

Q-City News

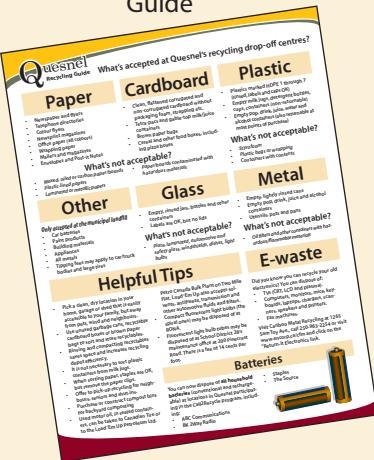
CITY HALL • 410 KINCHANT STREET • QUESNEL • BRITISH COLUMBIA • V2J 7J5

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

DECEMBER 2010

In this issue:

- A new Recycling Guide



Other News

Quesnel is the latest to be named a Solar Community by SolarBC. The City received a \$5,000 grant to be used for future solar initiatives.

The City received a \$157,750 grant from the Airports Capital Assistance Program to pay for a wet/dry chemical spreader. The machine spreads de-icing and anti-icing chemical on the runway, apron and taxiway at the Quesnel Regional Airport. The grant covered all of the equipment's cost.

Some Quesnel Transit fares will increase on January 1, 2011, the first time fares have increased since 2003. An adult will pay \$1.75 for a ride, up from \$1.50.



Photo courtesy Garry Horley

The Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department celebrated 100 years of service in 2010. One of the highlights was a gala event in September that included a parade of equipment from around the province and a gala dinner. The City thanks its dedicated fire service for all they provide to our community.

City scores five blooms

Quesnel was rewarded for another outstanding Communities in Bloom competition, receiving five blooms in the International Challenge – Small Category. The community also received special mention for the restoration of the Fraser River Footbridge.

The City received 86.5 points out of a possible 100. Warwick New York was the overall winner.

"Congratulations and thank you to our CiB Chair, **Coun. Laurey-Anne**

Roodenburg and the committee, our City staff, the sponsors and everybody across the community who helped," said **Mayor Mary Sjostrom**. "Given this was our first time entering in the international category, we scored very well.

CiB judges visited Quesnel in July, evaluating the community on its performance in: tidiness, environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape, turf & groundcovers, floral displays, and community involvement.

Budget 2011 update

There are plenty of opportunities for public input into Budget 2011.

January 17, 7 p.m.

Review of Citizen Satisfaction Survey results and official public input session

January 31, 3 p.m.

Preliminary budget session

February 14, 3 p.m.

Review five-year capital plan

March 7, 7 p.m.

Capital budget review (all meetings are at City Hall)

Public input is always welcome. You can e-mail suggestions to cityhall@city.quesnel.bc.ca, or send correspondence to 401 Kinchant St. V2J 7J5. For more budget information, visit www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/budget2011



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



2010 a busy year, 2011 full of promise

We've had another extremely busy year at the City of Quesnel.

We completed a number of high profile projects, such as the Fraser River Footbridge and the bulk water distribution plant. Both of these projects were funded to great extent through grant programs. We'll continue to take advantage of those opportunities that may arise so that we can maximize how we use your tax dollars.

It was an honour to take part in the Communities

in Bloom International competition. The Committee, staff and the community can be very proud of the five blooms we received. Thank you for all you did to make it a success.

Congratulations to my colleague, Coun. Peter Couldwell, for serving as Councillor for 20 consecutive years.

2011 promises to be another busy year. I'm looking forward to welcoming our new city manager. We're going to get underway with the full-scale de-

watering program for the West Quesnel Land Stability Program. We'll also continue to lobby senior government alongside our partners at the Cariboo Regional District on your behalf to secure funding for the North Cariboo Multi-Centre.

On behalf of Quesnel City Council, season's greetings to you and your family.

Please drive safe.

The very best for 2011.

Mayor Mary Gustrom

Water station produces revenue Utility rates to increase

The City's new bulk water distribution plant has provided more than \$45,000 in its first four months of operation (the busy summer months). While it is early in the facility's operation, the revenue figures are exceeding original projections.

The plant is designed for use by people who haul water in large volumes, greater than a standard 18-litre bottle. The plant was built for a number of reasons, including: safety and integrity of the City water system; recovering the costs of supplying water; and convenience for bulk water haulers.

The project cost about \$580,000, with the City receiving \$270,000 in grant funding.

New City website on the way

The City is redesigning its website, with a project launch set for early January 2011. The new site will provide a wide range of information on City services, with an added focus of improving foreign investment information. The site will have several key investment pages translated into French, Chinese, German, Japanese and Punjabi. The site will be found at a new domain name - www.quesnel.ca.

The City is also redesigning its Economic Development, Fire Department and Museum websites.

Residents will see an increase to water and sewer rates on their 2011 utility bills. City Council approved an increase to water fees of \$23.16 per year for residents, while sewer rates will increase by \$9.42. Water rates were last adjusted in 2004, with sewer rates last increased in 2009. The fees pay for increasing operating costs, while allowing the City to begin setting aside some funds for future water and sewer infrastructure replacement.

Partnership wins awards

The City of Quesnel received an honourable mention in the partnerships category of the UBCM Community Excellence Awards for the Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation and the Lillooet economic development office's Gold Rush Living partnership.

This partnership also received a first place runner's up award at the International Economic Development Conference in Columbus Ohio. It was recognized for its cooperative approach to marketing both communities by collaborating to reduce costs and save time. It also won the President's Choice award and the Outside the Box award at the recent Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association annual general meeting in Quesnel.

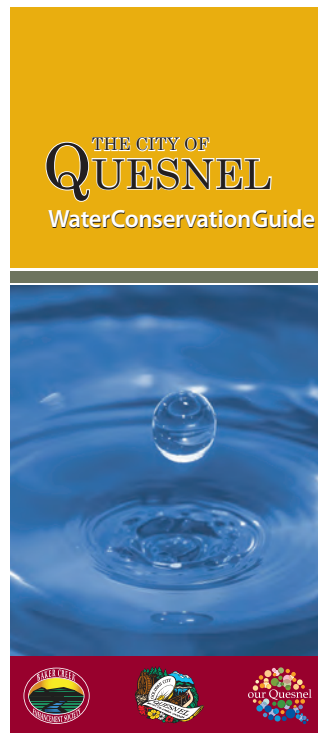


The Fraser River Footbridge rehabilitation project is complete. A three-and-a-half-month work program from January to April gave the world's longest wood truss footbridge a significant facelift. The decking as well as many of the truss members and metal connectors were replaced. In October and November, a complete makeover of the entrances to the bridge, including new flower planters was completed. A stunning automated lighting display that projects a wide range of colour schemes designed to accentuate the architectural features of the bridge was also added. The LED lights take about the same power that would be needed to run 1.5 hair dryers. The City received \$1.759 million for all of this work from Western Economic Diversification Canada under the Community Economic Diversification Initiative (CEDI), a component of the federal government's Mountain Pine Beetle Program. The Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Quesnel, played a major role in securing the grant from the federal government. The City committed the remaining \$400,000 as its share of the \$2.1 million project budget. The project is expected to come in under budget.

New water conservation guide now available

How many times per day do you do the laundry? Wash the dishes? Water your lawn? If you take the "two-Week Challenge" in the City's new water conservation guide, you'll realize just how many litres of water you could save by reducing those numbers.

The brochure also includes helpful tips you can use to conserve water around the home, while also providing some basic facts about the City's water system. The City's Environmental Advisory Committee, in partnership with the Baker Creek Enhancement Society, produced the brochure. Get your copy at City Hall or online at www.quesnel.ca



City investigating affordable housing opportunities

The City is investigating how it can encourage the development of affordable housing.

The City commissioned a Housing Needs Assessment in 2010. That assessment concluded that there is a need for a greater quantity of affordable housing in our community.

The generally accepted definition of affordable housing is that which costs 30% or less of a household's income. While for most people in Quesnel housing is affordable, one in 10 are in housing need.

The report found that the total supply of affordable housing is 208 and that the total amount needed is 1,155, leaving a deficit of 947 units.

The City also completed a secondary suites survey that showed approximately 67% of City residents support the City

modifying its bylaws to allow secondary suites in single-detached dwellings. Those in favour cited: it would lead to an improved availability of affordable housing and rental housing; help home owners with mortgages and expenses; and benefit young people and students.

Of the 33% opposed, concerns included: the possibility of undesirable tenants; illegal tenant behavior; an undesirable neighbourhood change; traffic increases; and insufficient parking.

Based on those two reports, the City hosted an affordable housing workshop in November. There were 30 participants in attendance covering diverse representation, including First Nations, developers, housing providers and interested citizens.

The workshop included a review of the housing needs assessment and secondary suites survey.

The group identified the need to develop a housing strategy that would establish housing goals, priorities, and identify the roles of partners.

The group also saw the benefits of secondary suites; however concerns were identified that should be addressed prior to moving forward with developing a secondary suites policy.

They also recognized the need to identify private or public land that may be made available for affordable housing development opportunities.

Council will review the information as it considers the next steps.



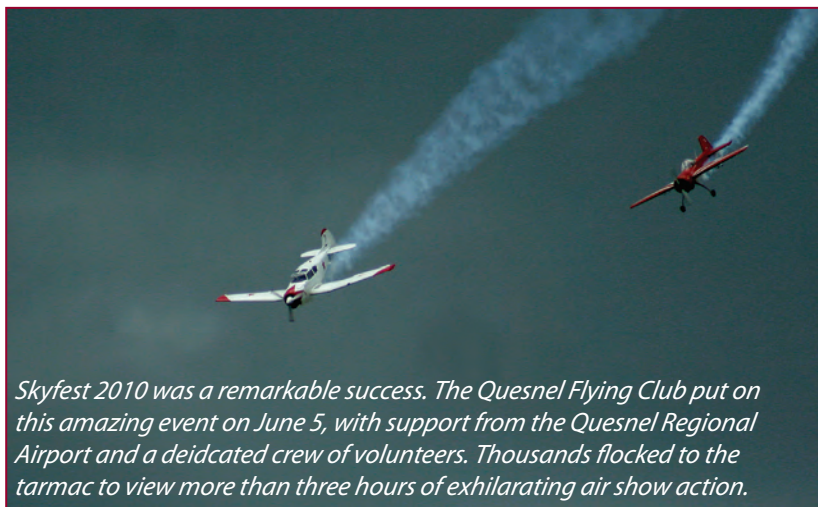
New City manager hired

Quesnel City Council has named John Stecyk as the new city manager.

Stecyk's background in public administration is extensive, and includes such roles as Deputy Minister of Infrastructure for the Yukon Government and Assistant Deputy Minister, Government Services for the Government of Saskatchewan.

Over the course of his career, Stecyk's responsibilities have spanned a wide range of managerial duties, including finance, budgeting, administration, human resources, strategic planning, and policy and staff development.

Stecyk begins work with the City on Jan. 4, 2011



Skyfest 2010 was a remarkable success. The Quesnel Flying Club put on this amazing event on June 5, with support from the Quesnel Regional Airport and a dedicated crew of volunteers. Thousands flocked to the tarmac to view more than three hours of exhilarating air show action.

Quesnel's dedicated ESS team rises to the challenge

This summer, Quesnel's Emergency Social Services team performed admirably during the forest fire season.

ESS volunteers help people who have been affected by disaster and have been forced to leave their homes. They provide referrals for food, clothing and lodging and other services to evacuees.

In addition ESS Pet Services volunteers and the Noah's Wish organization provided a shelter for evacuated animals.

During the 2010 fire season, the ESS team supported 186 evacuees, many for close to 30 consecutive days. The City thanks ESS for the valuable service they provide to our community.



Above are some of the members of Quesnel's ESS team. In the back row, from left to right, are Susan Joyce, Christine Kraavanger, Diane Rogers, Gary Stuart, Ron Potter and Karen Potter. In front are Pat Cortens, Rose Gaetz, Jean Stimpson, Julie Nygaard and Eileen Cindric. More than 30 volunteers helped out during the course of the 2010 fire season. The group is always looking for new recruits. If you are interested in helping people in their time of need, contact the ESS director, Jeff Norburn, at 250-992-2111.

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



Land stability work continues

The City continues to work on the West Quesnel Land Stability Program.



**West Quesnel
LAND STABILITY PROGRAM**

The City is required to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) before beginning work. The original EA report was submitted in February 2010. Much of the time since then has been spent by various senior government ministries reviewing and commenting on the report.

The City sent a technical team to Vancouver in October in an

attempt to move the process forward. As a result of that meeting, it was determined

that the City could receive an EA, with the funding agreement and work contract to contain provisions that relate to some of the environmental concerns.

Watch for a special edition of the **QCity News** as soon as that funding agreement and program approval is granted by senior government.