



Lynn Turner is raising the community's awareness of the need to leave accessible parking stalls open for those who need them.

Accessible parking stalls reserved for a reason

Imagine being in a wheelchair and not being able to park in the spot designated for you. A couple of community members are raising awareness of the issue.

Quite often, according to local accessibility champions Lynn Turner and Alison Duddy, accessible spots are used by people who don't have a placard and don't need the extra space those spots provide.

There are a number of typical examples of abuse, including:

- Parking in an accessible stall with no permit.

- Improperly displaying a parking permit.
- Using an expired permit, or a permit that belongs to someone else.

The pair came to City Council with their concerns in September and, as a result, October was proclaimed Accessible Parking Awareness Month. The City made some improvements this year; new signs have been added, and the stalls were painted differently to provide more room.

So before you use that spot "just for a minute" consider the impact your decision could have.

News and Notes

- Over the past several years, the City has worked with the Lhtako Dene First Nation on a plan for the City to provide potable water to the reserve lands. After receiving a formal request from the Nation, City Council has approved of providing water to Band lands in principle. The parties must commit to a number of principles before the project is formally approved.
- The Miss Quesnel Self Development Society needs a volunteer team to work with the program's participants. The departing committee members will work through a transition period with anyone interested in taking on this rewarding position. The City provides an annual budget to fund the program. The young ladies are community ambassadors, volunteer throughout the year and develop leadership potential. Those interested should e-mail miss.quesnel@gmail.com for more information.

Speaking of our Quesnel . . .

The ourQuesnel: Sustainability in Action process has gone through an exciting year.

Quesnel is developing a comprehensive, community-wide, long-term sustainability vision, plan, and process. It is meant to include as many community members and organizations as are willing to participate. In early 2012, the ourQuesnel team identified 10

strategy areas to be the focus of future planning. They are:

1. Economy, work, education and skills training.
2. Transportation and mobility.
3. Energy, water, resources and waste.
4. Food.
5. Social and community well-being.
6. Ecosystems, natural areas and parks.
7. Communications and connectivity infrastructure.
8. Buildings and sites.
9. Arts, culture, recreation and leisure.
10. Housing and land use.

These strategy areas and sustainability planning are starting to generate actions. For example, a recent affordable housing workshop brought community groups together to talk about needs and issues. And sustainability sectors are coming up more often in the City's planning and operational processes.

For more about ourQuesnel, visit www.ourquesnel.com or [facebook.com/ourquesnel](https://www.facebook.com/ourquesnel)

Q-City News

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Transit news

The transit fleet will be upgraded in 2013. Five aging buses will be replaced by two new Vicinity and three new ARBOC buses. The new fleet of buses will be low-floor, easy-entry buses, improving accessibility.

Winter Carnival

This year's Winter Carnival takes place at the West Fraser Timber Park on Saturday February 2. There will be plenty of winter activities and fun for all ages.

Visit the Museum

Did you know the Quesnel Museum officially opened in 1963? Staff and the Museum and Heritage Commission are busy planning the 50th anniversary next year. In the meantime, don't forget the Gift Shop if you need some last minute Christmas presents. They have an excellent selection of books, Quesnel clothing, toys and gifts.

Land Stability drilling complete



The first phase of the West Quesnel Land Stability Dewatering Program has been installed. Crews were active throughout 2012 drilling vertical pumping wells (above) and drains, and installing storm water upgrades. At right is a photo of a few of the more than 70 horizontal drains shortly after they were drilled. The water is collected and taken out of the Land Stability study area.



Dewatering efforts to be closely monitored for next 18 months

With the \$4.7 million dewatering program now complete, the West Quesnel Land Stability Program is entering a new phase.

A huge amount of work was done in 2012. Fourteen vertical wells were drilled, a new storm water drainage system was added on Stork Avenue and Hawk Street, and nine horizontal drain sites, consisting of more than 70 drains, were completed.

All this work is designed to remove groundwater from the WQLS study area.

The system is now "turned on" and dewatering has begun. The City will monitor the dewatering results until June 2014.

At that time, the program will be evaluated and the next appropriate steps determined.

A public information campaign

with more details about the work completed in 2012 will take place this spring.

The City thanks all the residents who were affected by drilling - your co-operation throughout the process was incredible and made the job much easier.

For more information about the WQLS Program, visit www.quesnel.ca/WQLS

Buy your seat today!

2,000 seat goal

Sold

www.ourmulticentre.com

Call 250-992-3522



Mayor confident in our community

This year has brought many challenges to Council and some frustration to our community, but it also has been a year of rewards and opportunities. I am extremely proud of Council for their leadership and support as we work through each situation with a positive outlook and a team approach.

As your Mayor, I committed to open and transparent government with increased communication to our residents. We have delivered on that promise to continue to build trust as your Elected Officials.

There have been so many success stories for us this year: The ourQuesnel Sustainability in Action Program; raising more than \$7 million for the North Cariboo Multi Centre;

the \$4.7 million West Quesnel Land Stability De-Watering Program; the affordable housing strategy development; infrastructure reinvestment; and the new landfill entrance and weigh scales, to name a few.

But this community is about more than what we're doing at the City.

I offer a big thank you and encouragement to the many businesses in our City who have seen many renovations, relocations, investments and new owners. Consumer confidence is up and business is positive.

Mining is also extremely active in the region and making major investments in Quesnel.

And the people of Quesnel always amaze me, giving of themselves at every opportunity to make our community a better place.

As Council, we look forward to 2013 as we work on our goals and priorities for the future.

I want to thank my Council colleagues and staff for their support as I fulfill my duty as President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. It will be a busy year here in Quesnel, but my commitment to our City and its residents will not waver!

The very best for 2013 to each and every one of you and your families.

Mary Gorkom



Talking about timber supply

The City made a presentation to the provincial government's Special Committee on Timber Supply. As the City of Quesnel is dependent on the forest industry for employment and tax base, significant changes to the forest industry have a significant effect on the community. Some 62% of municipal taxation comes from the major forest industry, which is the economic backbone of Quesnel through direct employment, suppliers and associated spin-off employment. The City's presentation included discussions around community and forest sustainability, updated timber inventories, silviculture investment, and ongoing community engagement.

Understanding how your local government works

There has been a lot of community discussion regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and in camera (closed to the public) meetings.

The purpose of FIPPA is to make public bodies more accessible, while protecting personal privacy. Public bodies must not disclose personal information: related to medical information; related to employment, occupational or educational history; describing a

third party's finances; containing personal recommendations or evaluations; containing a third party's name, address or telephone number. One exception to this is payments or benefits provided to employees, which can be disclosed.

Given the significant increase in these types of requests, as well as general information requests, a line has been added to the 2013 budget to account for the associated costs, including staff time, legal costs, and audit costs.

In camera (closed) meetings

It is a common misconception that closed meetings are held only to discuss "the three L's," land, legal and labour issues.

But there are instances when other items may be discussed, such as confidential law enforcement issues, new municipal services, and setting goals and objectives for the City.

Council does not decide whether a meeting should be closed or open; it is staff's responsibility to determine

whether a meeting should be closed under Section 90 of the Community Charter.

The Charter recognizes that for corporate and commercial purposes, municipalities should be able to operate in a fashion similar to other corporations.

Without this ability, the City could overpay for purchased goods and services, not be able to attract employees, and be at a disadvantage in litigation. These would add to the City's costs and have an impact on taxes.

Multi-Centre fundraising a community initiative

Corporate and community donors stepping up

Funding commitments and contributions continue to come in support of the North Cariboo Multi-Centre. This was a busy year for fundraisers - \$4 million from the Province of British Columbia, \$2 million from the Northern Development Initiative Trust, a \$1 million commitment from West Fraser (with half of that to match other community fundraising), and a \$15,000 commitment from Williams Creek Gold Ltd.

The community has also

stepped up, supporting various fundraising activities and generating another \$31,000.

To date, the project stands at a little more than \$22 million raised or committed of the \$30 million needed.

The City and Cariboo

Regional District continue to lobby the federal government for a contribution, but more community and corporate donations will be needed.

To find out how you can participate, visit www.ourmulticentre.com



Investing in our roads, our community

The City completed an ambitious capital program in 2012. The Elliott Street rehabilitation (photo above) involved storm water system upgrades, new curb, gutter and sidewalks, and a long stretch of new asphalt. This \$1 million project was funded by the Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment Program. Some of the other paving projects completed in 2012 include Anderson Drive, Kinchant Street, Barlow Avenue, Johnston Avenue and a number of smaller patching jobs. There are bound to be some traffic disruptions and delays while streets are dug up and paved. The City thanks residents, the travelling public and business owners for their patience and co-operation as our critical infrastructure is replaced.

Landfill transition underway

The new entrance and weigh scales at the landfill opened in November. The project is designed to lengthen the landfill's life, protecting the environment and saving taxpayer dollars.

The new entrance and weigh scales are currently operating in "test mode."

The scales are open 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 is open 24 hours per day until January 8. On January 9 and moving forward, the new operating hours (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and fee structure take effect.

The new system rewards those who recycle and separate their waste. Residents who have **less than 350 kilograms of household garbage per visit**, and who separate their recycling, **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 (\$50 per 1,000 kilograms).

Some tips that will make your trip to the landfill safer and quicker include:

- 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.

The City asks that residents using the landfill be patient and respectful with City staff.

While the new layout has made your trip to the landfill a bit longer than the old design, it will have long-term positive effects.