

March 2017

City News

CITY OF
Quesnel

Message from the Mayor



Mayor Bob Simpson

This is an exciting time for our City as we rebrand our community and actively entice more people to visit, recreate, relocate, and invest in our region. In order to deliver on our brand promise of being a sustainable, trailblazing,

accessible, and fun community we will once again be making significant investments in the City's core infrastructure and making improvements to the City's attractiveness and the amenities we have to offer to both residents and visitors alike.

The extensive capital program outlined in this City News is a result of Council's diligent and proactive efforts to control the City's operating costs and raise taxes over the past two years only to address the City's infrastructure deficit. These investments are also made possible as a result of our ability to use your tax dollars to leverage grant money from other levels of government and other agencies, something we've become very adept at doing over the past few years – we obtained and invested \$5.8 million in grant funding in 2016 and expect

to invest another \$9 million in grant money this year if all our applications are successful.

Council has also changed its budgeting process in order to complete and approve our capital budget much earlier than in the past. By approving the capital budget in January (rather than March or as late as April) the City can tender projects and plan for in-house projects earlier, allowing us to take advantage of the earlier build season and more competitive bidding from contractors. Council believes that this change in our budget process has the potential to realize significant cost savings which will stretch our capital dollars even further.

We are also focused on being more proactive in our capital planning by being more deliberate in refining the details of projects slated for years 2-5 in our five year capital plan. This will allow us to conduct earlier consultations for major projects. As you'll see in this City News one such project, the redevelopment of Reid Street, is scheduled for 2018 and we will be hosting public consultation sessions for that project later this month. I hope you will engage in this community dialogue about the reshaping of our downtown core.

2017 Capital Projects

Find the complete list of capital projects on the City website at www.quesnel.ca/Reports2017.html.

2017 is another busy capital year for the City of Quesnel. This year Council approved the capital budget earlier to enable the City to take advantage of efficiencies gained by putting work out to bid earlier and to ensure that the limited construction season is used to its fullest.

The total capital budget for 2017 is over \$16 million. Funds for these projects come from general taxation, reserves and grants. The City funds a variety of reserves each year to ensure the future sustainability of its infrastructure. The Capital

Reinvestment Reserve ensures that roads, sidewalks and storm sewer are kept up to date. The City also has reserves for the fire department, airport, museum, cemetery, etc, many of which will be used this year to upgrade infrastructure.

The City applies for a variety of grants to fund infrastructure. The 2017 capital plan is built with anticipated grants of over \$9 million primarily from the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, Gas Tax Funds and Casino Funds. Some projects will not proceed if the grant funding is not received.



Arenas parking, lane and street upgrades

We are upgrading the parking lots and lanes surrounding the arenas! Upgrades include:

Carson Ave/Barlow Ave lane

Installing a concrete sidewalk along the west side of Arena #2, additional storm water catch basins, and repaving.

200 block Kinchant St parking lot

Installing additional storm water catch basins, and reshaping and paving the parking lot.

300 block Vaughan St

Storm water upgrades, widening the sidewalks and street from Barlow Ave to St Laurent Ave and installing decorative street lights near the arenas

Barlow Ave/Vaughan St parking lot

Installing additional storm water catch basins, and reshaping and paving.

City reserve: \$458,930

City budget: \$112,920

Total budget : \$571,850

Reid St redevelopment

2017 will consist of consultation, planning and design work. Construction will begin in 2018.

The Reid St water main line from the 200 block to the 400 block of Reid St and the 100 block of Barlow Ave needs to be replaced. This project also includes replacing water servicing to each building, fire hydrants and valves. The entire street, up to building doors, will be under construction.

Grant funding: \$36,000

City reserve: \$114,000

Total consultation, planning and design work budget: \$150,000

Public presentation and open house

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 3 p.m. OR 7 p.m.

Seniors' Centre, 461 Carson Avenue

City Council would like to take the opportunity to rethink Reid St! Share your thoughts and ideas with the Mayor, members of Council and City staff on the following project details:

- Redesign of the streetscape
- Traffic patterns
- Sidewalks/bike lanes
- Parking options
- Accessibility considerations
- Beautification options

The presentation will begin at 3 p.m. AND 7 p.m. with an open house to follow.



West Fraser Centre



400 block of Reid St



Quesnel Museum upgrades

In 2016 the City retained the services of Urban Arts Architecture to undertake conceptual design work for an upgrade to the Quesnel Museum and focused on the facility entrance and gift shop, administrative areas, and two outdoor exhibit spaces.

Dependent upon grant funding, the first phase of this project would include reorganizing the archival storage system,

renovating two exterior display areas, installing a large photo mural on the back wall of the museum, and replacing a number of exterior doors.

Potential grant funding	\$100,000
City budget	\$70,000
Total project budget	\$170,000

This project is fully dependent upon receiving grant funding.

More capital projects

Find the complete list of capital projects on the City website at quesnel.ca/Reports2017.html.

Department/Location	Project/Equipment	City Funding	Reserve Funding	Grant Funding
Fire Department	Protective clothing and equipment	30,000		
	Breathing apparatus	35,000	35,000	
	Jaws of Life	17,500		
Location to be determined	Dog park	66,000		
South Quesnel Park	Playground			200,000
Lebourdais Park	Playground			300,000
Biking Trails	Sharing the road project	50,000		
	Bike trial project			174,400
Pinecrest	Pinecrest reservoir and pump station*	613,360		2,994,640
Two Mile Flat (Hwy 97 N)	Watermain replacement*	433,092	365,568	3,899,340
West Quesnel	Sewer plant	95,000		
West Quesnel Land Stability	WQLS Phase II		494,623	989,245
Hudson Bay Building	Foundation and exterior refresh			136,000
Locations to be determined	Roads and sidewalk upgrades		375,000	
Gook Rd - Hydraulic Rd to City boundary	Road rebuilding and paving		477,600	
Larch Ave	Storm water upgrades, road rebuilding and paving		110,550	
700 block McLean St	Storm water upgrades, road rebuilding and paving		310,000	
Front St - Bowron Ave to Gordon Ave	Sidewalk installation		77,455	
Lewis Dr - Healy St to Perry Ave	Storm water replacement and connection, paving		379,000	

* These projects fully dependent upon receiving grant funding

Accessible public washrooms

The former K-Max site at 246 St. Laurent Ave has been leased for the purposes of accessible public washrooms, office space and an events promotions space. Using input from several potential tenants, a preliminary floor plan has been developed.

Total grant funded budget: \$270,000

Museum parking lot

The Museum parking lot will receive an upgrade this fall! This project includes new base gravels, curbs, asphalt, sidewalks and additional storm water catch basins.

City budget: \$250,000



Paving will end at Ceal Tingley Park

Riverfront Trail Project

Upgrades to the Riverfront Trail will be noticeable from the trail and Front St. Upgrades will include concrete road barriers from the Moffat Bridge south to Ceal Tingley Park, separating the trail from Front St. This portion of the trail will also be repaved. New bear-proof garbage and recycling cans will be added along the trail.

City budget: \$57,110

Green space development at Baker Creek Park

This project is in the consultation and preliminary design stage. The areas of focus are the west and east side of Baker Creek, south of Anderson Drive.

The area of the west side of the creek will continue to be a construction site in 2017. Remaining work on this site includes cleaning the filtration area, final land shaping, and installing top soil and hydro seeding.

The area on the east side of the creek is well established and includes a substantial skateboard park and paved trail system. Design options to consider are expanding the skateboard park, replacing the existing shelter, building a pedestrian bridge over Baker Creek and connecting trail systems.

Consultation and planning City budget: \$25,000



Event in Baker Creek Park

T: 250-992-2111 • F: 250-992-1512 • quesnel.ca

City Hall • 410 Kinchant Street • Quesnel • British Columbia • V2J 7J5

Composition and design by the City of Quesnel • Printed by Big Country Printers Ltd.