

Q-City News



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Emergency exercise

The City will conduct a live emergency exercise on Friday September 23. Emergency staff will carry out a real-life exercise involving emergency vehicles, personnel and equipment at the airport and in South Quesnel. The City will advise the public again closer to the date to ensure residents are not alarmed. The project is a requirement of Transport Canada. The City must conduct an exercise of this nature once every five years as part of its Quesnel Regional Airport operation.

New websites

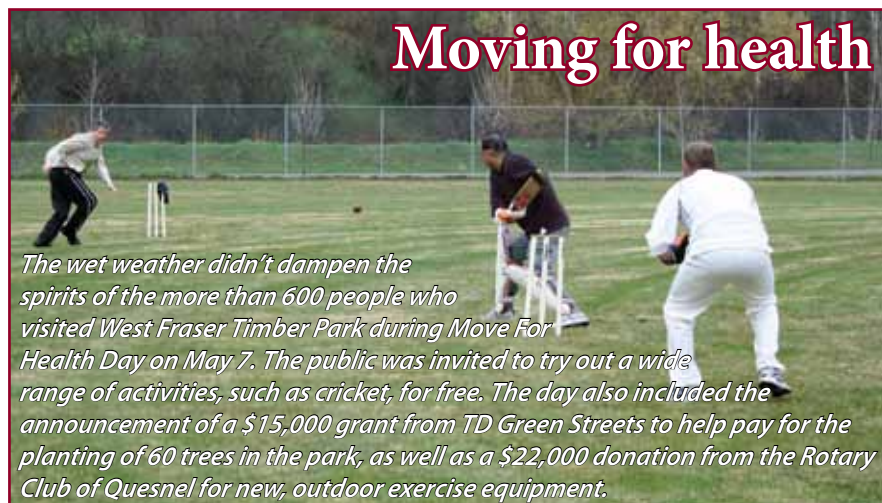
The City has launched two new websites - www.quesnel.ca and www.quesnelmuseum.ca. Check them out to learn more about City and Museum services and programs. Also, check out www.quesnelinfo.com for the latest economic development information.

2011 Budget approved

The City continues to deliver top-quality service and infrastructure investment following the approval of Budget 2011.

City Council was faced with continuing economic challenges, including the need to reduce spending due to lost industrial tax revenues. Despite the challenges, the City will:

- Invest more than \$1.6 million in roads and sidewalks.
- Invest more than \$595,000 in



Moving for health

The wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of the more than 600 people who visited West Fraser Timber Park during Move For Health Day on May 7. The public was invited to try out a wide range of activities, such as cricket, for free. The day also included the announcement of a \$15,000 grant from TD Green Streets to help pay for the planting of 60 trees in the park, as well as a \$22,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Quesnel for new, outdoor exercise equipment.

- water and sewer system projects.
- Make investments in policing and fire protection.
- Support community events such as Canada Day and Family Day.
- Make improvements

- to parks and public spaces.
- Purchase new machinery and equipment.

The average residential tax increase for 2011 is 4.1%. That equals about \$25 to the municipal portion for the average house (assessed at

\$164,260) whose assessment increased by the average of 4.3%.

The City increased, on average, frontage taxes by \$3.39, water fees by \$23.16 and sewer rates by \$9.38.

For capital budget projects, see the map on page 3.

New funding announced for Multi-Centre

The Northern Development Initiative Trust announced May 2 that the Cariboo Regional District has been approved for a \$2 million grant and a \$2 million loan to go towards construction of the North Cariboo Multi-Centre. The funds are approved in principle, conditional on the CRD and City of Quesnel securing the balance of funding needed from other sources, such as senior levels of government.

The \$2 million grant could be used to reduce the amount local

taxpayers will have to provide to pay for construction. The \$2 million loan would count as part of the \$15 million local voters approved borrowing in the November 2008 referendum.

The North Cariboo Multi-Centre will be a modern facility designed to replace aging infrastructure. It features a 1,600-seat NHL-sized arena, a 450-seat performing

arts theatre and accompanying event and assembly space.

For more information, visit www.quesnel.ca/multi-centre.html

Family Day
Saturday, June 11
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
LeBourdais Park



City moving forward in 2011

We've had an amazing start to 2011. There are so many highlights to talk about.

The City recently won an award presented by the North Central Local Government Association for all the work we're doing around community accessibility.

We've seen a number of improvements and donations thanks to various service clubs and corporate sponsorships, including: 60 new trees planted at the West Fraser Timber Park thanks to the TD Green Streets program; new

equipment at that park and the Arts and Recreation Centre donated by the Rotary Club of Quesnel; and thank you for your outstanding community response to the Shiraoi-Sendai Relief fund, which will conclude in September.

On the operations front, the Budget 2011 process was successful, with significant investment planned for infrastructure. The bulk water station continues to provide a safe, secure source of water for our bulk water users. And we've secured some funding that moves us closer to making the Multi-Centre a reality.

On behalf of Council, congratulations to our former director of public works, Jack Marsh, on his retirement.

And to Councillor Peter Couldwell, who was named a 2011 BC Community Achievement Award winner, we thank him for all the hard work and dedication he provides for our community.

Enjoy your summer, be safe, and be sure to spend time with your family and friends.

Mayor Mary Groom



**Celebrating
our volunteers**

Dianne Greenwood, who has spent more than two decades ensuring Quesnel's Good Cheer campaign is a success, was named the 2010 Volunteer Citizen of the Year. Greenwood has spent more than 24 years helping less fortunate people and families enjoy the Christmas season. Liz Miller, Sheri Coles and Wes Sissons were the other nominees. In addition, Janice Butler, Cathy Heinzelman and Bev Pontius were awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for all the work they've done to build and support a vibrant arts and theatre culture in the community.

Economic Development projects wrapped up

After three years of extensive grant writing, project administration and capital expenditures, the City of Quesnel and Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation completed a series of 11 projects that infused more than \$2.8 million in grant funding and over 100 temporary jobs into the local economy.

Some of the projects include: the Fraser River Footbridge Revitalization (\$1.51 million in grants, matched by \$400,000 from the City); The Bulk Water Distribution Plant (\$270,000

in grants, matched by \$311,652 from the City and generated more than \$60,000 in revenue in 2010); and the 2010 Olympic Torch relay (\$80,500 in grants).

The QCEDC is a wholly-owned, arms-length corporation of the City of Quesnel. Over the past eight years it has retained earnings of \$30,546.47.

In some years, such as 2010, the corporation ran a deficit (\$7,614), while in others it ran surpluses (2009, \$12,681 and 2008, \$1,592.48).

Survey points to maintaining quality services

The City conducted a Citizen Satisfaction Survey in early 2011, polling 400 randomly selected City residents by telephone. It provided valuable information to the City

Some of the things the City learned from the telephone survey respondents include:

- 81% rated their quality of life as excellent.
- 60% said they receive good value for the taxes they pay, with 72% saying the City is doing a good job.
- 78% were either somewhat or very satisfied with the services and programs we provide.
- When we asked what people's top concern was, not surprisingly a poor economy was referred to 30% of the time.
- Regarding service levels, 70% of people asked us to maintain or increase service levels by increasing taxes or user fees. About 18% said we should reduce services to maintain current tax rates.
- 54% said the City listens to the public and encourages involvement, with 32% neutral and 14% disagreeing.
- Regarding City employees, of those who had contact with an employee (30% of respondents) 96% said the employee was friendly, 90% said the employee had excellent knowledge, with 83% saying staff went the extra mile to help.

The survey is considered accurate to within +/- 4.9%, 19 times out of 20.

The City thanks those who took the time to complete the survey.

Complete results are available at www.quesnel.ca/Reports2011.html

Budget 2011 major projects

The City has another extensive capital project list as part of Budget 2011. From safety upgrades at the RCMP detachment or fire department, to a long list of paving and street improvements, the City is investing in all parts of the community.

The big project for 2011 is Phase 1 of the West Quesnel Land Stability dewatering program.

Also of note is the St. Laurent Avenue revitalization. The project was

originally scheduled to proceed in 2010 but was delayed until this year. The \$890,000 project budget will see a complete replacement of the street, sidewalk, curb and gutters, as well as the installation of new storm drainage.

Other projects this year include playground and water park improvements, water line replacements and a new drinking water well.

Capital projects from general taxation

1	West Fraser Timber Park Trees	\$7,510
2	Upgrade RCMP cells	\$50,000
3	Advance left turn at Anderson/Abbott	\$30,000
4	Water Park upgrades	\$40,000
5	West Fraser Timber Park - playground border	\$18,000
6	Fire Department - Hall #3 generator	\$15,000
7	Juniper Road sidewalk	\$92,000
9	Hudson's Bay building foundation repair	\$45,000
10	Paving - McLean Street parking lot	\$51,000
18	Cemetery irrigation	\$15,000

Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment Program projects

8	Paving - Quesnel Hydraulic, Sanderson to Tatchell	\$239,500
12	St. Laurent revitalization	\$890,000
13	Paving - Johnston Ave, from Lawlor to Lambert	\$350,000
14	Paving - Gardner Street, from Johnston to Graham	
15	Paving - North Fraser Drive, from Elliott to Early	
16	Paving - Baker Drive, from Sugar Loaf Park to Tingley	
17	Paving Valhalla Road - south of Jason Place	

Projects funded by grants and/or reserves

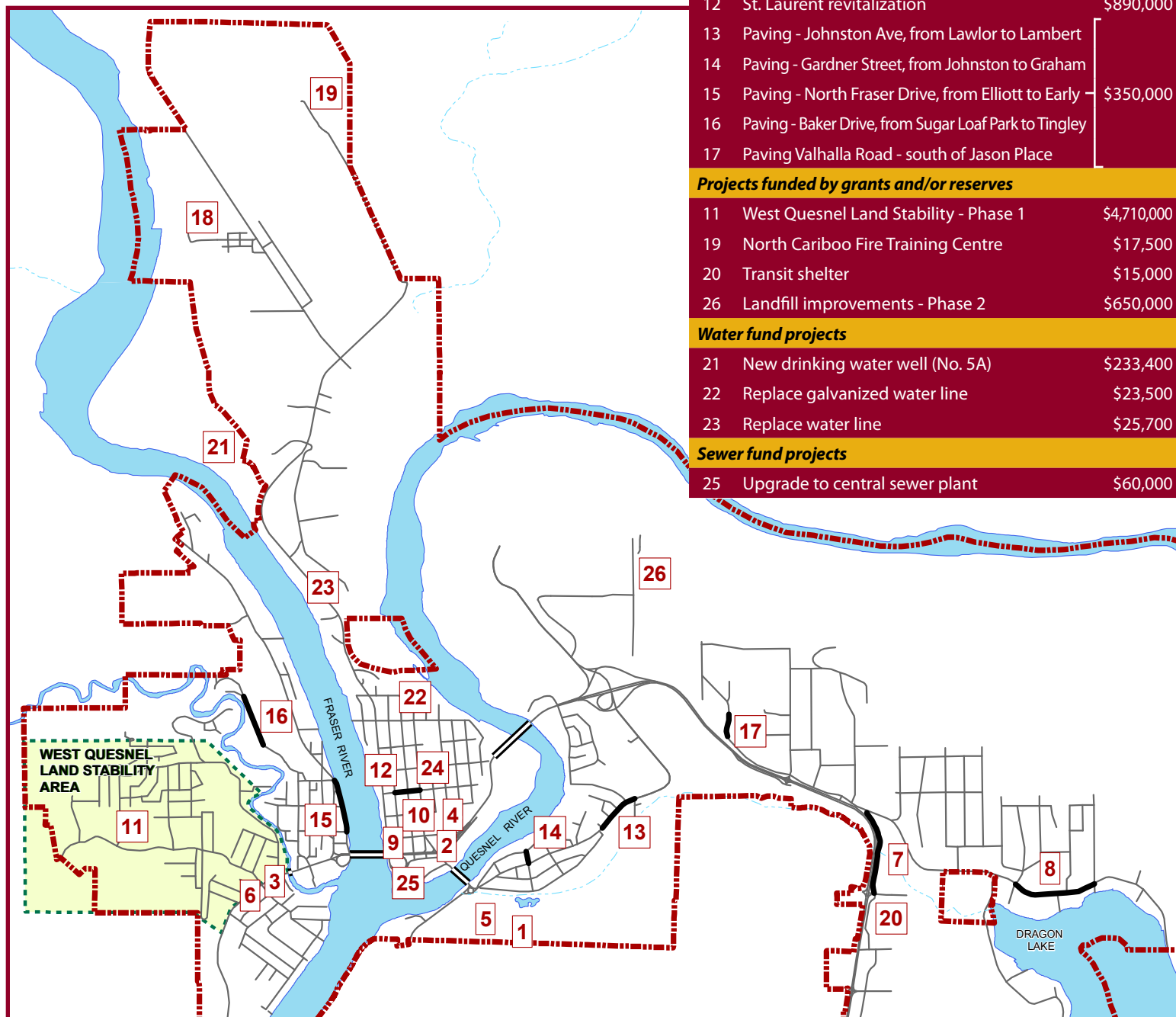
11	West Quesnel Land Stability - Phase 1	\$4,710,000
19	North Cariboo Fire Training Centre	\$17,500
20	Transit shelter	\$15,000
26	Landfill improvements - Phase 2	\$650,000

Water fund projects

21	New drinking water well (No. 5A)	\$233,400
22	Replace galvanized water line	\$23,500
23	Replace water line	\$25,700

Sewer fund projects

25	Upgrade to central sewer plant	\$60,000
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General local government elections are held every three years in B.C. The next election is on Saturday Nov. 19, 2011. Voters will elect a Mayor and six Councillors to Quesnel City Council.

Election 2011



Elections and by-elections are conducted according to the rules and regulations set out in the Local Government Act. Chief election officers appointed by each local government manage the process.

Residents should register with Elections BC in order to be included on the City's voters list for the upcoming election. Contact City Hall or visit www.quesnel.ca/Election2011.html for more information.

Other News

- The saunas and steam room at the Quesnel and District Arts & Recreation Centre have been demolished and are being rebuilt. The \$250,000 project is underway and expected to be complete by mid-July. The project received \$30,000 in grants from the Northern Development Initiative Trust.
- The Alex Fraser Park Drainage Project is complete. A new drainage system was installed at the base of the stadium and in the riding arena to drain water into a retention pond.
- Changes to transit are coming. The City has added 250 hours of handyDART service beginning in June, with a \$1 fee increase per fare. In addition, Quesnel Transit will pass through the Westland, Dennis and Gassoff Road areas starting in September. The changes add \$14,600 to the transit budget for a full year.



When in full gear, City snow removal efforts can cost as much as \$28,000 per day.

2011 a busy snow-plowing year so far

The City's snow removal budget took a big hit in the early part of 2011. The snow started falling in earnest on Jan. 4, with the City plowing snow for 17 out of the next 18 days.

For each day the City has to plow snow, between \$20,000 and \$28,000 is spent, depending on the types and numbers of equipment needed. It is not uncommon for the City to use three sander/plow trucks, three graders, two loaders,

10 dump trucks, six backhoes and two bobcats at one time. Some of it is City equipment, with approximately 50% of it contracted locally at the height of operations. There are also as many as six staff people hand shoveling and snowblowing steps and other areas.

For more information, visit www.quesnel.ca/SnowClearing.html and download the snow clearing guide.

Replace that aging wood stove

Do you have an old, smoke-belching wood stove that is ready for retirement?

Cariboo residents can get a number of rebates and incentives to upgrade their old wood stoves as part of the Cariboo Wood Stove Exchange Program, which runs until Sept. 1, 2011. The

program also applies to residents installing high-efficiency gas stoves, fireplaces and fireplace inserts. The City of Quesnel has waived the permit fee for installation within city limits.

For more about the Wood Stove Exchange Program, call 1-877-992-5833.

Fundraising efforts going well

The City of Quesnel is spearheading a community fundraising initiative to provide assistance to Shiraoi, Japan's sister city Sendai, which was devastated by the March 11 earthquake and resulting tsunami. To date, more than \$14,000 has been raised. Donations are being accepted at the Integris Credit Union for the Shiraoi-Sendai Relief Fund or at donation boxes located throughout the community. Funds will be forwarded to the Shiraoi local government to help them provide much-needed assistance to the residents of Sendai.

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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