a new storm sewer system
- Replacement of sidewalk, curb, and gutter
- Repaving of Walkem St and Bowron Ave

These upgrades will not only improve infrastructure but also contribute to a more sustainable and resilient community, with improved stormwater management, safer streets, and better overall accessibility.

Johnston Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Phase I, including the installation of watermain and sanitary main, a new fire hydrant, and road restoration, was completed in 2024. Telus is now underway with removing their infrastructure from the bridge, projected to be completed in spring 2025.

Looking ahead, Phase II of the rehabilitation is scheduled to begin in 2026 and will address critical structural and safety enhancements. Planned work includes the replacement of bridge bearings and plates, installation of new light bracing, updates to the railing and sidewalk for improved accessibility and safety, and structural repairs to the girders and cross bracing to extend the bridge's service life.



Support BC's Highway 97 Interconnector Upgrade

Help us advocate to the Province to invest in a faster, safer, and long-overdue route for Highway 97 through the North Cariboo.

BENEFITS:

- Improved supply chain
- Faster travel times
- Reduced emissions
- Improved emergency response
- Improved safety (bypassing 7 controlled intersections)

LET'S CONNECT

Send letters or comments of support to:
cityhall@quesnel.ca

Scan here or visit our website to learn more.
letsconnectquesnel.ca/highway-97



City of Quesnel Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw and Development Application Procedures Bylaw Updates

The City of Quesnel is updating its Official Community Plan and Master Zoning Bylaw to better address housing needs, align with provincial requirements, and streamline development approval processes. This project is being completed in two phases with ongoing community engagement and feedback opportunities.

An **Official Community Plan (OCP)** is a long-term guide that outlines how a community wants to grow and develop over time. It covers big-picture ideas like where to build homes and businesses, how to improve transportation, protect the environment, and create a livable, vibrant community. The plan is created with public input and helps local governments make decisions about land use and development.

A **Zoning Bylaw** is a detailed set of rules that puts the OCP into action. It divides the community into zones (like residential or commercial) and sets specific regulations for what can be built in each area, including building height, size, setbacks, and parking. While the OCP is the vision, the zoning bylaw is the rulebook that helps bring that vision to life.

What's happening?

- Phase 1: Update the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Master Zoning Bylaw (Mar 2025 - Nov 2025)
- Phase 2: Revise the Development Application Procedures Bylaw (August 2025 - March 2026).

Why is this important?

- To create a more flexible, responsive approach to housing and development.
- Ensure zoning and planning align with community needs and provincial standards.
- Improve the process for development approvals to support growth.

How can you get involved right now?

- Complete the short online survey, located here: [OCP, Zoning Bylaw and Development Application Procedures Bylaw Survey](#)
- Visit this virtual open house to review updates and ask questions. This [virtual open house session](#) will be live until June 20, 2025.



Learn more about this initiative and engagement activities:
letsconnectquesnel.ca/official-community-plan-update



Lhtako Dene Park

The Lhtako Dene Park renovation project is nearing completion. In addition to the large territory welcome sign and beautiful sculptures, the renovations include updated perennial flower beds, cultural monuments, semicircular benches, and electrical upgrades to increase event hosting capabilities. This project is generously funded by the Destination Development Fund and the Covid Safe Restart Grant. The park was designed by Urban Systems using input and videos from Lhtako Dene Council, Elders, and community members.

Check out the [Lhtako Dene Nation video series](#).



Moffat Bridge Safety Improvement

A new safety feature will soon be added to the Moffat Bridge to protect drivers and reduce the risk of accidents involving over-height vehicles. An over-height advanced warning system will be installed to alert drivers of the approaching clearance, preventing dangerous collisions with the bridge structure.

This system of lighting and signage is designed to provide timely warnings to drivers of over-height vehicles, especially those hauling heavy equipment. This project is a response to previous strikes, which resulted in costly damage to the bridge.



Accessible Quesnel

The Accessibility Committee is conducting a survey to gather community input about Quesnel's accessibility successes and challenges. This information will be used to help create an Accessibility Plan to identify ways to better communicate accessibility within the community. Upon completion, the plan will be shared on the Let's Connect Quesnel page. Learn more and complete the survey:

www.letsconnectquesnel.ca/accessible-quesnel



Voyent Alert! Emergency Notification System

The City of Quesnel uses Voyent Alert! as its platform for emergency alerts and notifications. This service is free, easy to use, and most importantly, secure. With this system, we can provide access to trusted, timely, and accurate information about emergency incidents impacting your property, and you can list important addresses to receive notifications about emergencies impacting other places, including your home, work, school, cabin, or a relative's address.

Our emergency notification system works across multiple devices such as your mobile device, computer, or landline.

Learn more and register:

www.quesnel.ca/notification

