

The City has commissioned Maureen Wheeler to recreate the mural that hangs across from GR Baker Memorial Hospital. The mural was originally painted by Jason Curtis, who also designed the City's Gold Pan logo. Unfortunately the original was in such poor condition that it could not be restored. Wheeler still has some work to do, such as adding the Caribou's antlers.

## City lobbies for funding opportunities

The City of Quesnel has received a number of grants in recent months from senior governments, helping the City move forward on many different projects and programs.

However, Council has repeatedly indicated they are going to continue working towards securing even more funding sources and opportunities.

"It's imperative that we actively pursue every opportunity to diversify our economy," said Mayor Nate Bello. "We are not satisfied to sit by complacently and do nothing." Council continues to push for a meeting in Victoria with senior cabinet members to emphasize the needs of our community.

### 2007 another good year for construction

Council received the building statistics for 2007, which was a great year for construction in Quesnel. In all, the total number of permits issued was up from 131 in 2006 to 143 in 2007.

The number of residential permits rose to 112 from 93, commercial permits fell to 22 from 27, industrial permits fell from three to one while institutional permits rose from six to eight. New dwelling units rose from 28 to 37. The total value of permits jumped from \$12,982,458 in 2006 to \$26,435,094.

## Staff to report on soccer, airport funding

City staff will prepare a report outlining next steps for the Quesnel Regional Airport and Quesnel Youth Soccer Association funding formulas following the failed Cariboo Regional District referenda on those items on Jan. 26.

Had the referenda passed, the City would have received up to \$40,000 for QYSA operations and up to \$40,000 to cover a percentage of the airport's operating deficit.



## Council authorizes new fire truck

Council has awarded the tender for a new fire engine for the downtown firehall.

The City will spend no more than \$550,000, including applicable taxes, for a new Triple Combination Compressed Air Foam System Fire Engine. Hub Fire Engines was the successful bidder.

To fund the purchase, \$250,000 will come from the 2007 surplus, with the remainder to come from the Fire Department Apparatus Reserve Fund.

The new equipment leads to the retirement of a 1981 Ford fire engine that will be used at the new North Cariboo Fire Training Centre as valuable support equipment in the training of firefighters from across the North Cariboo.

## Other news and notes . . .

The 2008 Call for nominations for the Order of British Columbia is open. Visit [www.protocol.gov.bc.ca/protocol/prgs/obc/obc.htm](http://www.protocol.gov.bc.ca/protocol/prgs/obc/obc.htm) to download a nomination form.

Council agreed to have City Hall as the venue for ArtsFest 2008, hosted by the Quesnel and District Community Arts Council on April 11 to 12.

# Q-City News

CITY HALL · 410 KINCHANT STREET · QUESNEL · BRITISH COLUMBIA · V2J 7J5

Telephone: 992.2111 · Fax: 992.2206 · Visit our website at [www.city.quesnel.bc.ca](http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca) WINTER 2008

### In this issue:

- West Quesnel Land Stability progress
- Major water project under budget
- Airport improvements
- Economic diversification funding sought

### Other News

Budget 2008 is well underway, with Council having already reviewed the preliminary operating and capital budgets.

All budget meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to take part and learn about the budget process.



The Environmental Advisory Committee will host another E-Waste Electronic Recycling Day on Saturday May 3 at the Sani-Dump loop - watch for details in the coming months.



*A specialized horizontal drilling machine was brought in to help install the horizontal drains as part of the West Quesnel Land Stability Program's trial dewatering program*

## Trial dewatering program up and running

The West Quesnel Land Stability Program continues to progress in 2008, with early data from the trial dewatering program now available.

Last spring, two types of dewatering methods were proposed, vertical wells that pump water out of the ground and horizontal drains that allow groundwater to run out of the hill. Four vertical wells and two horizontal drains are now removing groundwater from the study area and some early data shows they may be having an effect.

The trial dewatering program is needed in order to design a large-scale dewatering solution. Its purpose is to determine:

- The rate of change in groundwater pressure during dewatering.
- How large of an area is affected by dewatering efforts.
- Which method is most effective.

The wells are removing about 29,500 US gallons per day from the study area.

There has been a drop in water levels and pressure that can be correlated to when the wells and drains came online. It's a long way from

being called a solution, but there have been some tangible results early on in the process.

Funding for the trial dewatering program was included in the commitment made by the provincial government in 2006 when \$1.2 million was given to the City to complete analysis of the slippage. The province has repeatedly indicated a willingness to be a partner in finding a lasting solution.

The West Quesnel Land Stability Program remains Council's top priority.

Once the trial dewatering program is complete, the City should have a very good idea as to how best to proceed with a full-scale dewatering program designed to slow the rate of land movement to a manageable rate for current development levels.

A full report outlining the results of the trial dewatering program plus a plan for next steps should be ready by late spring.

The City of Quesnel has invested more than \$1.9 million on the West Quesnel Land Stability program since 2000. There are more than 750 homes and 2,100 residents in the slippage area.



## Share your thoughts with Council on Budget 2008

In the deep of winter, I think we are all in a reflective mode.

How long will it be until the birds are singing and how long before we see grass again?

What better time, I think, to ponder our pocketbooks? In my case, Council's 2008 budget.

How can we provide great service,

maintain our capital program and prepare for the future than by counting our pennies and making plans for prudent spending?

Council has already had some meetings on budget. They have all been open to the public and we've received some formal public input.

Our finance committee chair, Councillor Sushil Thapar, all the councillors and I want

to hear your views. Let us know what you think as we work on the most important job a Council is empowered to do - plan for the proper expenditure of the public purse.

As you see us on the street, give us the benefit of your thoughts and desires on this year's spending.

*Nate Bello*

*City Council was honoured with a special presentation from Quesnel's Sikh community at its inaugural Council meeting for 2008. The evening opened with an opening prayer sung by Dr. Mohinder Paul Singh and several representatives from the Sikh Temple. Dr. Singh also presented Council with **The Sikhs in Canada**, a book he has written outlining the history of the Sikh people in Canada.*



## Airport gets new approach capabilities

The Quesnel Regional Airport has added a second GPS approach system, an investment that will help aircraft land in more marginal weather conditions.

A GPS approach system uses satellite technology to facilitate aircraft when they are approaching and landing at the Quesnel Regional Airport.

Without a GPS approach, aircraft rely solely on the Non Directional Beacon (NDB) approach during poorer weather.

The new GPS approach is on Runway 13 – the designation for the runway when it is approached from the north. Previously, the only GPS approach was on Runway 31 – when planes approach from the south.

This year has been good for the Quesnel Regional Airport. A little more than three per cent of flights were missed due to inclement weather, but with the addition of the GPS approach, it's hoped this number could decrease.

In addition, Council recently approved an Airport Land Use plan that provides for future use and development of surrounding lands owned by the City.

For more information about the Quesnel Regional Airport, visit [www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/Airport/Airport-Businesses.asp](http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/Airport/Airport-Businesses.asp) or [www.flycma.com](http://www.flycma.com) to book one of 18 weekly flights from Quesnel to Vancouver.

## Take the easy route



### Fly Quesnel!

With 18 scheduled flights from Quesnel to Vancouver every week, Sunday to Saturday, the Quesnel Regional Airport is by far the easiest way to begin your trip. While you're away, take advantage of our free parking.

Fly away. Go far. Your boarding pass is waiting for you.

Call us: 992-3212  
992 2208

Quesnel Regional Airport  
**YQZ**

## Stenersen water system project under budget

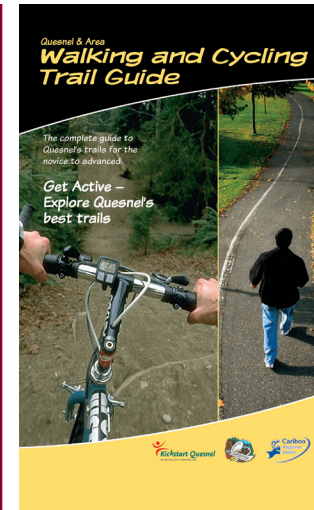
City of Quesnel residents on the Stenersen (DVC) water system will see a large difference in what they will pay for the extension of City water to their homes thanks to the project coming in well under budget due to in-house project management, better contract rates and no need for the contingency fund.

The City had budgeted \$504,000 to complete the new work required to connect the residents' homes to City water. The final work was completed for \$282,800, a savings of \$221,200 that will be passed directly on to the residents by way of lower annual payments. Included in the amount to be paid by the residents receiving

this service, is \$450,000, which is their share of the original South Hill expansion costs.

"Not only are we providing an essential and high quality service to those residents by providing City water, we're doing it for less than the amount they had already agreed to. This is a win-win situation to be sure," said Mayor Nate Bello.

The annual parcel tax charge will now be \$625 as compared to \$780, the original estimated amount, which was approved by the residents. Residents may also choose to pay a lump sum payment of \$7,255 before April 18, 2008 rather than having an annual charge being added to their property taxes.



The new Quesnel and Area Walking and Cycling Trail Guide is complete and due for distribution.

Residents will be mailed a postcard this spring that they can redeem for their free copy at various facilities, such as the Twin Arenas, Arts and Recreation Centre or City Hall.

## Crime statistics compiled for 2007

The statistics are in for crime in the region in 2007.

The RCMP detachment laid out a set of priorities for 2007. They were:

- To reduce and prevent property crime in Quesnel
- To disrupt and dismantle the use and distribution on cocaine and crystal meth
- To reduce and prevent the number of criminal crashes involving impaired drivers
- To address the incidence of crimes against persons (eg. Assaults and Violence in Relationships)
- To reduce and prevent substance abuse among First Nations Communities.



Category	2006	2007
Robberies	13	17
Assaults	551	520
B & Es	313	223
Vehicle thefts	126	157
Thefts over \$5,000	13	14
Thefts under \$5,000	833	619
Possession of stolen property	31	30
Frauds	83	71
Weapons Offences	137	114
Other Criminal Code offenses	2119	1580
Drug offences	228	263
Criminal Code traffic	410	372
Total calls for Service	13,918	13,611
Traffic Fatalities	6	4
9-1-1 Calls	2011	2022

*The statistics (above) show that progress was made on a number of fronts in 2007. One alarming statistic relates to 9-1-1 calls. Of the 2,022 calls received, police estimate more than 90 per cent of them were accidental, largely due to the existing 991 extension. Police urge the public to dial carefully when trying to reach a 991 telephone number. Regarding vehicle thefts, the local detachment is looking to start a bait car program in 2008.*

## Vandalism statistics

The final numbers are in regarding vandalism statistics in Quesnel during 2007.

Last year, damage caused by vandals to City property totalled more than \$19,000.

The types of damage range from simple acts of graffiti to an incident involving a park bench being destroyed by a vehicle.

This number is about the same as was recorded in 2006. In 2005 that number was more than \$20,000, while in 2004 it climbed to more than \$30,000.

This amounts to taxpayer dollars that would be far better spent supporting services that you expect.

But you can help.

If you see an act of vandalism occurring, or have information about an incident, please contact the RCMP detachment at 992-9211.

Let's work together to keep Quesnel a beautiful community we can all be proud of.

**Vandalism**



**Graffiti**

**don't do it!**