

Q-City News

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In the news

The word “sustainability” has become a popular buzzword, but it’s an important part of community planning.

Sustainability is not just about the environment; it’s about economics, the social fabric and culture as well.

When the City applies for grants from senior government, we’re going to have to prove the sustainability of a project to secure that funding.

City Council recently approved the formation of a sustainability Task Force.

This Task Force will provide advice to City Council on how to make Quesnel more sustainable over the long term.

There will be an opportunity for community input and consultation as we start determining what the word sustainability means to Quesnel.

City receives land stability grant



Drill rigs will be a common site in West Quesnel in 2010. The City has secured grant funding to start implementing a full-scale dewatering program.

The City of Quesnel has received more than \$3.14 million from the Building Canada Program to go towards a full-scale dewatering program for the West Quesnel Land Stability Program. The City will provide \$1.57 million as its share for the \$4.7 million project.

The funding allows the City to approach the project in a phased manner. The City will begin work immediately on designing the first phase to maximize the grant funding. Once that work plan has been developed, the City will release further details by sending out a special edition of the Q-City News.

An Open House is also planned to explain the work program in detail.

The City of Quesnel has spent more than \$1.6 million on the West Quesnel Land Stability Program. The provincial government also invested \$1.2 million in 2006.

The area affected by the ground movement is an attractive, established residential community that includes about 940 parcels of land, 750 homes, several businesses and one elementary school.

Airborne Fire Fighters



The Quesnel Regional Airport was home to an Aircraft Fire Attack Base in August. The bombers (Connair AT-802F amphibious air tankers known as Fire Bosses) flew a number of missions out of Quesnel to support firefighting operations. The airport is about more than just vacations – it supports air ambulance, industry and now fire fighting efforts. It is a critical piece of infrastructure.



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2009 a successful year for City of Quesnel

It's been a banner year for the City of Quesnel.

Council is committed to working with senior levels of government and staff and we're seeing results, securing millions of dollars in funding from both the federal and provincial governments.

Our number one priority, the West Quesnel Land Stability Program, just received more than \$3 million. We also received a \$4 million commitment from the province for a community

energy system, \$1 million for our new cycling/pedestrian underpass, \$1.8 million for the footbridge rehabilitation and many hundreds of thousands of dollars for other smaller projects.

Regionally, the second phase of the North Cariboo Community Campus recently had its ground-breaking and we're working with our partners at the Cariboo regional District and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on the proposed North-South Interconnector.

As Council, we're working on your behalf to secure funding and opportunity for our community, including seeking support for the North Cariboo Multi-Centre.

Several new businesses have opened, with others set to make big improvements to their premises. Congratulations to all of them!

From Quesnel City Council, best wishes for a safe and happy fall season.

Mayor Mary Grootrom

RCMP set local priorities

The RCMP have set the detachment's strategic priorities for 2009-2010. The detachment will focus on several issues, including:

- Targeting a small percentage of individuals who drive much of the criminal activity.
- Implementing foot patrols in business communities.
- Continued impaired driving enforcement.
- Continued education



programs for youth and First Nations.

- Targeting cocaine dealers and grow operations.
- Bringing the Bait Car program to Quesnel

The initiatives are tracked and reported to Council.

Crime statistics for April 1 to August 31

Quesnel RCMP presented their crime statistics for the summer period.

The RCMP placed a high priority on targeting prolific offenders and employing foot patrols in business communities.

The statistics show this planning paid dividends.

Much progress was made in the downtown core. For example, calls for causing a disturbance (-46%), Mischief under \$5,000 (-13%) Shoplifting (-69%) and overall calls for service (-11%) all saw

significant decreases in the number of calls for service.

That trend continued in West Quesnel: Calls for Causing a Disturbance (-32%), Mischief Under \$5,000 (+25%) Shoplifting (-34%) and overall Calls For Service (-23%).

From a City-wide perspective, Vehicle Theft was up 24%, and assaults up 32%, while motor vehicle incidents (MVI) were down 28% and alcohol-related MVIs were down 14%.

The overall calls for service across Quesnel were down by 6%.

News and Notes

Arts and Recreation Centre gets retrofit

The Quesnel and District Arts and Recreation Centre is getting a face-lift courtesy of the federal government's Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program. The pool water filtration system will be upgraded and the fitness/weight room will be expanded thanks to a \$208,000 grant.

This will provide the pools with a safer, more cost-efficient, and environmentally friendly sand system.

The fitness/weight room expansion will enable the Centre to serve a greater number of facility users and offer a wider range of programs.

The work will be completed during the December shutdown.

Art Gallery ready for you

While the pool closes from December 7 to 26 for its routine maintenance and cleaning, the Quesnel Art Gallery remains open. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Dec. 23.

Recycling Guide online

When you're finished reading this newsletter, make sure you recycle it. This newsletter, as well as glass, metal, plastics, paper and all sorts of other materials, can be recycled.

To view the City's recycling guide, visit www.city.quesnel.bc.ca or stop by City Hall and pick up a copy.

Recycling is not only environmentally responsible; it adds years to the life of the municipal landfill, saving taxpayer dollars.

Learn about economic development

Do you want to learn more about the Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation?

It's a wholly-owned subsidiary of the City of Quesnel that works on investment attraction and citizen retention, while managing significant grant-writing projects.

Visit their website at www.quesnelinfo.com.

2009 Capital projects on track

The City undertook an ambitious capital program in 2009.

The Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment program alone featured more than \$830,000 worth of work, largely major paving jobs such as the work done on North Star Road (\$140,000), Hydraulic Road (\$366,000), Brownmiller Road (\$45,000) and Hill Street (\$40,000).

In addition to Quesnel Works, the City invested more than \$900,000 in projects and equipment in its general capital budget and more than \$3.4 million in projects funded by reserves (such as the water and sewer funds), grants or a combination of the two.

To date, the city has completed approximately 75 per cent of the projects, with the rest on track to be completed this year as scheduled.



One of the City's big capital projects for 2009 is the West Quesnel Sewer Force Main replacement. Some 385 metres of sewer pipe were replaced. Above, workers use high-tech equipment to track the drill head underground as it drives a path under Marsh Drive in West Quesnel. The drill creates the path for the new pipe to be installed in. The City received \$460,000 in grants from the federal and provincial governments to pay for two-thirds the cost of this project. Left, the City built a new pedestrian underpass below highway 97 that links South Quesnel to the Riverfront Trail system. The \$1 million project was funded entirely through grants from the federal and provincial governments.

Library popular in its new location

The Quesnel branch of the Cariboo Regional Library system is getting a warm reception in its new location. The new branch, located in the City Hall building, opened in December 2008. Circulation (the count on material leaving the library) is considerably greater, as is the number of people visiting the library.

Category	December 2007 to May 2008	December 2008 to May 2009
Circulation	67,759	90,087
New Registrations	479	1,028
Children's Programs	59	32
Adults programs	1	2
Library tours	3	26
Days Open	127	126
Persons entering Library	37,742	49,696
Average/day open	296	394
Average circulation/day open	534	715

Tourism numbers solid in 2009

Despite a recession, the tourism industry remained strong in Quesnel this summer.

From May to August, 13,869 people stopped at the Visitors Centre, up from 11,839 over the same period in 2008.

Vandals continue to damage property

Damage caused by vandals to City property in 2009 totals more than \$12,000 so far.

The types of damage range from acts of graffiti to trees being destroyed.

These taxpayer dollars would be better spent supporting services.

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

By working together, we can keep Quesnel a place in which we're proud to live work and invest.



Work continues as Multi-Centre project makes progress

The North Cariboo Multi-Centre project continues to progress, as many key steps were taken over the summer months. Two areas, fundraising and design work, have been the focus of both the elected officials and staff.

The project is reaching the point where a significant investment from senior government is required.

The Cariboo Regional District applied for funding under the Building Canada Infrastructure Program in spring 2009. In addition, the Multi-Centre Finance Committee, created to coordinate fundraising efforts, expects to begin meeting this fall. Finally, the City and CRD have issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop operational, marketing and financing plans for the Multi-Centre.

On the facility planning side, the Design Advisory Committee was created to provide input into the design of the Multi-Centre.

The City and CRD also issued an RFP to develop the design specifications that will be used in the Design/Build RFP package. Public consultation meetings will be held this fall with stakeholder groups as part of this process.

The North Cariboo Multi-Centre contains a 2,000-seat ice arena, 450-seat performing arts theatre and accompanying event and assembly space. North Cariboo residents voted in favour of the project in a November 15, 2008 referendum.

For more information about the Multi-Centre, visit www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/multi-centre.asp

Fire alarm policy in place

False fire alarms are a concern for the Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department. As a result, the City has a policy regarding response to automatic fire alarms.

The City has a Verified Response Alarm Program for fire alarms that are not required to be monitored by the B.C. Building Code. Alarm companies must verify an automatic alarm via an eyewitness. Should the witness discover a fire, the department will treat it with high priority.

Residents should have received notice of this change from their alarm company. If you haven't, contact your alarm service provider to find out more details. You may also contact the fire hall at 250-992-5121.

Planning to store your RV at home? Know the rules.

You've enjoyed your summer, using your motorhome to camp and travel. But winter's approaching and now you're thinking of storing your RV on your property. The City has regulations regarding what may be stored on a residential lot.

Here are some rules of thumb.

- You may park up to three units (any combination of recreational vehicles, boats or trailers) behind the front

wall of your home.

- Vehicles longer than 33 feet must be concealed in a building.
- Vehicles exceeding 5,000 kilograms may not be stored on residential lots at all.

Of course, there are exceptions to rules (such as if you own a half-acre lot).

If you're unsure about the rules, contact the development services department at City Hall at 250-992-2111 for guidance.



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

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