



# THE DRUMROLL

STAFF NEWSLETTER | JULY 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

DARRYL DROHOMERSKI, C.E.T.

### Service before Self

As I reminisce about my long journey in municipal government, I can't help but think of some words a mentor shared with me ages ago. They said that the true joy of working in municipal government comes not from the money we earn, but from the satisfaction of making our community a better place to live. For those of us who've dedicated our careers to this field, you know that the reward of helping others, even if it's something small, brings a sense of fulfillment that's hard to find elsewhere.

Public servants often encounter people on their toughest days, like Samantha selling a loved one a cemetery plot after a sudden loss, or Marie dealing with someone struggling to make a tax payment after losing their job. We can sometimes be too hard on ourselves and think that our efforts don't matter (kind of like reading Drum Discussion 😞), but the impact we have on our community is real and profound.

Take the repaving project in Newcastle, for example. The number of people who have complimented the town for the improvements is well over 100 already. I have also talked with several pool customers who have been enjoying the outside pool so far this summer and enjoy swimming under the hills and beautiful Alberta blue sky.

Of course you're probably thinking about those people that can't be helped and seem angry or grumpy no matter what you attempt to do to make their situation better. I can tell you that those folks serve a purpose for you as well as you will be able to tell great stories to your coworkers in the future about some of the characters you encountered yesterday or today 😊. It will also form a part of your life experiences that will give you richness far beyond any money you will earn in the future.

So thank you for the work you do and being a great service to your community. I appreciate all of you.

I hope you all have a great summer and are able to enjoy life in the valley and all the great things we have to offer.

Happy Canada Day!



## FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

- Only adults should handle fireworks. If you are impaired (alcohol or drugs) do not handle them.
- Have a bucket of sand, supply of water and a working fire extinguisher on hand.
- Light only one item at a time.
- Wear protective eye glasses and gloves. Light at arm's length and then stand back.
- Never lean over the fireworks and keep hair and clothes away from fire sources.
- Never attempt to re-light a "dud" or defective unit.





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## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP)

#### Drumheller Detachment

Did you know? We complete civil fingerprints for Drumheller and area residents!

These fingerprints can be for purposes such as certified criminal record checks, immigration, employment with the Government of Canada, name change, and even for adoption! These fingerprints are completed on an electronic machine and sent digitally to Ottawa for verification.

For Canada Day, we are attempting to get some old RCMP cars. Members will also be marching! 🍁

Please note we have limited access to our town e-mails, so the best way to contact us is always through our RCMP e-mails:

- [Laura.Fredericks@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:Laura.Fredericks@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)
- [Camille.Blake-McDonald@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:Camille.Blake-McDonald@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)
- [spencer.hodge@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:spencer.hodge@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

#### Media Releases - Arrests in Drumheller Detachment area

On the evening of June 11, 2025, Drumheller RCMP initiated a traffic stop with a vehicle along Highway 56 after witnessing a traffic infraction. Police checks revealed that the driver had an outstanding warrant out of Edmonton, and therefore he was arrested.

While dealing with the passengers of the vehicle, Drumheller RCMP located suspected methamphetamine in the vehicle. All the occupants were arrested and a search of the vehicle incidental to arrest revealed the following:

- Over a pound of suspected methamphetamine
- 600 pills of various types
- A large quantity of cash
- Two firearms, one of which was loaded
- Suspected cannabis and cocaine
- Various weapons

49-year-old Sheldon Blyan, a resident of Edmonton, 34-year-old Mitchell Sydlowski, a resident of St. Albert, and 73-year-old Harvey Beeler, also of Edmonton, have been charged with numerous offences, some of which include:

- Possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking (x3)
- Possess restricted firearm & ammunition
- Unauthorized possession of firearm
- Possess dangerous weapon
- Breaches of their court orders





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## UPDATES AROUND THE ORGANIZATION

### INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

#### Engineering

- Street Improvement Program 90% for 2025
- Some trail work around the Aquaplex still to complete.
- Work progressing on the hot tub repairs.
- Bridge 11 in Wayne is 80% complete.

#### Operations

- Catch Basin cleaning in anticipation of wet weather.
- Pavement crack sealing.
- New hook truck arrived.

#### Facilities

- Updated the identification information of the Plaza Washrooms.
- Unmanned facility inspections this month.

Makings of Heller Good Sandwiches  
Patio + Boardwalk



Photo by Terri Huxley

### CORPORATE SERVICES

- Finance as usual this month: Monthly utility billings, more invoices to pay, payroll processing.
- Lana Bosch has officially accepted the Payroll Administrator position after acting in this position since June of 2024.
- Zeyu Zhang attended the GFOA Conference in Lethbridge on June 2-4th. Lots of great learning and seeing how other municipalities are dealing with ERP migration challenges.
- Samantha Thomson returned safe and sound after an amazing three week vacation to Barcelona and Morocco. She highly recommends this trip and would definitely do it again!

### PROTECTIVE & EMERG. SERVICES

- Thank you again to Infrastructure and Emergency & Protective Services for supporting our communication efforts regarding the recent intense weather system that moved over southern Alberta. Nice work team!
- Emergency and Protective Services
- Our second year Seasonal Bylaw Officer, Skye Suntjens, assisted a local church by leading a small religious procession along their route. The St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church greatly appreciated the assistance in ensuring the safety and security of their parishioners. Great job Skye!
- Earlier in the month, Municipal Enforcement conducted what was expected to be a routine traffic stop for a mismatched license plate that led to the removal of an impaired driver from the road. We wish to remind everyone as the summer heats up to plan ahead and enjoy your downtime responsibly.
- This month marked the completion of Municipal Enforcement's new permanent dog kennels! Having these kennels will greatly assist in routine animal control duties.



New permanent Dog Kennels



Architecture of  
Barcelona & Morocco  
Photo by Samantha Thomson



Street Improvement Program





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Stephanie Koepke

## UPDATES AROUND THE ORGANIZATION

### HUMAN RESOURCES

- We are thrilled to announce and welcome Stephanie Koepke as the newest member of our team. Stephanie has joined us as the Senior Administrative Assistant for the CAO Office, where she will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in supporting Human Resources and the CAO. Her responsibilities also extend to providing her expertise across Legislative Services, Communications, and Economic Development.
- Stephanie brings with her a wealth of experience which will undoubtedly enhance our operations and contribute to the success of our team. Having relocated to Drumheller last fall with her family, she is excited to immerse herself further into her role and the local community.
- Stephanie's office is located upstairs at Town Hall, adjacent to Angela. We encourage everyone to stop by and introduce yourselves if you haven't had the opportunity to meet her yet.
- Welcome aboard, Stephanie—we're delighted to have you with us!
- AND welcome back too to our HR Specialist Valerie Lefin who is stepping into a familiar role while we recruit a new HR Manager. Thank you, Valerie, for your readiness to support our team once again. We look forward to collaborating and benefiting from your expertise.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- We appreciate everyone in getting their communications objectives to us and being able to support the awesome things you do. We are seeing a lot of positivity in terms of participation in different initiatives, but also helpful feedback from community members.
- You may see Terri boppin' around departments, events, and other operational goings-on with her camera. We are building our inventory of photos for our website, social media and historical archives. If you think we should get some pro-fesh photos done of something you're working on, email [communications@drumheller.ca](mailto:communications@drumheller.ca).

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Permitting continues to be busy. This includes 64 Short-Term Rental licenses. We are well on track to exceed our Development and Safety permitting for 2024.
- Our 2025 Business Needs Survey is now complete. The partners and Ec. Dev. surveyed 100 companies with over 1,200 employees in total (About 25% of local workforce). Here are some stats below:
- Total annual sales across all sectors reached \$957 Million for 2024 (GDP estimate)
- Tourism impact is \$116 Million in 2024, and 1 in 4 jobs
- 81% of our businesses are small business (with 1-9 employees)
- Positive sentiment as 89% said they were thriving (36%) or sustaining (53%)
- 51% said they expected to hire at least one employee over the next 12 months
- 9% total employment growth forecasted between 2024 and 2030.
- It was a record month in land. The Town is considering multiple offers including residential, commercial and industrial.

### Film

- Film continues to be strong. We have issued five permits and two drone permit year to date. Two additional projects are considering Drumheller.
- We also have a familiarization (FAM) tour schedule in July with seven Hollywood delegates. Studios include Amazon, Netflix, Paramount, Skydance, 20th Century Studios, Fremantle and Lionsgate Television.



Construction Project  
near No Frills





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## UPDATES AROUND THE ORGANIZATION

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### Rec Programs (AQP/BCF)

- Camp BCF is set to begin on June 30, and our staff are excited to spend the summer with plenty of kids, fun activities, swimming, and more! With creative themed weeks like Rock-a-Saurus and Ooey Gooney, it's shaping up to be an awesome season. Enrollment has been strong, with plenty of campers already registered and more joining daily. We can't wait to make this summer one to remember!

#### BCF Programs

- BCF Registered Programs and any Drop-in Fitness classes are on hold for the summer months and will return in the fall.

#### Bookings

- The BCF is set for a July full of love, as weekends are filled with couples celebrating their big day! Hosting beautiful ceremonies in Centennial Park and elegant receptions in our banquet halls, complete with dance floors, drapery, and sweet memories.

#### Events

- Canada Day is coming up quickly, and the Recreation Department is excited to welcome the community to a full day of celebration! Join us for live entertainment, roving performers, a mini cattle and goat petting zoo, fun inflatables, food trucks, and so much more. All Rec staff will be on hand to help make the event a success. A big thank-you to everyone who has contributed to planning and preparing — it's shaping up to be a fantastic day!
- Summer @ the Plaza is back for another exciting season! Join us for live performances by talented artists and a whole lot more. Fridays 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM & Saturdays 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM.
- We invite you to come down to the Plaza, soak up the sunshine, enjoy great music, and connect with the community. It's the perfect way to spend your summer weekends — we'll see you there!

#### Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

- FCSS is making a powerful impact with its latest round of grant funding, dedicating a total of \$100,000 to support local wellbeing and community building. Of this amount, \$70,000 has been awarded to seven community organizations, each chosen for their meaningful work in fostering connection, inclusion, and resilience across our town. These grants will support a range of programs that bring people together and strengthen our social fabric. A photo op is planned for early Fall with the Committee and Grant Recipients. The remaining \$30,000 has been allocated to the DrumLife Pass subsidy program, which provides low-income residents with financial assistance to access the Badlands Community Facility (BCF),
- Aquaplex and a program credit that opportunities for youth to attend programs such as Summer Camps and Swimming Lessons. This initiative ensures that more people can benefit from the physical and mental health advantages of staying active and engaged, regardless of their financial situation. Together, these investments reflect FCSS's ongoing commitment to making our community a healthier, more connected place for everyone.

#### Corporate & Community Services (CCS)

- Beth Caswell to her role in May as Administrative Assistant for CCS after maternity leave. She and partner Brandon welcomed son Jack in Nov. 2023. Jack is named in honour of Beth's late father and is the 7th generation 'Jack' in her family's line.
- There are currently four vacancies within the Corporate & Community Services team: Finance Manager, Manager of Recreation, Arts & Culture, FCSS Coordinator and Account Receivable Assistant.





# MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

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## LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Katelyn Rosario joined the team on June 9, 2025 as a seasonal Legislative Services Clerk. She will be working in the role into the end of August. Katelyn is primarily focused on projects such as records management, website updates, and the internal audit of municipal agreements, bylaws and policies. She says that she enjoys filing and organizing, but I think that is starting to change. Katelyn will be working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Town Hall and can be reached at [krosario@drumheller.ca](mailto:krosario@drumheller.ca) or at 403-823-1368.



Katelyn Rosario 'drowning' in paperwork  
Photo by Terri Huxley

## Voter Registry & Election Workers

We are continuing our push to register voters for the 2025 Municipal Election. On June 24, 2025, we attended a Pioneer Trail meeting to talk about the voter registry. On July 17, 2025 @ 2:30 p.m. we will be hosting an event at the Legion to provide more information and assist people in registering to vote. We are targeting seniors who may struggle with using the online portal. If you can spare the time, please assist the technologically challenged people in your life and help them register to vote! As a reminder, every eligible voter should register to vote (or check if they are already registered to vote) as soon as possible by visiting [www.voterlink.ab.ca](http://www.voterlink.ab.ca). If you run into any issues, you can also register by calling 780-427-7191, or by emailing [info@elections.ab.ca](mailto:info@elections.ab.ca).

We are hoping to begin hiring election workers over the next couple of months. You will see a landing page and application form on the website in the near future. These are paid positions that are open to anyone over the age of 18. If you know someone who is interested in making some extra cash, please encourage them to sign up. Additionally, town employees are also eligible to sign up as election workers. Please reach out to Returning Officer (RO), Mitchell Visser, at (403) 823-1339 and [legislativeservices@drumheller.ca](mailto:legislativeservices@drumheller.ca) if you would like more information about becoming an election worker. Please keep an eye out for additional information on the municipal elections webpage in the near future.

**DRUM**  
**VOTES**





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## TOWN STAFF BBQ & FLOAT UNVEILING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25







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## ELIN'S RETIREMENT PARTY

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

