

**Refreshing
LeBourdais Park!**

As Councillor Roodenburg pointed out in the Council column last week, she is heading up a fun initiative to engage people in an activity-focused celebration of Canada's 150th birthday that will culminate in this year's Canada Day celebration in LeBourdais Park. In advance of this free community event we're hoping to complete a number of projects in and around the park and new arena complex.

The major change in the park will be a brand new playground with features chosen by our community's children through a school-based consultation process (along with an open town hall session and online survey). We're hoping that this will be a unique, centrally located playground which will become a great new addition to our community and a fun attraction that entices more visitors to make Quesnel a regular stopping place as they transit up and down Highway 97.

Council has also worked with the Curling Club and, with the help of Northern Trust funding and a new City supported murals grant program, the mural on the curling rink wall will be refreshed and the building will also get a new paint job. A BC 150 grant has also been awarded to the Museum that will enable us to put a new mural on the wall facing the park as well as cleanup and protect the displays on the outside of the building.

Sometime this year, as a result of a successful Bike BC grant application, we will also be installing a new bike and pedestrian trail through the north end of the park that will connect the end of the river front trail by Dunrovin to the new arena plaza. As part of this project the steep grade hill by Dunrovin will be re-sloped to make it safer and more useable for people who use mobility devices. This fall, the parking lot in front of the Visitor Center and Museum will also be rebuilt and redesigned to enable drive through RV parking; once again, in an effort to make it easier for tourists to stop and enjoy all that Quesnel has to offer.

In conjunction with the arena project, the City will also undertake a major repaving and redesign of all the parking lots and sidewalks around the arenas, curling rink, Legion, Seniors Center, United Church, Nazko Band offices, and Vaughan Street. This will cleanup this whole precinct and, in conjunction with the improvements to LeBourdais Park and the Visitor Center/Museum parking lot, present a refreshed and attractive main entryway to our downtown core (to go with our new arena!).

All these projects are possible because of the proactive financial planning Council has undertaken over the past three City budgets and our success at obtaining grant funding.

While all this activity (and more) is in the works for this year, we are actively planning for next year's major capital project: the replacement of the water main on Reid Street and the complete rebuilding of the 200, 300, and 400 blocks of Reid and the 100 block of Barlow. On Wednesday, April 26, the engineering consultants will once again be seeking public input on this project. I hope you will attend these public sessions and provide Council with your feedback. See event details below:

Wednesday, April 26
2 - 5 p.m. OR 5 - 7 p.m.
Seniors' Centre, 461 Carson Ave

Mayor Bob Simpson - bsimpson@quesnel.ca