

September 2021

CITY OF  
**Quesnel**

# Forestry Initiatives Program

Newsletter

## Celebrating our local contractors

### FUEL MANAGEMENT

It's our biggest year yet for reducing the wildfire risk around Quesnel! Over **100 hectares of fuel treatments** are slated for this year. Thank you to all the talented local contractors and BC Wildfire Service folks helping to make the Community Wildfire Protection Plan a success.

Read more about the [Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#).



Dragon Mountain is a high priority fuel management unit being treated this fall. If this site were to be affected by wildfire, it would have a significant impact on our ability to provide emergency communication within the area.

## Successful community activities

### MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK

Thank you to the hundreds of people that came out to enjoy **Movie Night in the Park** August 13th and 14th! The double-feature event was a huge success, with sold-out concessions, and over 100 FireSmart™ grab bags distributed. This event let us gather in a COVID friendly environment, learn about the importance of FireSmart™ for our community, and have some much needed fun!



### NEW TRAIL SYSTEM IS FEELING THE LOVE

Quesnel's [newest trail system](#) has been busy, with **over 2,000 visitors** counted from June to the end of August. Watch for future story book walks and events in collaboration with the Literacy Quesnel Society!



# Forestry Initiatives Program partners with Nazko First Nation to continue FireSmart™ services on private land

*Free FireSmart™ home assessments and clean-up crew services are once again available in our community thanks to a partnership between the City of Quesnel's Forestry Initiatives Program and the Nazko First Nation.*

For 2 years, the United Way ran an innovative program that offered fire mitigation assessments and activities on residential properties free of charge to seniors and community members facing mobility and/or health barriers. The program was successful in treating over 150 properties and building a healthy waitlist before it was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID.

Erin Robinson, Forestry Initiatives Manager, wanted to find a way to continue delivering this important service to the waitlisted homeowners. A new program, dubbed Quesnel Fire Mitigation Project, went live in July 2021 and employs the Nazko Silviculture crew to conduct activities such as: clearing debris, moving woodpiles, cleaning gutters, and pruning tree branches and shrubs. Over 40 properties have been assessed and treated around Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District, with another 15 homes slated before the snow flies.

*"The process is simple and rewarding", says Clint Perkins, a local resident that participated in the program this summer. The crew removed heavy combustible debris like sheets of old particle board, and pruned the underbrush around his yard and along his driveway. "I can't say enough good stuff about the crew and their supervisor," stated Perkins, "the young folks worked so hard and were happy and smiling the whole time and their supervisor was professional and courteous."*

Because he lives near a forested area where people sometimes have campfires, it can feel dangerous with the build up of underbrush in the forest. After having his yard groomed to be FireSmart™, Clint reports feeling much safer. *"I can see much better around my yard, and when my grandkids are out there playing, I feel like they are safer from wildfires and critters too. I've already recommended the program to half a dozen people, and actually gave the brochure to some of my neighbours."*



*Homeowner Emma Thorossell was very happy with improvements done on her property through the Fire Mitigation Program. Above: Nazko Silviculture LLP crew members Kiara and Kailee Starr, Emma and her dog Charley, and supervisor John Mills.*

If you are a homeowner above the age of 65, or have barriers to completing fire mitigation activities yourself, call **250-991-7468** or email **firesmart@quesnel.ca** to get on the waitlist for 2022. The program is open to City of Quesnel and some surrounding CRD residents.

*"This program has been a resounding success thanks to the Nazko First Nation crew and the homeowners working with us to FireSmart their properties" says Robinson. "We hope the program continues for years to come."*

***This program is made possible through the generous support of the Community Resilience Investment Program.***