



THE DRUMROLL

STAFF NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2025



FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

DARRYL DROHOMERSKI, C.E.T.

Thank you!

This is my last message as the CAO for the Town of Drumheller, as I am retiring on Friday August 22. However, I am not leaving completely as I have promised to stay involved with the Flood Mitigation program to see it through to its conclusion, specifically around land issues which could take anywhere from 2-5 years to resolve.

I am feeling very blessed and thankful to have worked for the organization and residents of Drumheller. It truly has been the best experience of my career. While some of you may disagree, we work in a wonderful setting and with amazing people who want to provide great service to the public and to each other.

This starts at the top with Council. There aren't many occupations where you must reapply for your position every four years with the potential to lose your job to someone with no experience. As I type this, I can't help but think that we could lose an experience equipment operator to someone who the public deemed more popular than the experienced professional just through a vote. And yet, that is what elected officials do all the time. And yet they must make decisions for the community based on advice from all of us (and hopefully not Drum Discussion!) that will last years. So, thank you to Council for leading this community.

Next up is our front-line staff. Whether they take payments at Town Hall, greet visitors to the pool or BCF, or deal with bylaw issues, you all treat people with respect and patience, and I know that it isn't always easy. I have often said the hardest job in the Town is that of a bylaw officer because they never come to your home or business to bring you flowers. You know that people want more services for less money and will often tell you how to do your job to boot. And all in a world where social media and the resulting impacts, have emboldened people to say or write crazy things. A very big kudos to all of you!

There are many, many residents of the Valley who care deeply and want to see us and the community succeed. Whether they volunteer for events or council or community committees, they want to help and they deserve to be celebrated. It is easy to sit and do nothing, but many of these folks (including some of you) work at volunteer organizations after working at their regular jobs all day. Whether it is picking up litter on the street, tending to the flowers in Munchie Park or serving on the library or other committee, I am very thankful they exist, and you should be too. Remember to say thanks to a volunteer next time you see them out and about.

To all the Directors and Managers. You all help to keep the organization running, all the while being asked to trim budget or staff and look for new ways to accomplish existing issues. Sometimes there isn't enough time in the day or week to get all of the work done, but yet we manage to do it and usually with a smile on your face. Thank you for the work you do.

And finally, to all the folks that disagree with what we do (or don't) every day, I want to thank you as well. You maybe don't realize it, but they make us stronger and more resilient to take on life's challenges. And these folks also have the added benefit of bringing us together as we rehash those interactions and laugh or commiserate together. I have never forgotten the challenging people I have encountered in my career, and I am proud that they all had a small part in making me the person I am today. Hopefully you will the same way over your career.

I have worked with some incredible people over my career, and have developed indelible memories, but working with all of you has been the pinnacle of my career and I thank you for all for shaping me into the person I am today.

I wish each and every one of you the best,
Darryl.



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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT CAO

ESTHER QUIAMBAO, CLGM

Promoting Health and Safety in Drumheller Valley: Our Shared Responsibility

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the work each of you does every day to keep the Town of Drumheller running smoothly and safely. Whether you're out in the field, maintaining infrastructure, supporting administrative operations, or engaging with the public, your health and safety remain one of our highest priorities.

Drumheller Valley is a place like no other—its stunning landscapes, historic terrain, and diverse ecosystems make it a special environment in which to live and work. But with that uniqueness comes the responsibility to be extra mindful of local hazards, including extreme weather and local wildlife. Here are some important health and safety reminders specific to our region:

1. Beating the Heat in the Badlands

We know how intense summer conditions in the Valley can get—especially for outdoor crews. With limited natural shade and reflective terrain, heat stress can creep up quickly.

- Stay hydrated throughout the day—don't wait until you feel thirsty.
- Wear light, UV-protective clothing, and always keep a hat and sunscreen handy.
- Take regular cooling breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.

Supervisors are encouraged to build weather considerations into daily planning to avoid peak heat exposure whenever possible.

2. Wildlife Awareness: Staying Safe in Shared Spaces

One of the benefits—and challenges—of working in the Drumheller Valley is the frequent interaction with local wildlife. While these encounters are often peaceful, it's important to understand the risks and know how to respond appropriately.

Common wildlife hazards in the area include:

- **Prairie Rattlesnakes:** Although rare, rattlesnakes have been reported in the Valley. These snakes typically seek out warm, quiet areas and do not pose a threat if left undisturbed.
- **Coyotes:** Generally avoid humans but may become bolder around food or if they feel threatened. Never feed or approach them. If confronted, make yourself appear larger and back away slowly.
- **Insects and Ticks:** Wear long sleeves and pants in wooded or grassy areas and perform tick checks after shifts in these environments. Insect repellent should be used when necessary.
- **Deer, Elk and Moose:** While not typically aggressive, these animals can become unpredictable during mating or calving seasons. Keep your distance and avoid surprising them.





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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT CAO (CONT.)

ESTHER QUIAMBAO, CLGM

What to do:

- Always let someone know your work location if you're heading to a remote area.
- Carry a communication device like a radio or charged phone.
- If you spot potentially dangerous wildlife near municipal buildings or worksites, report it immediately to your supervisor or by using the Town's hazard reporting process.
- Know the difference between a sighting and an encounter—and don't hesitate to remove yourself from a risky situation.

3. Taking Care of Mental Health

Our commitment to safety includes mental wellness. Serving the public is rewarding but can also be demanding. If you're feeling overwhelmed:

- Reach out to a colleague, supervisor, or make use of our Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
- Use your breaks and vacation time—taking care of yourself is part of doing your job well.
- Practice healthy boundaries between work and personal time whenever possible.

Supporting one another starts with looking after ourselves.

4. Be Ready: Emergency Preparedness

From wildfires and floods to chemical spills and severe weather, Drumheller's landscape means we must always be prepared.

- Know your worksite's emergency procedures.
- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes and muster points.
- Always keep emergency contact numbers accessible.
- Participate fully in all drills and training—your actions could make the difference in a real emergency.

Safety is a Team Effort!

Creating a safe, healthy, and productive workplace is something we all contribute to. Please continue reporting safety concerns, looking out for one another, and engaging in ongoing training. Your well-being matters—not just because it's good policy, but because we value you as part of our team and our community.

Thank you for everything you do to serve the people of Drumheller with care and professionalism.





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MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

FLOOD RESILIENCY MITIGATION OFFICE

Building Resilience:

Drumheller's Ongoing Flood Protection Journey

Drumheller's Flood Mitigation Office continues to play a vital role in protecting our community from future flooding through infrastructure improvements, collaboration, and long-term planning. As we move into the second half of 2025, several major projects are progressing toward completion, while planning and funding efforts continue behind the scenes to ensure the program's long-term success. We're a small but dedicated team working to deliver this multi-year program with care, transparency, and a strong commitment to our community. Meet some of the people behind the work to the right!



Left to right: Spencer Robertson, Darryl Drohomerski, Deighen Blakely and Graham Waugh. Missing: Mark Steffler, Paula Paixao Gomes. Photo by Brett Hitchins of Kerr Wood Leidal

What's New on the Ground?

The Nacmine and Rosedale/Scarlett berm projects—two of the program's largest—are anticipated to wrap up construction by fall 2025. Revegetation efforts will follow in late fall or spring 2026, with contractors entering a two-year maintenance period to ensure the berms are fully established and functioning as intended. At the same time, Town staff are preparing to take over maintenance responsibilities for the 2022 berm projects, with continued maintenance underway on 2023 and 2024 projects.

North Drumheller Berm is substantially complete as of July 2025.

Program Budget & Funding Outlook

While the flood program continues to make critical progress, financial pressures remain. Current forecasts place the program approximately \$2.624 million over budget, not including legal fees or damages related to land expropriations expected through the last half of 2025 and onward. Additional borrowing may be required in 2026 to keep the program on track. Town Administration and the Flood Mitigation Office are actively pursuing additional grant funding and lobbying for provincial and federal support to help cover land acquisition and construction costs.

Looking Ahead: What's on the Horizon?

Design work by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors (ATEC) on the Michichi Creek flood wall and bridge replacement is ongoing. Public consultations are scheduled for 2026, with construction expected to begin in 2027—pending ATEC funding approval. As always, the team continues to work closely with government partners to meet critical funding deadlines, with all provincial and federal funds to be spent by December 31, 2028.

With each berm completed and every new project launched, Drumheller moves closer to a safer, more flood-resilient future.

Visit <https://floodreadiness.drumheller.ca/> for more information about berm construction and the Drumheller Flood Project.

Flood Office:

403-823-4878

floodreadiness@drumheller.ca



North Drumheller Berm



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HEALTH & SAFETY

THE THREE R'S OF OH&S

In light of the upcoming internal safety audit being held in September, Administration wishes to remind everyone of their rights and responsibilities regarding the workplace.

All staff have the right and responsibility to Refuse Unsafe Work, the Right to Know and the Right to Be Informed.

Section # 36 of the new Occupational Health and Safety Act states: "No person shall dismiss or take any other disciplinary action against a worker by reason of that worker acting in compliance with this Act, the regulations, the adopted code or an order given under this act or the regulations."

1. Know about Health and Safety

You have the right to know about workplace hazards and have access to health and safety information at the work site. Your employer has the responsibility to make you aware of your rights and duties under the OHS legislation including information about hazards, controls. Your employer must also provide you information about hazards at the work site, controls and any relevant work practices and procedures and to make sure you are appropriately trained on how to handle hazardous materials, safe use of equipment and PPE. Your employer must make sure you have the skills and the training needed to do your work safely.

2. Participate in Health and Safety

You have the right to be involved in health and safety discussions and participate in decision-making on matters that affect your health and safety at work. Your employer is required to respond to health and safety issues raised by workers.

3. Refuse Dangerous Work

Workers must not undertake tasks or assignments that they are either unable or not prepared to do in a healthy and safe manner. You have the right to refuse dangerous work if you have reasonable grounds to believe the work is dangerous to you or any other person. Work involving health and safety hazards that are not normal for the job is considered a dangerous condition that could trigger a work refusal.

If you determine you need to refuse to do particular work, you must promptly report the refusal to your employer, supervisor or other designated person stating the reasons and completing an incident/accident/near miss/injury/illness/ work refusal form. You can not be reprimanded or fired for refusing to do the work.

International Overdose Awareness Day - Aug. 31

- Learn how to help: Naloxone is a medication that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose. [Get a naloxone kit](#) to carry with you and learn how to use it with [Toward the Heart](#) (BC Program).
- Get involved: There are events and activities available [across Canada](#), as well as online options. Visit the [International Overdose Awareness Day website](#) to find something near you.
- Take time to remember: The overdose crisis has touched all our communities. Light a candle, post a tribute or create an artwork in honour of them.
- Have the conversation: Take this opportunity to talk about substance use and overdose awareness with your friends, family and loved ones.





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UPDATES AROUND THE ORGANIZATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Staffing Updates: Recruitment was busy for the month of July. We have had many job postings including casual Lifeguard and Cashier at the Aquaplex, as well as casual Activity Specialists at the BCF. HR continues recruitment for the Finance Manager and Human Resources Manager postings.
- We had 1 full-time hire for this month. We're excited to welcome Cherri Stepanic to the team as our new AR Licensing Assistant for the Finance Team! In this role, Cherri will be responsible for front counter cashier, receptionist duties, telephone contact with the public and the provision of information and administration of business, animal licensing and accounts receivable. With a strong background in accounting operations, customer service, and license registries, Cherri brings valuable skills and a dedication to service that will strengthen our operations. Please stop by the front counter at Town Hall if you haven't had a chance to say hello yet!

COMMUNICATIONS

- Plenty of summer activities have kept our supporting department busy over the last month including Canada Day, Summer @ The Plaza, CampBCF, Infrastructure happenings and more!
- Upcoming projects include marketing and advertising surrounding the BCF Exhibition in early September focused on drawing newcomers in to explore all of the extracurricular programming the Valley has to offer while giving locals an equal opportunity to sign up for their preferred or new activity of choice. What's new this year is halved pricing on booths!
- The new marketing request process is finalized, and training will be available in September.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Permitting continues to be busy. Planning & Development also completed first reading of the Municipal Development Plan Amending Bylaw #26.25 with Council.
- Ec. Dev. presented Q2 results and the partners Business Needs Survey Results to council, which illustrated a very strong local economy.
- We are working on a report card for the 2018 Task Force Strategy - A community plan developed by a grassroots task force. There have been many positive changes since then, and Real Estate vacancy helps measure that. Specifically: Downtown Commercial vacancy was > 18% and is now > 1%.
- As for land, it continues to be busy. The Town sold an industrial lot in Rosedale recently.
- Industrial vacancy was > 23% and is now > 2%
- There was more than 150 homes on MLS (Realtor.ca), and now it is a seller's market. As a result of these low vacancies, we are seeing new builds in commercial, industrial and residential areas. This is a great indication of the work Council, Administration and the Business Community has done over the past six years.

Film

- Reg and Terri had 45 minutes in early July to showcase the Valley for future filming projects by picking up seven executives of big production companies in Hollywood for the Familiarization (FAM) Tour from their helicopters. This tour, with two trips across the Gordon Taylor, proved to be a roaring success! They were amazed by the golden fields, Valley's structure but also the myriad of dinosaurs running around town! This has been a great way to showcase our home with a strong track record of movies made in the past.



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604 Ave. Intersection Construction

UPDATES AROUND THE ORGANIZATION

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Engineering

- Hot Tub repairs well underway
- Stops and Stations along the Rails to Trails network are underway (Thanks Wilco!)
- 6th Street Extension Project underway with some hiccups due to unknown materials in old railway property (Finding parts of the old grain elevators and other debris)

Operations

- Ongoing vegetation maintenance: TOO MUCH RAIN!
- Ongoing pothole repairs due to rain
- Street sweeping and silt removal from heavy rain events
- Old City of Drumheller Well #3 in Rotary Park is causing issues with soil movement and has created a sink hole in the park.
- Culvert issues on 4 Ave SW, small sink hole has developed
- Ditch and sedimentation pond review being completed
- Assessing conditions of ditches and ponds after rain event on July 21, 2025

Facilities

- Ongoing water testing at splash park and fountain as per AHS Requirements
- Indoor pool mechanical maintenance is completed for 2025
- Ice will be placed at the arena starting Aug 4, 2025 – Summer is over!

Engineering

- Ongoing water main flushing
- Reservoir Inspections and Cleaning at Bankview and Greentree: Cleaning complete, Concerns with structure
- Sanitary Sewer surcharging event in Newcastle on July 21, 2025
- System overwhelmed due to rain event

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES (CCS)

Finance

- Finance is as usual this month: Monthly utility billings, more invoices to pay, payroll processing. It's the lull before the storm of property taxes deadline in August! Property tax deadline is August 31 of each year.
- Finance has hired our permanent AR and licensing clerk - Cherri Stepanic! Cherri will start taking over those AR & Licensing tasks and provide a much-deserved break for Lana.
- There are currently three vacancies (Soon to be two) within the Corporate & Community Services team: Finance Manager, Manager of Recreation, Arts & Culture, and FCSS Coordinator.
- The finance manager position is in the final stage of the hiring process. We are hoping to have them here soon coinciding with the start of 2026 budget season.





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UPDATES AROUND THE ORGANIZATION

CCS (CONT.)

Drumheller Aquaplex

- Summer is in full swing outdoors only this year! Gloomy weather kept some people away, but lesson registrations are still strong, supported by a great instructing staff. A lesson booking with an out-of-valley community day camp has earned some repeat business, hopefully for subsequent years.
- The first Giant Water Fight was on July 23 in combination with Drowning Prevention Week, running from 1 – 5 pm. The next Giant Water Fight will be on August 13 from 1 – 5 pm.
- Last event of the summer will be the Teen Swim, being held on August 29. Some new accessories will be added to make the outdoor pool light up!
- The Aquaplex will be open on Monday, August 4, running weekend hours.

Badlands Community Facility

- Canada Day was a huge success! So many happy faces throughout the day!
- Camp BCF has been having some great numbers this year compared to last, with fun adventures (Escape Rooms, Go Carts and Cloudland so far!), swimming, crafts and more!
- Wedding Season is in action! People are enjoying the venue, the atmosphere and appreciating all the staff support!

- Programs are being planned for the fall, with some new and returning.
- The Recreation, Arts and Wellness Exhibit will be coming up on September 10.
- BCF will be closed on Monday, August 4.

Events

- Summer at the Plaza (S@TP) is off to a strong and exciting start this year! Taking place every Friday and Saturday, the series has already featured some fantastic performances, kicking off with the talented Samantha Lee. Each weekend brings new acts and great energy, making it a highlight of the community's summer calendar. So far, we've been lucky with the weather, which has helped keep attendance steady. Every weekend, a loyal crowd gathers to enjoy live music, food, and the welcoming atmosphere.
- With more great performers lined up, Summer at the Plaza promises to keep the good vibes going all season long. Join us and be part of the fun!



Summer @ The Plaza - Opener Samantha Lee





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UPDATES AROUND THE ORGANIZATION

CCS (CONT.)

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

- While July was a relatively quiet month for Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), important groundwork was laid for future community involvement. One key highlight was the release of an application to form an FCSS Advisory Committee.
- This new committee will play an important role by working alongside Council in an advisory capacity, offering insights and feedback on social programs and community well-being. The goal is to bring together residents who are passionate about supporting the needs of our community and shaping future FCSS initiatives.
- Although there were no major programs or events this month, behind-the-scenes planning and community engagement remain ongoing. FCSS continues to gather feedback and track local trends to help inform upcoming projects.
- Looking ahead, the focus will shift toward promoting the new committee and preparing for fall programming. Community members interested in joining the advisory committee are encouraged to apply and help guide the future of FCSS in our area.

EMERGENCY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- Gross net revenue from the Paid Parking Program during July exceeded \$50,000 which makes it the highest earning month ever for the program.
- The Gordon Taylor Bridge construction continues to keep enforcement busy. Recently, our team caught a violation involving a high rate of speed and passing over a double solid line into oncoming traffic. August is still an extremely busy month for tourist traffic, and we please ask everyone to remain patient.



CampBCF - Splash Park Waterfight



FAM Tour Arrival

Photos by Terri Huxley



Kohut Crossing Installation



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

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LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Exciting news! We have started our hiring process for election workers for the 2025 Municipal Election! We have published a shiny new landing page on the Town website, which can be found [here](#). We also have a web application form [here](#) and will have a printable form for those who are less technically inclined [here](#). Shout out to our awesome Communications Team Erica, Francisco, and Terri who have helped us so much with everything elections.

Katelyn has been hard at work reaching out to workers from previous elections. So far, we have a total of 11 applications. This is great news, but we are still looking for more workers. Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested to apply. It is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and make some cold hard cash on the side. I have taken the liberty to answer some FAQs for anyone who may be interested below.

ELECTIONS WORKERS

Q: Who is eligible to be an election worker?

A: To be an election worker you must be 16 years of age or older and legally eligible to work in Canada. This makes it a great opportunity for the recent high school graduate who needs to pad their resume or the retiree who is looking for something to talk about at the coffee shop.

Q: Do I need previous experience?

A: No! Previous experience is an asset but not required. All election workers receive mandatory paid training before the election to ensure they are confident and prepared for their role. The training will be about three (3) hours long and will be scheduled sometime between October 3 and October 7, 2025.

Q: How much does it pay?

A: The best payment is the satisfaction of a job well done. But if that doesn't do it for you, pay is between \$265 and \$325 per day for Election Day (October 20), between \$175 and \$215 per day for Advance Voting (October 14 – October 18) and \$70 for training. Pay will be based on the workers assigned role.

Q: Can I, an employee of the Town, be an election worker?

A: Yes, However, you would need to arrange to take the day off from your regular position. Please talk to your supervisor first to see if this would be possible.

If you have any other questions, please reach out to Returning Officer (RO), Mitchell Visser, at (403) 823-1339 and legislativeservices@drumheller.ca, or in his absence, Substitute Returning Officer (SRO), Angela Keibel at (403) 823-1347. And remember, if you haven't already, please register to vote by visiting 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.





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CANADA DAY
PARADE



Photos by Terri Huxley



THE DRUMROLL CANADA DAY

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CANADA DAY

TUESDAY, JULY 1



Photos by Terri Huxley

RETIREMENT

PARTY

DARRYL DROHOMERSKI

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

12:00p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
PUBLIC WORKS
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
VALLEY BREWING

FOOD



DRINKS



DARRYL



RSVP to skoopke@drumheller.ca
by August 6, 4:30 p.m.