



THE DRUMROLL

STAFF NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

DARRYL DROHOMERSKI, C.E.T.

It certainly has been some time since we have circulated our internal newsletter. The last edition was published in June of 2023, and it stopped for many reasons, capacity and vacancies being a large factor.

Once we received the feedback from the All-Staff Survey from mid-last year, many of you noted that this was missed. I have always enjoyed this communication piece, and I am very happy we are at a place where we can bring it back.

Our Directors, Managers, and I want to know what YOU want from these newsletters. We have a few ideas of what we can put together to enhance internal communications and culture, but ultimately, this newsletter is for you, and we want to know what you want to know... you know? Let that simmer. I look forward to hearing your thoughts. You can email, pop by my office or talk to your supervisor to relay the message.

For those that attended the 'After the Holiday, Holiday Party' in January, we hope you had a good time. The organizers worked hard to bring a top-notch event for our Staff, Council and guests. I want to thank them for their efforts and if you see them, I hope you pass on your thanks as well. The committee included: Angela Keibel, Antonia Strilisky, Darryl Drohomerski, Erica Crocker, Nicole Skiftun, Rick Ladouceur and Zeyu Zhang. We will be sending out a survey soon asking for feedback on what you want to see for future events.

One of the holiday party highlights for me personally is recognizing employees that have been with the organization for at least five years and this year was no exception.

We usually see several staff celebrate 5 and 10 years and occasionally we see a 20 or 25 year award. This year, however, we got to celebrate a very rare milestone and that was to honour Elin Gwinner for 40 (FORTY!) years of service with the Town. More will be written about Elin this spring, as she also announced her retirement, effective June 27, 2025.

Congratulations Elin!

SAFETY TIP

Slips, trips, and falls.
Remember to wear appropriate footwear when completing tasks on icy, slushy, snow covered surfaces.





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MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Legislative Services serves as the connection between Council, Administration, and the community, supporting governance and decision-making. It manages legislative functions such as appeals, policies, elections, and appointments, ensuring compliance with the Town's bylaws and provincial legislation. Acting as a support hub for various departments, its functions centre around Council meetings, including the preparation and follow-up.

2024 IN REVIEW

2024 was a busy year for all departments, reflected in the record number of agenda items and decisions presented to Council. The Town passed 39 Bylaws in 2024, up from 11 in 2023 and 22 in 2022. Of these Bylaws, 22 were related to the Flood Mitigation Program, which include land transfers and re-designations. Other legislation included annual Bylaws such as the Rates, Fees and Charges Bylaw, the Tax Rate Bylaw, and the Utility Rate Bylaw. Other legislation passed in 2024 includes, but is not limited to, the following:

#06.23 - Business Licence Bylaw (which includes Short-Term Rentals)

#12.24 - Land Use Amending Bylaw

#15.24 - Safety Codes Bylaw

#23.24 - Remuneration Task Force Bylaw

#24.24 - Advertising Bylaw

#25.24 - Fire Bylaw

#31.24 - Community Standards Appeal Board

#34.34 - FCSS Board Bylaw

#38.24 - Manufactured Home Community Bylaw

2025 MAJOR PROJECTS

Below is a list of some of the major projects being undertaken by Legislative Services in 2025 that may pertain to you and your department:

- Holding The Municipal Election on October 20, 2025. Nominations are now open for councillors, mayor and public-school trustees (opened January 1, 2025). Nomination period closes on September 22, 2025. More information will be available on the Town of Drumheller website over the next couple of weeks.
- Working on a Record Retention and Disposition Schedule for all municipal records; will be meeting with individual departments over the coming months.
- Updating Community Standard Bylaw with Emergency and Protective Services to improve our ability to enforce certain bylaw violations.
- Comprehensive review of our current bylaws and polices for each department to provide an up-to-date list of municipal legislation.
- We are currently working on an updated bylaws template.

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CAO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | LEGISLATIVE SERVICES | HUMAN RESOURCES | COMMUNICATIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Film activity started early this year. ATCO filmed a commercial mid-January, and another production is considering Drumheller.
- The Housing Strategy work continues. We have not heard back from our grant application to the federal government yet, but continue to work on the Short-Term Rental renewals and are targeting March 31, 2025 for registrations.
- Between The Buns had a ribbon cutting this month. You are welcome to stop by and try some new food.
- Business in Focus has interviewed the Mayor and Administration for an article in their February issue.
- We met our land sales target for 2024 and will be doing a Year in Review with Council on Feb 10.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Updating Marketing Request Form and Communications Brief
- Draft phases of an Internal Communications Policy
- Supporting Recreation, Arts and Culture with their Marketing Initiatives for programs, events and other items
- Marketing Campaign for Chainsaw Wizards
- Supporting the Flood Office on communications
- Bringing back the DrumRoll!

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Drafting an overarching Human Resources Policy
- Creation and rollout of a new collaborative Seasonal Hires Procedure
- Preparing for upcoming contract negotiations with our benefit providers and union partners
- Welcoming and working with our HR intern from Bay River College who joined us in January

NEAT.

The Jesus Statue on the hill near Premier Way is valued for its connection to the development of the dinosaur-related research and tourism industry that has developed in Drumheller since the first fossil material of the Late Cretaceous tyrannosaurus dinosaur was discovered near the Town in 1884.

The Jesus Statue monument, in its original location, was part of Prehistoric Park, a park featuring large-scale models of prehistoric dinosaurs. The park was established in the 1960s, and the Jesus Statue was built as a feature of the park.

Constructed circa 1960 by craftsman Trygve Seland (1908- 1986), the Jesus Statue is also valued as an example of mid-century monumentalism and folk art. Seland was responsible for the construction of numerous dinosaur replicas throughout Drumheller including Rex and all the dinosaurs in Prehistoric Park, as well as other animal replicas in municipalities throughout Alberta. Seland crafted the monuments using fibreglass, cement and wire mesh.



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INFRASTRUCTURE

OPERATIONS | UTILITIES | FACILITIES | CAPITAL PROJECTS

ENGINEERING

- Design services RFP for Street Improvement Program Complete

Working on RFP's for:

- Downtown Revitalization Design Phase
- Construction Tender for 6th Ave Extension – Highway 9 to Railway
- New bulk fuel system at the Airport – Aviation Fuel and Jet Fuel
- 2025 Fleet Replacements
- New lights trucks – Mavericks
- New garbage collection truck – Community cans

OPERATIONS

- Emergent Fleet Replacement – Tandem Axle Dump Truck
- Season Light Removal
- Ongoing Snow and Ice Control on roads, sidewalks, and multi-use pathways

New fleet arrival:

- Ford Maverick
- Ford F150

UTILITIES

- Continuing with Water and Wastewater Treatment Master Plans
- Water main break repairs, Greentree Area
- Moved to a four on, four off rotation, 10-hour workdays at the water and wastewater treatment plants

FACILITIES

- New elevator and related equipment for Town Hall





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EMERGENCY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | BYLAW ENFORCEMENT | PET DETECTIVES

MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT

- Partnering with Corporate and Community Services to enhance the paid parking program.
- Holding a functional emergency management exercise in March that will involve several different town departments.
- Re-homed 2 stray cats in the month of January.
- Looking forward to welcoming a new enforcement officer this year. We are currently in the recruitment process.
- Also, here's Darnell, hard at work as purr usual.





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CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

FINANCE | RECREATION | FAMILY COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES | CEMETERY | TAXES | LICENSING

FINANCE

- Working on the Year-End, and preparing for the Annual Audit
- Please have all the 2024 accruals, billing and invoices by January 31, 2025, to Finance
- Auditors will be at the Town Hall to conduct audit fieldwork from March 17 to 19. Auditors might seek more information from individual departments.
- Property Assessments have been mailed to all property owners.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Family Day on February 17, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Library, Memorial Arena, Aquaplex, & BCF.
- Aquaplex Teen Swim on February 14, 9:00pm - 11:00pm.
- Free Game Night February 20, 4:00pm - 8:00pm, at the BCF.
- Aquaplex Free Swim to Survive swim lessons, March 2 – 23 (Sundays), ages 6+ welcomed.
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update is available; contact the BCF.
- The newly formed Drumheller Valley Sports Committee will call for Nominations in February.
- Save the Date: Empower & Peace Fitness & Wellness Retreat is coming this April!
- We have all weekends booked with weddings or larger events this summer, except for one at the BCF!

- The bookings team attended two wedding fairs in Edmonton and Calgary this January and February. We received great feedback and secured two tentative bookings from the events.
- Arena bookings are busy, especially with the playoff season approaching.
- Ball season is also ramping up! The ball diamond allocation meeting is scheduled for this evening.
- We're getting ready for our busy season at the BCF.
- Fit Into It was a great success with 68 participants, and the lucky winner took home an amazing swag bag! Tyler Ans, our new supervisor, also won the internal competition for enrolling the most members.
- The team is getting ready for our much anticipated Membership Appreciation Day in March.
- They're also working on exciting upcoming programs like Camp BCF, a flower workshop, and much more!

**CHECK OUT OUR
RECREATION
PROGRAMS**

