

Q-City News



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

Telephone: 250-992-2111 • Fax: 250-992-1512 • www.quesnel.ca

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In this edition

- The new look landfill 2&3
- Hours of operation 2
- Fees 3
- Project funding 4
- Recycling options 4
- Landfills and sustainability...5

A little about your landfill

- The Cariboo Regional District is responsible for solid waste management.
- The City of Quesnel owns and operates the Quesnel landfill.
- The City and CRD have a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the landfill; decisions are made in consultation with one another.
- A combination of property taxes and tipping fees pays for landfilling operations.
- For residents who have their garbage picked up by the City, that utility fee only covers the cost of collection - it does not cover landfilling costs.
- Residential waste accounts for about 50% of volume. Commercial and industrial waste makes up the difference.



Crews install one of the new scale decks at the Quesnel Regional Landfill. The new system is designed to divert waste from the landfill, reducing future costs and the negative environmental impacts.

New landfill entrance designed to divert waste

Weigh scales open Nov. 28, controlled access and new fees begin Jan. 9

The Quesnel landfill is entering a new era of greater environmental responsibility, improved cost control, and long-term sustainability.

A new entrance and weigh scales will open in "test mode" on November 28. The scales will be in use from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week (closed Christmas and New Year's Day).

The recycling and garbage drop-off will remain open 24 hours per day until January 8. On January 9 and moving forward, the new operating hours and a new fee structure will take effect.

This is being done because:

- It is environmentally responsible. Residents

already recycle a great deal of material. It is expected that will continue, as recycling and yard waste disposal will remain free of charge.

- It extends the landfill's life, saving taxpayers money. Today, the expected landfill closure date is 2030. Extending that date reduces how much the City has to put aside for final closure each year, while also providing more time to plan and save for a new landfill.
- The ourQuesnel sustainability planning process showed there is a desire in the community for projects that consider a wide range of

sustainability pillars, such as finances and the environment.

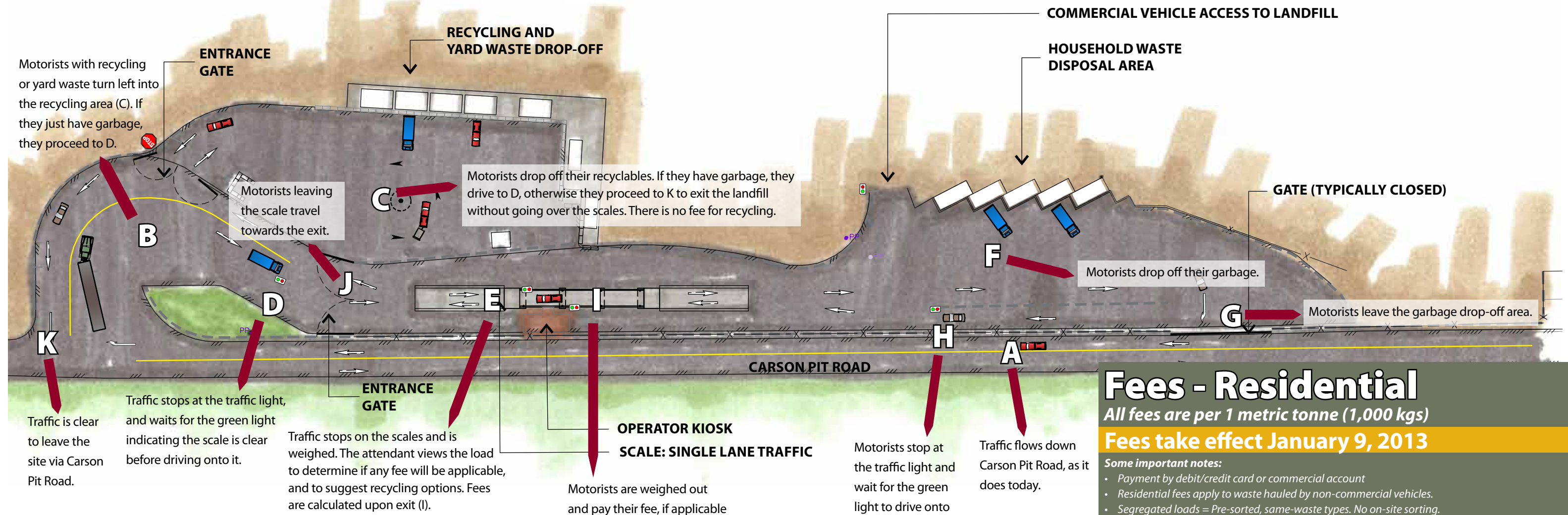
- It provides greater control over what is disposed of in the landfill. Hazardous goods, chemicals and electronics can be diverted to appropriate disposal sites.

The new system is designed to reward those who recycle and separate their waste. Residents who have less than 350 kilograms of household garbage, and who separate their recycling, will pay no fees. But an individual who wants to throw a mix of garbage, recycling, yard waste and other waste types in one bin will pay by weight.

By disposing of our waste responsibly, we can help save taxpayer dollars, while reducing our impact on the environment.



The new way to drop off your waste - follow from A to K for the new traffic flow



Fees - Residential

All fees are per 1 metric tonne (1,000 kgs)

Fees take effect January 9, 2013

- Some important notes:**
- Payment by debit/credit card or commercial account
 - Residential fees apply to waste hauled by non-commercial vehicles.
 - Segregated loads = Pre-sorted, same-waste types. No on-site sorting.
 - Non-segregated loads = Mixed waste and recyclables.
 - Loads over 350 kilograms are charged for the entire weight of the load.

Waste Type	Secured, Segregated Loads	Non-Segregated Loads
Household and yard waste	350 kilograms or less:	\$0
	Over 350 kilograms:	\$25
Wood waste <i>Clean wood waste can go to the recycle bin for free</i>	350 kilograms or less:	\$0
	Over 350 kilograms:	\$25
Demolition, Land-Clearing, Construction	350 kilograms or less:	\$0
	Over 350 kilograms:	\$50
Animal carcass <i>No beef products permitted</i>	First carcass:	No Charge
	More than 1 carcass:	\$25
Concrete and rock	350 kilograms or less:	\$0
	Over 350 kilograms:	\$10
Clean soil and earth	No charge	\$50
Scrap metal/Appliances	Accepted in Recycling Bins	\$50
Tires	Up to 20 inches	\$5/tire
	20 to 24.5 inches	\$10/tire
	> 24.5 inches	\$50/tire
Wrecked Vehicles	\$15 per vehicle	N/A
Need to weigh your vehicle?		\$20 per weigh

Scales open November 28

Hours of Operation 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Seven Days per week

The landfill will run in "test mode" until January 8. The scales will be open, allowing staff and residents to get used to the new system. The garbage and recycling drop-off will remain open 24 hours per day until January 8. After that the landfill, recycling area and garbage drop-off will only open during the hours noted above.

Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

- ### Some tips to consider
- Separate and sort your load - recyclables and yard waste get dropped off first.
 - Be cautious and patient when using the new facility.
 - Don't leave your vehicle while on the scales - use the intercom.
 - Keep children in your vehicle at all times.
 - Don't forget about the City's three satellite recycling stations - they are at the Maple Park Shopping Centre, West Park Mall and the sani-dump loop downtown.



Funding the changes

The capital costs of the changes at the landfill were covered largely by Canada's Gas Tax Fund.

The new recycling and yard waste area was funded through a \$165,000 grant received in 2007.

The scales, scale house, lighting, water and sewer infrastructure work, paving, lighting, fencing and traffic control, valued at about \$650,000, are also being paid for by Gas Tax funding.

This fund provides stable, long-term funding to local governments to help build and revitalize public infrastructure. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) administers the Gas Tax Fund in BC, in collaboration with the federal and provincial governments.

Landfills and sustainability

During the our Quesnel: Sustainability in Action planning process, **Energy, Water, Resources and Waste** was one area identified for the community to work towards becoming more sustainable.

Efficient waste disposal, waste reclamation and making our way towards a "zero-waste goal" were all targeted as desired outcomes of long-term sustainability planning and actions.

Waste diversion (recycling and composting more) means we put less material in our landfill. Diverting hazardous materials, such as oil, paint and other chemicals, makes our landfill have less of an impact on the natural environment. By controlling the access to the landfill, it is hoped that more of these materials can be sent to the appropriate site for disposal.

There's more to sustainability than the environment; financial sustainability is important as well. Parts of the landfill's current fee structure hadn't been adjusted in 20 years. That is not a sustainable model. In addition, charging fees to those who use the landfill to great extent is fair to the taxpaying public.

In addition, by extending the life of the landfill, the long-term financial implications of running a landfill are reduced as well.

Projects that meet multiple sustainability goals, like the landfill improvements, help improve our community.



Recycling options plentiful

If you're looking for a place to recycle in Quesnel, you don't have to rely solely on the facilities at the landfill.

For example, Quesnel has three recycling "satellite" stations, where residents can take their sorted recyclables to. They are in West Quesnel, at the West Park Mall, in the sani-dump loop in downtown Quesnel, and in South Quesnel at the Maple Park Shopping Centre parking lot.

These sites take the more common recyclables, including:

- Paper - newspapers, office paper, wrapping paper etc.
- Cardboard - Boxes, cereal and food cartons, pizza boxes.
- Plastic - Items marked HDPE 1 through 7 (like empty milk jugs or detergent containers)
- Metal - cans, scraps
- Glass - empty bottles, jars (no lids please!)

Some other recyclables accepted at the landfill include car batteries, paint, and appliances.

Used motor oil, in sealed containers, can be taken to Canadian Tire or to the

Load 'Em Up Petroleum Ltd. Petro Canada Bulk Plant on Two Mile Flat. Load 'Em Up also accepts solvents, antifreeze, transmission and other automotive fluids and filters.

Compact fluorescent bulbs (the spiral ones) may be recycled at RONA, while fluorescent light tubes may be disposed of at School District 28's maintenance office at 200 Pinecrest Road (14 cents per bulb).

You can also recycle your old electronics at Cariboo Metal Recycling at 1265 Sam Toy Ave. They accept items such as:

- TVs (CRT, LCD and plasma).
- Computers, monitors, mice, keyboards, laptops, chargers, scanners, speakers and printers.
- Fax machines.

You can also dispose of all household batteries (conventional and rechargeable) at the landfill or at locations participating in the Call2Recycle program (ABC Communications, BK2Way Radio, Staples, The Source).

So before you head to the landfill, think about what you can recycle before throwing it in the garbage.