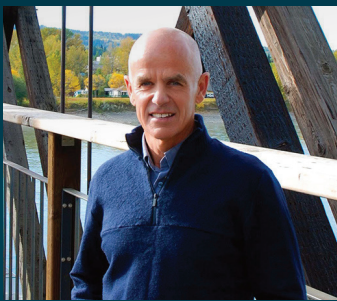


June 2019

City News

CITY OF
Quesnel

Message from the Mayor



As you'll see in the content of this newsletter: we have a lot on the go, again!

The driver behind all of these initiatives is our economic transition strategy; a strategy made even more essential by the recent announcement

of the permanent closure of Tolko's Quesnel operation and the loss of a shift at West Fraser's sawmill.

Council believes we can best position Quesnel to weather the transition in our historical base economy (forestry) by developing a community-based attraction and retention strategy to entice more visitors, residents, and investment to our community while at the same time working with the forest sector to re-invent our base economy from the ground up.

Our Future of Forestry Think Tank process has been very well received by the Provincial Government and we're hoping to be named one of three pilot communities for the Province's recently announced Interior Forestry Revitalization Initiative.

This will provide us with the resources and the official sanction we need to advance this critically important strategy.

Our continued investments in trails and amenities and the planning for new developments along our riverfronts are all part of our desire to position Quesnel as a "come to" community rather than a "drive through" community as we've been known as historically. The work we're doing on housing, childcare, and improving community safety are also part of our community attraction and retention initiatives.

Investments in core infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, sidewalks) also continue apace this year, enabled by prudent financial planning and the assistance of grants from the Federal and Provincial Governments that we've been more successful in obtaining as a result of more robust capital planning.

We hope you'll see in this update that your property taxes are being put to good use; that they are directly contributing to the resiliency and sustainability of your community.

- Mayor Bob Simpson

Capital Projects and City Initiatives

2019 will be another busy year for capital projects and major initiatives. The beginning of the year was spent planning, applying for grant funding and approving our operating and capital budgets.

The total capital budget for 2019 is over \$21 million. Funds for these projects come from general taxation, reserves and grants. The Public Works Facility is the largest project costing \$10.975 million and is funded by debt and reserves.

The City funds a variety of reserves each year to ensure the future sustainability of its infrastructure. The City has reserves for roads and sidewalks, water and sewer, the fire department, airport, museum, and cemetery.

The City applies for a variety of grants to fund infrastructure. The 2019 capital plan is built with anticipated grants of over \$5 million. Some projects will not proceed if the grant funding is not received.



Waterfront Plan

In the first week of June, we held public consultations at multiple locations on the waterfront to hear your feedback on the proposed waterfront plans. If you missed us this past week, take our online survey to send us your input! www.quesnel.ca/waterfront-plan. The survey closes Monday, June 17 at 4:30 pm.

The final plan will include the future use of riverfront land, a concept for Baker Creek Park, and recommendations for improved RV parking near the downtown. The plan will also take into consideration the new opportunities on Front Street with the potential highway reconfiguration and the open space that will come available with the public works yard move.

Housing initiatives

There is an identified discrepancy between the housing stock in the region and the type of housing that is in demand. Reports over the past several years have suggested that the housing stock is primarily large single-family homes and buildings that are in a state of significant disrepair. There is also reported demand for smaller homes and properties across several demographics.

City Council has included a Housing Initiative in the 2019 Strategic Plan. This initiative includes creating a secondary suite policy, developing a Minimum Rental Standards Bylaw, and completing a Needs Assessment, Gap Analysis and Action Plan. For more information, visit www.quesnel.ca/housing-initiative.

Hops & Harvest Dinner

Partnered with BC Ale Trail and Destination BC, the City invites you to Hops & Harvest. Gather around the table as we celebrate our place on the Northern BC Ale Trail! Experience craft beer, local cuisine and live entertainment.

Hops & Harvest is a 19+ outdoor event at the Hosting Precinct at West Fraser Centre on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Ticket sales begin July 2 and are \$65.

Ride and dine! Prior to dinner, Gold Rush Cycling Club is offering a guided bike ride on Wonderland Trails for beginner to experienced riders. This is a great opportunity to explore our new multi-use trails!

Visit www.tourismquesnel.com/hops&harvest for more information.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



Heritage Corner concept drawing



The Hops & Harvest Dinner will be a night to remember!



Forestry Initiatives Program

The Forestry Initiatives Program was created to address the multiple challenges facing our community at this time - mainly protecting our communities from wildfire.

We are currently focusing on FireSmart education and outreach. We have had booths at the Farmers' Market in May and will be there on June 15 and June 29. We encourage residents to assess their property and make changes that will

reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their home and property as well as their surrounding neighbours. Learn more: www.firesmartcanada.ca.

We are also planning fuel management treatments for Fall 2019, which includes over-story removal, brushing, thinning, piling/burning and chip scatter and will achieve a reduction in wildfire risk.

More capital projects and initiatives

Department/Location	Project/Equipment	City Funding	Reserve Funding	Grant Funding
Two Mile Flat - Hwy 97 N	Water main replacement*	\$5,200,000	\$1,400,000	\$3,800,000
Callanan St - Gray Ave to St Laurent Ave	Sidewalk replacement		88,000	
Johnston Ave - Tuffley St to Sargent St	Water service replacements/road rebuild		240,000	
Lark Ave - Flamingo to Voyageur School	Road/drainage rebuild		229,000	
Sword Ave	Public Works Facility	8,350,000**	2,600,000	

* This project is fully dependent upon receiving grant funding.
** This amount is funded through long-term debt approved by referendum in 2018.

Bike trail upgrades in the region

The City and CRD recognize the value of trails for both residents and visitors. We have partnered with Gold Rush Cycling Club and the Cariboo Mountain Bike Consortium to build a 9 km mountain bike climb in Dragon Mountain Provincial Park. This project is in addition to the four new trails being constructed in the Wonderland Trail Network located off of Quesnel-Hydraulic Rd. Find more information at www.quesnel.ca/master-trail-plan.



A section of the Dragon Mountain trail being developed.



South Quesnel Park

South Quesnel Park development

We're designing and constructing a multi-purpose trail network, bike pump track and space for informal gatherings. Watch for opportunities this summer to provide your input into the design of this park.

Labour Market Study

The Cariboo Regional District is leading a Labour Market Study of the Cariboo Chilcotin Region with the participation of the City. The labour market in this region has been changing over the last few years. This study will assess the current labour force gaps and factors influencing recruitment, attraction efforts and participation. It will also identify sectors with potential for growth and prospect for decline. As a result of this study, a Labour Market Action Plan will be completed and implemented.

Community Child Care Inventory and Action Plan

The City works to attract and retain young families to the community, so we must ensure we have adequate child care resources to meet their needs. We will take inventory of existing child care spaces, assess the need and set targets for additional spaces, and define an action plan to reach those targets as a community over the next decade.

Funded by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development through the Union of BC Municipalities.

Wayfinding Project

As part of our strategy to be a destination community, this year, we're replacing and adding wayfinding signage. Wayfinding is the signage and directional tools that help you identify where you are, find what you're looking for, and confirm you have arrived at your desired destination.

Through public input from workshops and a survey, we have developed a sign design strategy.

Signs that will be replaced or added include our City entrances, park signs, vehicular and pedestrian wayfinding signs. The new street light banners were installed in early spring.

Park and vehicular sign concepts



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