

[REDACTED]

From: Barry [REDACTED]
Sent: January 17, 2026 9:55 AM
To: CRD Mailbox
Subject: Billy Barker Days 2026 50th
Attachments: Municipal funding 2026.docx

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Hello Coralie Oakes, Bob Bachmeier, John Massier, and Jim Glassford,

I'm writing in my capacity with **Billy Barker Days**, a volunteer-run community festival in Quesnel that will be celebrating its **50th anniversary in July 2026**.

Billy Barker Days has been operating since 1974 and remains a long-standing cultural and community event for Quesnel and the surrounding region. The City of Quesnel already provides significant in-kind support that allows the festival to operate, but there is **no additional municipal funding capacity** for the 50th anniversary year.

We are not seeking ongoing operating funding. We are simply exploring whether any **one-time discretionary or community-based support** might be possible through the Cariboo Regional District to help acknowledge this milestone year.

For context, I have attached a brief background letter outlining the festival and the 50th-anniversary situation.

If this is outside your scope, I completely understand. I would still appreciate any guidance you may be able to offer.

Thank you for your time and for your work on behalf of the region.

Kind regards,
Barry McKillican

Past President
Billy Barker Days
Quesnel, BC
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

For immediate response email or text is best

To Whom It May Concern,

For nearly five decades, Billy Barker Days has been a defining part of community life in Quesnel. What began as a modest local celebration has grown into British Columbia's largest free family festival, built and sustained by volunteers, local businesses, and strong civic partnerships. Each summer, the festival brings residents together in shared celebration while welcoming thousands of visitors into the heart of our community.

As we approach its 50th anniversary, the Society is seeking support to responsibly maintain and improve the infrastructure that supports this long-standing community asset. The following proposal outlines practical upgrades that will enhance safety, accessibility, and public presentation, while also preserving the festival's historical record for future generations. This investment will help ensure that Billy Barker Days continues to reflect the pride, care, and collaboration that define Quesnel.

50th Anniversary Infrastructure Renewal and Community Asset Stewardship

As Billy Barker Days approaches its 50th anniversary, the Society is focused on maintaining and improving the physical assets that support one of Quesnel's most significant community events. Much of the festival's signage and infrastructure has aged over time. While some elements have been updated, others require replacement to meet current expectations for safety, accessibility, and public presentation. Grant funding would support the replacement of worn signage, repainting of the festival building, the installation of new **50th Anniversary local signage throughout the community**, and necessary electrical upgrades to ensure compliance with safety standards and insurance requirements.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, the Society seeks to preserve the festival's historical materials in a manner accessible to the public. This includes digitally scanning posters from the past 50 years and securing them in simple protective framing where needed. Working in partnership with the local museum, the Society will also update and expand Billy Barker Days historical displays and records. These initiatives will protect a valued community asset, enhance the appearance and safety of public-facing facilities, and ensure that an important part of Quesnel's civic identity is preserved and shared responsibly.

The Billy Barker Days Society respectfully requests financial support to undertake these infrastructure and preservation initiatives as part of the festival's 50th anniversary. Funding will be used to replace aging signage, install 50th Anniversary community signage, repaint the festival building, complete required electrical upgrades, and preserve historical materials for public access. This investment will help ensure the continued safety, accessibility, and stewardship of a valued community asset while supporting an event that has been central to Quesnel's civic life for nearly five decades.

Thank you for considering this request and for your continued support of community culture, heritage, and public celebration. The Billy Barker Days Society welcomes the opportunity to provide any additional information required and looks forward to the possibility of working together to support this important milestone and the long-term preservation of a cherished community tradition.

Sincerely,

Barry McKillican
Past President
Billy Barker Days Society