

Q-City News

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

Telephone: 250-992-2111 • Fax: 250-992-2206 • www.city.quesnel.bc.ca

MAY 2009

In this issue:

- Budget 2009
- Multi-Centre update

Other News

After the recent Boil Water Advisory that was placed on South Quesnel, the City is examining its water system.

Several questions have been raised about testing protocol, and what happens in the event of a bad sample.

The City and Northern Health were forced to issue a boil water advisory after a sample that was provided by a resident came back positive for E.Coli. As a result, all of South Quesnel had to boil water for human consumption for four days, with some areas having to do so for seven days.

Further testing by Northern Health revealed there was no E.Coli in any of the 33 samples taken.

Family Day 2009

This year's event is on Saturday June 13 at LeBourdais Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free food, entertainment, children's activities and more. Enjoy a day of fun!



Volunteer extraordinaire

Carol Weremy was named the 2008 Quesnel Volunteer Citizen of the Year at this year's awards banquet on April 22. Carol was recognized for all the good work she has done in Quesnel over the years, especially her efforts related to the Palliative Care Association. The City and the Quesnel Cariboo Observer are partner hosts for this event.

City applies for land stability funds

Now that the study and analysis work for the West Quesnel Land Stability Program is complete, the City is ready to proceed.

A public meeting has been set for Thursday June 11 at Voyageur Elementary (open house at 6 p.m., presentation at 7 p.m.), at which City staff and engineers will present the latest findings and proposed next steps.

The City has submitted an application to the Building Canada grant program, which asks for approximately \$11.9 million: \$3.47 million for pumping and monitoring wells; \$7.45 million for new storm drainage systems; and \$1 million for a leak detection program.

The City is responsible, if the grant is successful, for providing one-third of the project's total cost, or \$3.98 million.

The City has invested more than \$1.6 million towards finding a lasting solution to the problem.

Budget 2009 delivers no increase to taxes

It's no secret that the global economic situation has created a great deal of financial uncertainty, including right here in Quesnel. The forestry sector has been particularly hard hit, with plants on shutdown and others with reduced work weeks or shift layoffs.

City Council decided early in the budget process that every effort would be made to present a budget resulting in no increase to the municipal

portion of residential property taxes in 2009.

The initial operating budget suggested a 3.3% increase was necessary to maintain the status quo - no service cuts and allowing for inflationary increases.

However, during budget deliberations, Council made the reductions necessary to have no increase to municipal taxes for the typical homeowner.

There are still significant

investments being made throughout the community, as seen on the map inside this newsletter. There are no significant service reductions either.

Council is aware of the financial pressures we're facing and has presented a budget that is designed to help offset that pressure while maintaining the quality services we all enjoy.

More budget news on pages 2 and 3



The QCity News is printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.



Working together makes us stronger

Quesnel City Council has been busy in 2009. As you know, Budget 2009 was a real success, with Council coming together to present no municipal tax increase for most of you. In these economic times, we felt it was the right direction to take.

I'm encouraged by a number of things happening in our community. I'm seeing a lot of investment and reinvestment in

the small business community. I'm also impressed by the forest sector's ability to keep as many people working as they can, some with the job share program. Finally, the work that School District 28 and various employment agencies are providing to the unemployed resource workers is tremendous. Thank you.

It's examples of how all these

sectors working together make our community stronger, and one that will flourish for years to come.

From City Council, the best to you for an active and healthy summer.

Mayor Mary Gostrom

News and Notes

Recycling depot opens

The City and Cariboo Regional District officially opened the South Quesnel recycling depot on April 21. The depot allows residents of South Quesnel, Red Bluff and other southerly neighbourhoods to recycle materials without having to drive all the way to the municipal landfill. The depot is located in the parking lot of the Maple Park Shopping Centre.

New garbage system rolling

The new automated garbage collection system was rolled out this spring, with residents helping make the system's launch a great success. Garbage is now collected using a truck with an automatic arm that picks up City-supplied garbage carts and empties them into the truck. The new truck is far more fuel efficient, makes fewer trips to the landfill and helps reduce employee injuries.

Bicycle network plans changed

Council amended its Bicycle Network Plan (BNP) to deal with proposed trails in the Two Mile Flat area. Since its inception in 1997, the BNP has included plans to connect North Quesnel with the industrial sector on Two Mile Flat.

The original plan could have seen the trail travel along the east side of the highway, running along River Park Road and in close proximity to the West Fraser log yard. In recent years, however, this plan has caused some concerns.

As a result, Council approved changing the network plan to include a route along the west side of Hwy. 97.

To support this decision, staff will now:

- Submit a preliminary survey of the new trail to the Ministry of Transportation for review and comment.
- Review with affected owners and potential trail users.
- Prepare detailed design plans.
- Seek out grant opportunities for construction costs.

New managers in place at City Hall

The City of Quesnel has two employees taking on new roles in senior management positions. Byron Johnson, the former director of finance and administration, was hired by City Council as City Manager, effective January 1, 2009.



The Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department took possession of its new HUB fire engine in March. The truck sports the latest in technological advances, including backup cameras, GPS readers (for addresses and hydrants) and an on-board computer providing control over all of the engine's systems. The truck is capable of generating a non-toxic foam like shaving cream that stops fire in its tracks. It's also got the older sounding sirens, which generally do a better job of letting motorists know its coming. The engine cost \$550,000 and will be in service for at least 25 years.

Kari Bolton was hired to replace Johnson as the Director of Finance and Administration. She began work with the City on April 14, 2009.

City partners with CRD

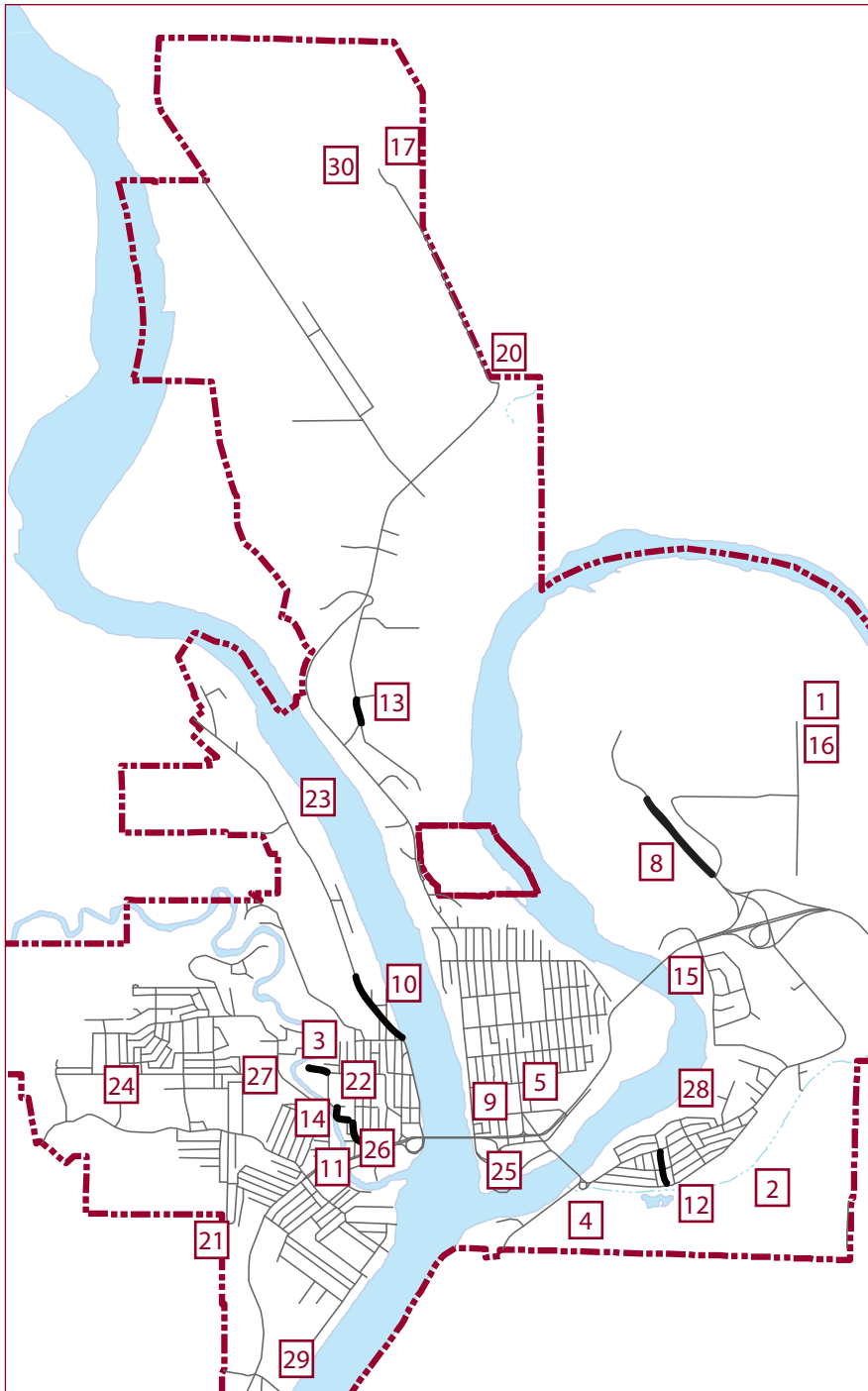
The City is now a part of the Cariboo Regional District's 9-1-1 function. By becoming a part of a larger negotiating body, the City was able to reduce its cost for 9-1-1 services by 33% in 2009 (\$69,000 in savings). It is expected the City will see continued savings in this function by working with its partners at the CRD.

2009 Capital projects

The City's capital projects program for 2009 has been approved.

Included on this map are projects that are funded through the Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment program, general taxation, grants or various self-funded operations, such as water, sewer and airport. Not all capital items are listed here, but these are most of the "big ticket" items.

The Highway 97 underpass (#18) is a unique project - the City was allowed to "stack" a number of grant sources together, which is not typically allowed. This meant the City did not have to contribute any funding towards the \$1 million project. The underpass will link South Quesnel with the Riverfront Trail system.



Capital projects from general taxation

1	Paving at Recycling Depot	\$30,000
2	Dragon Creek Engineering	\$35,000
3	Harcourt Street trail system	\$37,000
4	West Fraser Timber Park sewer connection	\$97,000
5	Old library demolition	\$25,000
6	Paving Tatchell Road	\$75,000

Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment Program projects

7	Hydraulic Road paving	\$366,000
8	North Star Road upgrade	\$140,000
9	Replace electrical boxes	\$31,000
10	North Fraser Drive paving	\$116,200
11	Baker Drive paving	\$39,400
12	Gardner Avenue paving	\$42,200
13	Brownmiller Road paving	\$45,000
14	Hill Street paving	\$40,200

Projects funded by grants and/or reserves

15	Bike Trail - Campus Way to Nadeau	\$46,000
16	Wood waste drop-off point	\$134,000
17	North Cariboo Fire Training Centre	\$17,500
18	Highway 97 Bike Underpass	\$1,000,000
19	Bike Path - Bryce Trail to Westland	\$166,000

Water fund projects

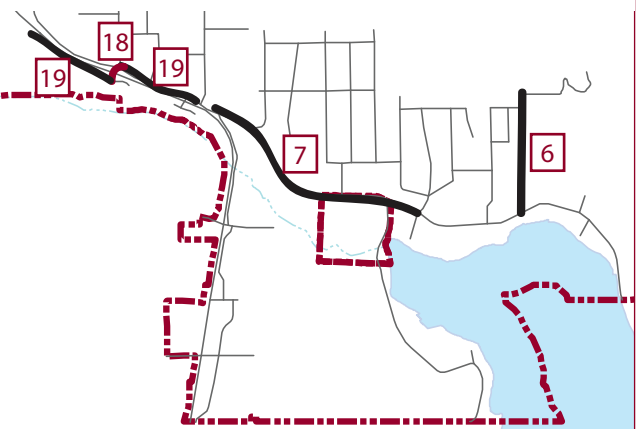
20	Shadow Heights reservoir	\$151,000
21	Water main replacement - Allard and Adam	\$49,000
22	Water main upgrade - Harcourt	\$47,000
23	Well 7 pump replacement	\$30,000
24	Waterline loop - Pierce, Patchett and Dawson	\$21,500

Sewer fund projects

25	Central Lift station upgrade	\$200,000
26	West Quesnel Force main replacement	\$690,000
27	Sewer line replacement - Lewis	\$16,500
28	Main renewal along Quesnel River	\$58,000
29	Rolph Street sewer pumps	\$9,000

Airport fund projects

30	40,000-litre fuel tank	\$102,000
----	------------------------	-----------

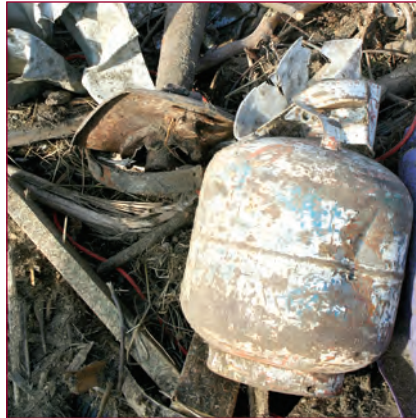




The wood grinding program at the landfill has been very successful.

The chips are used as landfill cover and take up much less space than unprocessed materials.

Unfortunately, items like propane tanks and scrap metal, right, are sometimes thrown in the yard waste pile. The City encourages residents to be careful, as metal pieces can cause significant damage to the grinding machine, increasing costs to the taxpayers.



City rakes in grant funding

April was a busy month for the City as it received millions of dollars in grants and funding commitments from senior government. Up first was a \$4.1 million commitment made by the provincial government's Innovative Clean Energy fund for the development of a Community Heat and Electricity System. It supports the first step towards a \$13.4 million system that would make use of existing industrial heat sources to generate electricity and provide heat for multiple downtown facilities.

The City also received \$170,000 from Western Economic Diversification to complete design and engineering for the development of 18 acres of city-owned, light industrial land.

Finally, the City received:

- \$375,000 in federal and provincial Towns for Tomorrow funding for upgrades to the drinking water supply, including the development of a new well.
- \$82,858 in federal and provincial LocalMotion funding for the Dragon Hill/Valhalla Trail project, which will link south Quesnel to the Riverfront Trail system.
- \$4,018 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program – equal to 100 per cent of the carbon tax the City paid as part of direct expenditures on fossil fuels.

Multi-Centre project enters fundraising, facility design stage

The City and Cariboo Regional District continue to work on the Multi-Centre project.

On November 15, 2008, residents of the North Cariboo passed a referendum that allows the CRD to borrow up to \$15 million for the construction of a new 2,000-seat arena, 450-seat theatre and accompanying event space.

The project will not proceed until significant funding is secured from senior government towards the \$30 million project cost.

The CRD submitted an application to the Building Canada funding program in April.

In addition, City and CRD elected officials continue to lobby their counterparts in the provincial and federal governments to raise the project's profile.

The City and CRD have also formed two committees to support the project. The fundraising committee will support senior government lobbying and begin preparations for community fundraising efforts. The design advisory committee will start working on preparing the technical design documents needed for the project's construction.

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: 250.992.3212
250.992.2208

Quesnel Regional Airport

YQZ