

# Q-City News

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## Other News



The West Quesnel Land Stability Program work plan is now undergoing an environmental review. Watch for a special edition of the Q-City News as soon as the program is approved.

## Family Day 2010

This ever-popular event is on Saturday June 12 at LeBourdais Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There's entertainment, free food, children's activities and more.

Come out to the park and enjoy a day of fun!



Interested in Quesnel's long-term sustainable planning? Visit the City's website and click on the "our Quesnel" link.



## Torch draws thousands to downtown celebration

*January 29 2010, was a momentous day in Quesnel. It marked the arrival of the Olympic Flame and the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. More than 7,000 people converged at the downtown celebration, which featured plenty of entertainment from the sponsors, RBC and Coca-Cola, and various community groups. Thousands more lined streets throughout the region to watch the torch pass by. Long-time City employee and community volunteer Dennis Baptiste, right, was chosen to run the final leg of the relay and light the cauldron on stage. The City thanks all those involved with the project, including the Spirit of BC Committee.*



## Budget 2010 delivers despite economic challenges

The global economic situation continued to have an impact in Quesnel in early 2010, with the forest industry especially hard hit.

The City faced a significant loss of its industrial assessment base, combined with very little new construction in 2009. Northstar Lumber applied for a partial shutdown allowance, resulting in \$335,000 in lost municipal tax revenue.

Another industrial site appealed its assessment. This meant the City had to

place extra funds into the Tax Stabilization Reserve. Finally, the City had to account for two years worth of depreciation (due to frozen property assessments last year) on its industrial assessment base. This resulted in about \$500,000 in lost revenues based on 2009 rates.

As a result Council removed close to \$1 million from its operating and capital budgets.

The City relies heavily on industrial taxation. Whenever there's a significant change to industrial assessment, such as

in 2010, it results in shifting taxes from industry to the other classes. This year, there is an increase to residential taxes of about 4.3% on average.

Despite the challenges, the 2010 budget still offers high-quality services.

From investments in emergency services and community programs to critical infrastructure replacement projects (see the map on page 3), the City is investing in the quality of life for its taxpayers.

*More budget news on page 3*



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# Working together makes us stronger

Looking back on Budget 2010, I'm happy with how the process went, given the economic situation we faced. We've lost significant industrial assessment, but have still presented a budget that meets the City's needs. We had to find some cost reductions and we had to increase taxes, but we were still able to make investments in our infrastructure and our community.

Looking forward, I'm excited

about the "our Quesnel" project, which is a comprehensive look at sustainable community planning. Watch for the "our Quesnel" logo highlighting what we're working on.

The Communities in Bloom international judges will be in our community from July 15 to 17. We're eager to host them and show them how great Quesnel is.

Finally, thanks and congratulations

from all of Council to the GR Baker Ladies Hospital Auxiliary, Chamber of Commerce and the Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department for 100 years of dedicated service to our community.

Quesnel is a better place because of your efforts and we appreciate all you do!

*Mayor Mary Grootrom*

## Bulk Water station open for business

The City has completed its new bulk water distribution plant. The plant is designed for use by people who haul water in large volumes, greater than a standard 18-litre bottle. The City built the plant for a number of reasons.

It is important to preserve the safety and integrity of the City water system. It is unsafe to allow people other than properly trained individuals to hook up to fire hydrants, as contamination of the City's water system could occur.

Recovering the costs of supplying water is important. City residents pay a water utility bill for the cost of operating and maintaining the water system. It is unfair to expect these people to subsidize people or businesses who do not contribute towards those costs.

The project budget was \$583,000, with the City receiving \$270,000 in grant funding.

## Wood First bylaw a first for the province

The City of Quesnel is the first local government in the province to pass a "Wood First" bylaw designed to link to the Province of British Columbia's Wood First Act.

The purpose is to encourage the use of wood as a primary building material in the design and construction of City funded buildings wherever practical and appropriate.

British Columbia's Wood First Act requires provincially-funded building projects to use wood as the primary construction material.

## North Cariboo gets moving, wins challenge

North Cariboo residents turned out in force on Move For Health Day, with 6,468 people registering at least 10 minutes of activity on Saturday May 8. There were 25 different free activities promoting activity, fun, and improved health at West Fraser Timber Park. The North Cariboo defended its title of most active community after 5,387 people registered in the Central Cariboo.

## Gym expansion officially opened

The expanded weight room at the Quesnel & District Arts and

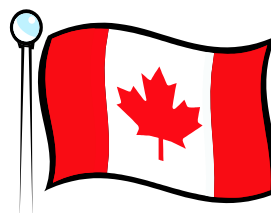


## An exceptional pair of volunteers

*Lynne Wright was named the 2009 Quesnel Volunteer Citizen of the Year at this year's awards banquet on April 21. Lynne was recognized for a number of ways she helps make the community a better place. Last year she stepped in to organize the Billy Barker Days parade, and she's the parade director again this year. Her efforts don't end there. She's very involved with Girl Guides, the United Church, and the Bouchie Lake seniors' lunch. She also helps with the costumes needed for Correlieu school productions, Kersley Musical Theatre and the YES group. In addition, Mary Glassford was also honoured, winning the first Lifetime Achievement Award. The City and the Quesnel Cariboo Observer are partner hosts for this event.*

Recreation Centre is complete. The 1,700 square-foot addition hosts a variety of new equipment and amenities. More space was added for core body strength development and stretching exercises as well.

One third of the cost of the expansion of the weight room was covered by a \$140,000 grant from the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan.



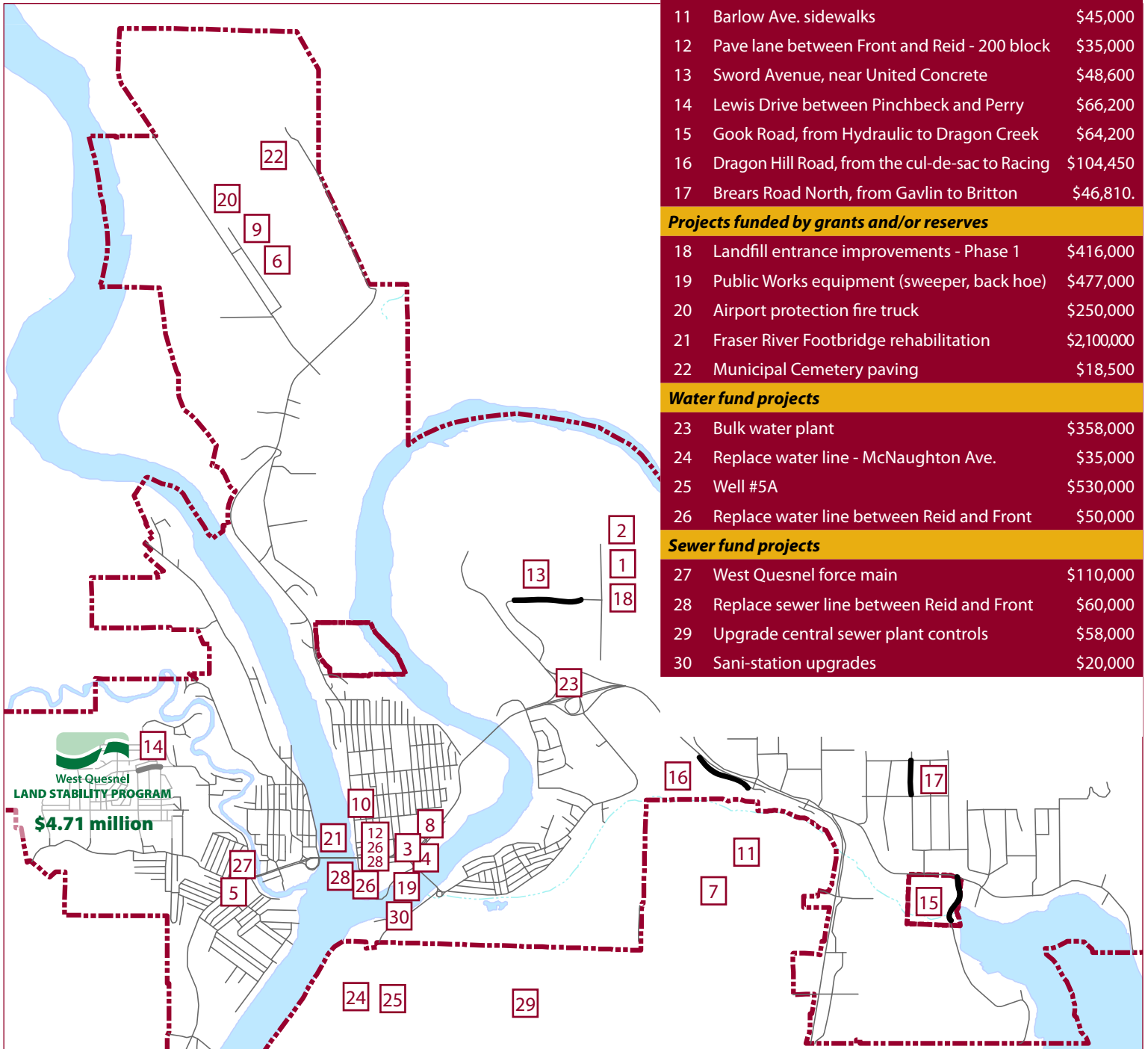
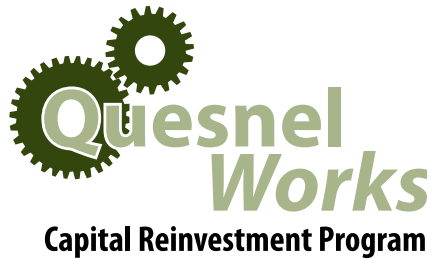
## Celebrate Canada

Don't forget to take in the Canada Day festivities at LeBourdais Park on July 1!

# 2010 Capital projects

The City's capital projects program for 2010 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.



## Capital projects from general taxation

1	Paving at Recycling Depot	\$75,000
2	Compost site paving/drainage	\$106,700
3	RCMP roof replacement	\$140,000
4	Upgrade cells at RCMP detachment	\$25,000
5	Advance left turn signal	\$10,000
6	Gazebo (joint project with Quesnel Flying Club)	\$5,000
7	Newman Road sidewalks	\$85,500
8	Replace Museum flooring	\$11,000
9	Paint Airport terminal	\$15,000

## Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment Program projects

10	St. Laurent Ave. reconstruction 200/300 block	\$890,000
11	Barlow Ave. sidewalks	\$45,000
12	Pave lane between Front and Reid - 200 block	\$35,000
13	Sword Avenue, near United Concrete	\$48,600
14	Lewis Drive between Pinchbeck and Perry	\$66,200
15	Gook Road, from Hydraulic to Dragon Creek	\$64,200
16	Dragon Hill Road, from the cul-de-sac to Racing	\$104,450
17	Bears Road North, from Gavlin to Britton	\$46,810.

## Projects funded by grants and/or reserves

18	Landfill entrance improvements - Phase 1	\$416,000
19	Public Works equipment (sweeper, back hoe)	\$477,000
20	Airport protection fire truck	\$250,000
21	Fraser River Footbridge rehabilitation	\$2,100,000
22	Municipal Cemetery paving	\$18,500

## Water fund projects

23	Bulk water plant	\$358,000
24	Replace water line - McNaughton Ave.	\$35,000
25	Well #5A	\$530,000
26	Replace water line between Reid and Front	\$50,000

## Sewer fund projects

27	West Quesnel force main	\$110,000
28	Replace sewer line between Reid and Front	\$60,000
29	Upgrade central sewer plant controls	\$58,000
30	Sani-station upgrades	\$20,000

## Footbridge facelift a success; more improvements planned

The restoration of the Fraser River Footbridge is complete.

Over the winter, much of the decking as well as many of the truss members and metal connectors were replaced.

The City received \$1.7 million in grants, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation. The City provided the remaining \$400,000 as its share of the cost of the work.

But the 80-year-old bridge was not in as poor shape as was initially thought and the project came in about \$900,000 under budget. As a result the City is planning to add a lighting system and entrance improvements to the bridge as part of the grant. The City still plans to make its



contribution to the project less than the \$400,000 originally budgeted.

The bridge is a critical piece of Quesnel's Riverfront Trail network.

## Phase 1 of Multi-Centre design work complete; lobbying now the sole priority

The North Cariboo Multi-Centre project reached a milestone in April, as the documents needed to begin Phase 2 of the Design-Build construction process were completed.

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and the Request for Proposals (RFP) are the documents upon which Design-Build competitors will base their bids, plans and architectural drawings.

The RFP, at more than 300 pages, lays out the exact construction specifications required to be met by the Design-Builder. The one significant change of scope made to keep the budget at \$30 million was to reduce the arena spectator seating to 1,600 fixed seats, with room for 200 "standing room" spots.

The next step for the Cariboo Regional District and the City of Quesnel is to secure the \$15 million required to meet the project budget of \$30 million. North Cariboo taxpayers approved borrowing up to \$15 million in a 2008 referendum.

The budget includes a \$27 million fixed construction fee and \$1.43 million for contingencies. (Contingencies are only

used if the scope of the project changes; the funds are not used to cover contractor's cost overruns.)

There is also \$920,000 included for project management and \$650,000 for fixtures, furnishings and equipment.

Once the funding is secured, the RFQ is issued. The best talent in the industry answers that call, with a shortlist of three or four proponents chosen. Then the RFP is issued to the shortlisted candidates, who compete for the job by preparing a complete bid package (including technical drawings, architectural renderings etc) that includes a fixed construction cost.

A Design-Build competition is based on quality and value rather than simply selecting the lowest bidder. A judging panel reviews the bids, a successful bidder is chosen and the design-construction phase begins.

The project will not proceed until \$15 million is secured towards the \$30 million project cost.

City and CRD elected officials continue to lobby their counterparts in the provincial and federal governments for funding support.

## Take the easy route

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