

Q-City News

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Other News

The 25th anniversary of the Man in Motion World Tour is being celebrated with a relay across Canada that began Aug. 24 and runs through May 22. Approximately 7,000 participants will cover 12,000 kilometres, travelling through more than 600 communities. One of those communities will be Quesnel. The relay will be here on **March 22, 2012**. A local organizing committee is working with the Rick Hansen Foundation to coordinate the event in Quesnel and to plan a celebration. Watch for more news in the coming months.

Air Quality Chair thanked

Long-time Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable Chair Dora McMillan has retired from that post. Her consistent and committed actions towards improving our air quality are very much appreciated. The long-term trends show our air quality is improving.

New look City Council ready for 2012

It is my honour to return as Mayor for a second term.

I am fully aware of the responsibility and trust placed in the office of Mayor; I look forward to the challenges and opportunities of meeting your expectations.

I thank the community for placing your trust in me and in my Council colleagues. This new Council will work hard to restore some of the trust that was lost during the election period and to lead this community forward into the future.

Congratulations to our new City Councillors, Ed Coleman, John Brisco and Scott Elliott. We're looking to you to bring new ideas and positive enthusiasm to the Council table.

To our returning Councillors, Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Mike Cave and Sushil Thapar, we look to you for your leadership and experience as we work together to serve our community.

To councillors Oakes, Paull, and Couldwell, thank you for your 36 combined years of knowledge – you will be missed.

To those who were not successful, I encourage you to stay in touch and involved with this community as there are many

ways to contribute and volunteer.

As a new Council, we will address many of the outstanding issues as well as work collectively on the many new challenges and opportunities we have before us.

We want to continue to build and enhance old and new partnerships with First Nations, all levels of government, stakeholders, investors and community partners. It is important for the City of Quesnel to be open for business and to encourage investment opportunities across the region.

As we plan beyond the three-year window for which we were elected, we'll strengthen the

long-term sustainability of the corporation and our City.

On behalf of Council, all the very best to you this holiday season.

Mayor Mary Sjostrom



Quesnel voters elected a new City Council on Nov. 19. In the back row from left to right are Councillors Ed Coleman, Scott Elliott, John Brisco and Mike Cave. In the front row, from left to right, are Coun. Laurey Anne Roodenburg, Mayor Mary Sjostrom and Coun. Sushil Thapar. Of the 7,314 voters who were eligible to cast a ballot, 2,858 did so for a voter participation rate of 39.01%. Voter turnout was 47.42% in 2008 and 43.89% in 2005.

Looking for the latest information regarding West Quesnel Land Stability?

Watch for a special edition of the Q-City News in early January.





Skills Park a test for all riders

The new Adventure Skills Bike Park next to the Quesnel and District Arts & Recreation Centre was officially opened in August. The park has features to challenge young and novice riders as well as experienced and highly skilled riders, including a freestyle section, pump track, and kid's area.

The City and Cariboo Regional District made the land available, while also providing all the dirt that was required for the park's jumps and course development. The Gold Rush Cycling Club secured all necessary funding, arranged for and provided considerable in-kind labour, and successfully pursued a number of grants and donations. Several

significant donations have been made to the park's development, including \$10,000 from Sunrise 2000 Rotary Club, \$5,000 from the Rotary Club of Quesnel and \$15,000 from Community Futures. Contributions in kind were received from Blackwater Environmental Solutions, Quesnel Septic Service, and the Hewitt and Sales families. The park was designed and constructed by Duncan MacKenzie, of D Mack Trails from Whistler, BC.

The park is open daily from dawn to dusk; bike helmets are mandatory and it is highly recommended that other protective equipment, such as knee and elbow pads, be used.

News and Notes

City wins award at UBCM

The City's new interactive web mapping site - Q-City Map - and the online web mapping tutorials won the 2011 Community Excellence Best Practices Award handed out by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. Geographic Information System technician Rhonda McCabe updated the City's web mapping services for the community and the corporation to provide easy access to the City's GIS. You can check out Q-City Map at www.quesnel.ca/Mapping-Splash.html

City named friendliest for small business

Thanks in part to the efforts of the Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation, the City of Quesnel received the Most Business Friendly Community award for the entire region from the Small Business Roundtable. The QCEDC played an instrumental role in submitting the application and works directly with the business community. The award recognized efforts to promote small business growth within British Columbia.

Economic Development nets award

The Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation (QCEDC) took top spot at the 2011 Marketing Canada Awards for its blog, <http://quesnelinfo.blogspot.com> in the Digital Media-Interactive Media category.

The blog is a mix of economic development opportunities, local and national news, items of interest, and community initiatives.

The honour came during the Economic Developers Association of Canada's 43rd National Conference. The Association recognizes that marketing a community is an integral part of the economic development profession, and provides the competition as an opportunity to exchange and review promotional literature, media, and other materials produced by municipalities across the country.

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, community development and citizen retention, while managing significant grant-writing projects.

Visit them online at www.quesnelinfo.com

Recycling Guide available online

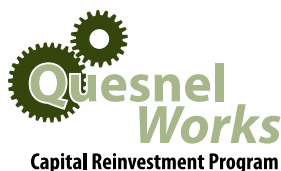
When you're finished reading this newsletter, recycle it! This newsletter, as well as glass, metal, plastics, paper and all sorts of other materials, can be recycled. Even regular batteries are now accepted at the landfill. To learn more, visit www.quesnel.ca/Recycling.html

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

Downtown core gets major facelift from Quesnel Works



The revitalization of St. Laurent Ave. was one of the biggest capital projects the City has undertaken in a long time. Over eight weeks in August and September, the area between Reid and Kinchant Streets underwent a massive transformation, including: a



new storm drainage system; new curb, gutter, paving stone and sidewalks; landscaping and paving; and new light posts and decorative seasonal lighting added. The \$1 million project was funded through the Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment Program.

Left, the paving crew adds the final touches to the revitalization. Centre, the new curb flares feature accessibility improvements, including ridged concrete and raised curbs to assist those living with vision loss. At right, crews installed a new storm water drainage system designed to greatly improve capacity during heavy rainfall or snow melt events.

**I HAVE THE HEART.
I NEED A HOME.**



Watch for community fundraising initiatives in 2012

NORTH CARIBOO

multi-centre

WWW.OURMULTICENTRE.CA



Above, the Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department responds as part of a training exercise in September. Left, emergency personnel keep watch with a couple of drama students who acted as victims in the emergency.

Emergency exercise a success

The City of Quesnel hosted an emergency training exercise, in partnership with a large number of stakeholders, in September.

The Quesnel Regional Airport must conduct a full-scale emergency exercise once every five years to test the emergency response plan. The scenario involved a downed aircraft at the top of Dragon Lake Hill. The City activated its Emergency Operations Centre and Emergency Social Services functions not only to test the emergency plan, but to provide a valuable training opportunity for emergency personnel, staff and volunteers.

A large number of partners came together to make the exercise a success. A special thanks to the drama students from Quesnel Junior and Correlieu Senior Schools for adding some "reality" to the scenario.

Community wins big with walking trail challenge

For six weeks in August and September, Quesnel residents flooded the Healthy Families BC Walking Challenge website with hundreds of stories about the great trails in our community. The result? A \$10,000 prize that will go towards improving signage along the Riverfront Trail. Quesnel finished in top spot in its population category (5,000 to 10,000) - a big thank you goes to those who posted their stories, photos and maps online, and to City Planner Tanya Turner who helped lead the initiative.



Winter Carnival returns in February

Planning for the fourth annual Winter Carnival is underway.

The event runs Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. at the West Fraser Timber Park. It includes skating on the pond, winter sports, tobogganing, dog

sleds, a variety of educational booths and craft activities.

To wrap up the fun-filled day the Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department will set off a great fireworks display.

Take the easy route

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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.

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Quesnel Regional Airport

YQZ

A number of donations supporting the purchase of accessible equipment over the past year have really helped make life better for those living with mobility issues. This new raised stretching platform at the Arts and Recreation Centre is one example of the type of investment being made.



Community donations improving accessibility

Over the past year, the efforts of some community-minded residents have resulted in donations that have improved accessibility.

The Rotary Club of Quesnel made three large funding contributions in 2011 to the City and to Leisure Services. The first was \$8,900 to cover the entire cost of an Evolv Easystand Glider. Active wheelchair users, sports enthusiasts or those in recovery can benefit from whole body workouts. The fully adjustable unit is easily transferred to, and has a hydraulic mechanism that raises the user into position. The user then employs the pull/push handles, altering the resistance as fitness increases.

The second donation was to the tune of \$22,000 for the installation of five, outdoor ENERGI exercise stations in West Fraser Timber Park.

And just recently, the club provided \$1,100 for the purchase and installation of a new five foot by seven foot cushioned, elevated stretching mat.

The Quesnel and District Arts and Recreation Centre features a number of pieces of wheelchair accessible equipment. Many other improvements such as improved door controls, accessible pool access equipment, and better curb cuts have also enhanced the centre.

Lynn Turner, a local resident in a wheelchair who has championed several of these accessibility improvements at the Arts and Recreation Centre, has been instrumental in researching and putting these ideas forward.

This continued commitment to accessibility helps make Quesnel a more livable environment for all who call it home.