

○ ADVANTAGE | ○ BUSINESS | ○ CONNECTION

Town of Blackfalds



BLACKFALDS
ALBERTA



Abbey Master Builders
CENTRE



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Message from your Mayor & Council

The Town of Blackfalds continues to be a great place to live and do business. Consistently one of Canada's most rapidly growing communities, we reached a population of 8,793 in 2015.

People choose Blackfalds because of its opportunity, quality of life, award winning recreational amenities, selection of housing options, and ideal Central Alberta location.

This Report to the Community aims to inform community members of the actions undertaken in 2015 to advance strategic priorities and to also provide helpful information on the costs of service delivery, municipal finances, infrastructure projects, and both the challenges and achievements in the community.

Crime prevention and safety initiatives were a highlight of the past year. Blackfalds partnered with the Central Alberta

Crime Prevention Centre to host a Safe Communities BBQ in June 2015. Hundreds of community members attended and provided their input on any neighbourhood concerns they had and a "crime prevention through environmental design" (CPTED) assessment of the municipality was also done in the following days.

The municipality addressed many of the recommendations received from community members and the CPTED assessment. Landscaping work was done to improve visibility and sight lines along roadways throughout Town and traffic calming measures such as pedestrian crossing signage at crosswalks and school crossings was enhanced. Lights with motion sensors and timers and security cameras were placed at various municipal facilities including the transfer station, public works yard, and Multi-Plex. Community clean-up projects and ongoing enforcement of unsightly property was undertaken along with

"It has been important to Council over the past years to build infrastructure in diverse areas: recreation, utilities, & roads. This sound investment is now paying the dividends of improved quality of life, increased business attraction, & a prosperous vision of economic sustainability."

MAYOR MELODIE STOL



providing community members with graffiti removal products. We are looking forward to launching the Neighbourhood Watch program in Blackfalds in Spring 2016 and continue to encourage residents to report any of their safety related concerns to the Community Peace Officers at 403.885.0020.

The implementation of the 2-lane round-about at the Highway 2A and Highway 597 intersection was a much welcomed infrastructure addition. Both traffic flow and motorist safety have vastly improved at this location since the round-a-bout opened in late summer 2015. Area drivers quickly became familiar with the rules for navigating the round-a-bout and Blackfalds and other partnering Central Alberta communities launched a helpful web resource complete with numerous videos for those seeking additional information on using a round-a-bout at www.roundabout.how/en/index.asp.

Undoubtedly, the progress made on the new

schools in Blackfalds was also a highlight for 2015. It was exciting to see the Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus (IRIC) taking shape and also to host the St. Gregory the Great Catholic School ground-breaking celebration. We look forward to having many grade 4 - 6 students in the community learning at IRIC in fall 2016 and also to seeing the construction of St. Gregory move forward until it also opens in fall 2017. The recent addition of a high school on the Wolf Creek Public Schools 2017 - 19 capital plan is an additional optimistic step in the right direction for Blackfalds having a complete and robust educational system available for all members of our community.

Council and I value the opportunity to serve the community and look forward to continued work with you to build for the future and celebrate our successes!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melodie Stol".

Melodie Stol, Mayor
Town of Blackfalds



Message from CAO **Myron Thompson**

Your Municipal Government has worked hard over the past year to enhance communications with Blackfalds' residents. This 2015 Report to the Community is an important vehicle for sharing with the public, some of the activities, achievements, and challenges of the past year.

2015 will surely be remembered by many for the economic challenges that impacted the community, the region, and the province. These concerns still exist and are driving the need for resiliency, sufficiency, and sustainability. However, we can also take pride in a great number of positive happenings in Blackfalds.

The population of the Town grew by almost 1,000 people; an annual increase of 12%. This consistent population growth places Blackfalds as one of Canada's fastest growing communities.

The increase in residents and dwellings necessitates your municipal government to constantly strive to enhance the delivery of services and to incorporate efficiencies that improve the quality of life for residents.

Town administration have focused on expanding regional collaboration and relationships with our municipal neighbours and area organizations. This effort has resulted in several advancements, including the regional wastewater line project, much needed additional schools, and beneficial economic development and tourism initiatives.

The Recreation, Culture & Parks Needs Assessment and Master Plan was completed and will direct future investment into municipal recreation facilities and parks. Community members can look forward to seeing several of the projects identified

“ We are very pleased to have a Blackfalds high school included in the Wolf Creek Public Schools 2017-19 capital plan. One of the key objectives of our Municipal Sustainability Plan is to advance the educational system in the community & acquire a high school.”

CAO MYRON THOMPSON



by residents by the residents as priorities become a reality in the coming year.

Similar comprehensive planning processes were undertaken in the areas of economic development and infrastructure. Coordinated efforts between Blackfalds and the province led to the recent construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Highways 597 & 2A. This upgrade has significantly improved traffic flow and safety at this busy intersection. Ongoing collaboration is taking place to bring about additional improvements on the Highway 2A corridor, where it bisects the community.

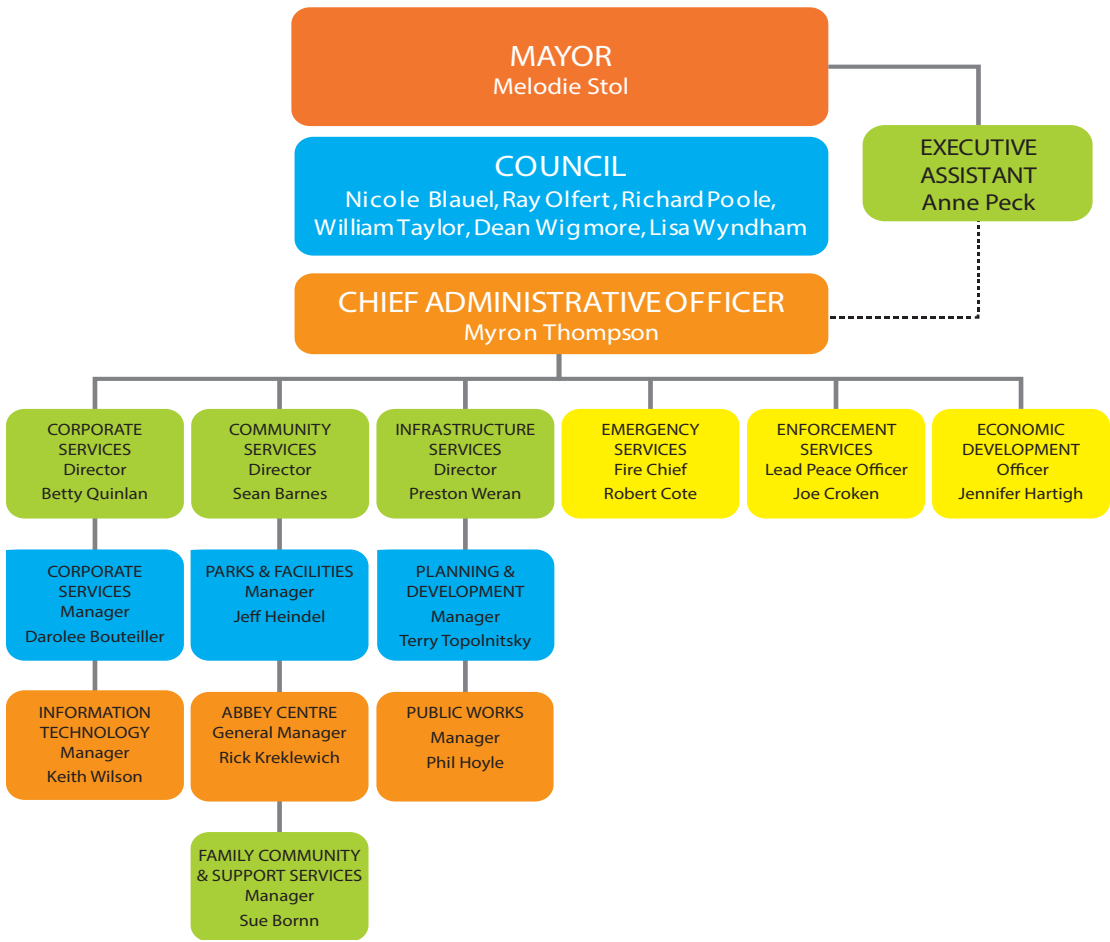
Increasing public engagement opportunities and implementing new communication initiatives were a priority in the past year. Successes in this arena include the development and recent launch of the new Town website and an improved process for hosting Public Open Houses, to ensure that community members have access to

information and can provide input toward important municipal initiatives.

Enjoy this 2015 edition of the Report to the Community. I hope you find value in the information provided within and that you engage with the municipality through our other communication channels.

We look forward to continually improving how we communicate beneficial information to the community as well as hearing your feedback.

Myron Thompson, CAO
Town of Blackfalds



*“... sometimes kindness goes a long way.
It can make someone smile and
forget their troubles for a little bit.”*

SHERA-LEE KARRAS, RESIDENT



Community Profile

The Town of Blackfalds is one of Canada's youngest and fastest growing communities; with a population of 8,793 in 2015 and an annual growth rate of 12%, the Town is quickly approaching City status.

Ideally situated in Central Alberta, midway between Alberta's two largest urban centres, Blackfalds retains the feel and security of a small town while also being a short drive from the city amenities of post-secondary education, regional scale shopping outlets, and entertainment.

Outstanding recreational opportunities, a robust and diversified economy, and affordable land and housing, are among the factors contributing to our thriving, successful, and dynamic community.

Vision

Blackfalds is an active family community full of pride, commitment and opportunities reflecting an economically sustainable, self-sufficient, and safe living environment, with a balanced range of municipal services provided through innovation and proactive community partnerships.

Mission

To provide excellence in the area of municipal service to make available the highest possible quality of life to the residents of Blackfalds.



Blackfalds Public Library

Library Use

Visitors	36,930
Hours of Computer Use	10,363
# of WiFi / Internet Users	6,309
# of Exams Written	63
Questions Answered	9,000 - 24 questions every day!

Total Card Holders: 1,913


Collections & Resources

Print Collection	Items Added in 2015:	3,032
	Items Deleted in 2015:	2,138
	Total Print Items:	23,444
Non-Print Collection	Audio Books:	539
	Music:	604
	DVDs:	2,5737
	Other:	45
Total Non-Print Items	3,925	
Total Physical Collection	27,437	

Circulation

Adult Print	13,720
Juvenile Print	33,148
Magazines Newspapers	2,667
Electronic Items	2,297
Interlibrary Loan Items	Total Borrowed: 4,686
	Total Loaned: 16,898
Total Items Circulated	64,839



The Blackfalds Public Library 

“The Wadey family & I are thrilled to have the century-old Wadey House restored and preserved.”

JUDY CARLETON, BLACKFALDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT



Blackfalds Historical Society

The Society had a busy 2015. A historical signage project commenced in the summer months and soon community members will see beautifully crafted metal signs with historical photographs and information placed in the downtown area and at the Abbey Centre.

The Historical Society's latest history book "Journeys Through Faith – A Look Back at Blackfalds Churches," by Judy Carleton, was printed in July and is available for interested readers at the library or through the Blackfalds & Area Historical Society.

October found us embarking on a new and fun activity – a Cemetery Tour. On a dark and stormy night, society members led a group of close to 40 brave people to various head stones, where a period costumed society member shared with the crowd stories of

the hardships and triumphs of some of Blackfalds' pioneers.

Those in attendance at the Cemetery Tour really enjoyed themselves and we hope to make this an annual event.

The Society also restored several grave markers that were in need of refurbishment.

The big news of 2015 was the federal government announcement in July of the Canada 150 grant to partner with the Town of Blackfalds to move the 100 year-old Wadey House to the All-Star Park location in summer 2016 where it will be restored and become the new home for a Visitor Information Centre, the Historical Society and the Chamber of Commerce in 2017.





Safe Living

Blackfalds RCMP Detachment

In summer 2015, the RCMP partnered with Lacombe Police and Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) to bring Kids & Kops to Blackfalds' youth. This program was a big hit, with a highlight being the RCMP helicopter landing at the Blackfalds Detachment. Participants also visited the training kennels and performed mock investigations in the community. Thanks to BBBS for organizing this great program.

Remembrance Day 2015 was memorable for the large RCMP participation. Detachment members were also actively involved in the Blackfalds Day parade.

Before Christmas, the Blackfalds Detachment partnered with Central Alberta Victim & Witness Support in a Charity Check Stop to raise funds for Victims Services and collect food and toys for Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services. Members of the Blackfalds Police Advisory Committee, Victim Services, Blackfalds Community Peace Officers, and local RCMP manned the stop. The generous donations of area residents made this event an amazing success.

Property crime rose throughout the Central Alberta region in 2015. By joining forces with

neighbouring Detachments and continued support of the Property Crimes Task Force, many criminals were apprehended. A large volume of stolen property was recovered thanks to the combined efforts of the community and neighbouring Detachments.

Blackfalds saw an increase in property crime from 438 reported in 2014 to 481 in 2015, with most crimes relating to Break and Enter, Theft Under \$5,000, Theft of Motor Vehicles, and Mischief to Property. Persons related crimes saw a decrease from 139 reported in 2014 to 121 in 2015. Overall, reported Criminal Code activity was down slightly.

There was significant staff turn over in 2015 with members being transferred and new cadets being welcomed. A new School Resource Officer, specifically for the Blackfalds Schools, will be added in Fall 2016.

The Detachment continues to focus on community engagement and working together to ensure resident safety. Rural Crime Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, and public education are used to ensure property safety. There has been an increase in public reporting of suspicious or criminal activity, showing that together we do make a difference.

“ I knew from the time I was little I wanted to do something to make a difference. With the fire department I feel part of something really important & special; there is nothing like the fire department family.”

SARAH MASCHKE, VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER



Fire | Rescue

The Fire Department has a full roster of 30 members and maintains a waiting list of residents interested in volunteering.

We continue to focus on training members to the National Fire Protection Association 1001 Level I and Level II standards, with vehicle extrication and first aid.

In 2015 there was a rash of alarm calls, which accounted for half of the department's responses. These were all false alarms; residents cooking or not responding to the alarm company's calls until after the fire department arrived. Residents are strongly encouraged to maintain current contact information with their alarm company.

The fire department is looking at enhancing fire prevention and alarm system education programs and providing additional detail on these topics on the Town website.

There was a 40% decrease in incidents in 2015 compared to 2014.

Community Peace Officers

2015 was a busy year for municipal enforcement staff, with approximately 2000 files being generated within the community.

The full-time team consists of two community peace officers who are stationed at the Blackfalds RCMP Detachment. These officers work closely with the RCMP members and have participated in many joint forces operations. A seasonal Parks Bylaw Officer is also in place from May until September.

The primary focus for the peace officers is enforcement of municipal bylaws, ensuring safety and compliance with regulations in Town parks areas and sporting facilities, enforcing the traffic safety act, and assisting with animal control.

Public education, communication, and increased community awareness are highly valued department priorities.



Strong Families & Community

Blackfalds Youth Crew

Participation in the Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC) grew considerably in 2015 with an increase in attendance of between 63% to 145% depending on the month.

Throughout the year there were youth 786 participants at the various events. It has been great to see this engagement from the youth in the community.

BYC introduced a few new programs in 2015. Fresh Air Art, a youth initiative for those 10 - 17 years of age, took place two days a week in July. Participants were provided with all necessary supplies and were able to create an art project each session. On average, eight youth attended each session for a total of 54 attendees. Owing to the success of this pilot, the intent is to run it again in July and August of 2016.

A new Youth Day Retreat was also launched in the fall, thanks to a grant from Servus Credit Union. Attending youth participated in a dance lesson and a yoga class and received nutritional information from a registered dietitian while enjoying a delicious

and healthy lunch. The highlight of the day was presenter, David Adie, who shared his personal story of overcoming barriers and obstacles.

Increased Demand

The economic slow down brought about challenges for many community members in 2015. As a result, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) saw an increased need in most of its programs and services.

The Tools for Schools initiative that had served 15 students in 2014, assisted 46 students in 2015. The Worley Parsons Cord Winter Wear program saw a similar increase, providing 59 children with coats and boots compared to 28 children the year before. The Christmas Bureau, which was launched in 2014 and helped make the season brighter for 148 local individuals that year, was tasked with doing the same for 296 community members in 2015. A huge shout of thanks to the amazing support from residents and businesses for the \$21,000 that allowed the Christmas Bureau to meet this unprecedented demand.

“The community members in Blackfalds are amazing and their willingness to help is incredible.”

KARIE ACKERMAN, FCSS COMMUNITY BUILDING INITIATIVE ADMINISTRATOR



Volunteer Support

Recognizing the value of the contributions made by community volunteers, additional staff resources were allocated in 2015 to assist local organizations with volunteer recruitment, retention, and management.

The Volunteer Programmer participated in a number of workshops hosted by Volunteer Central and shared the information gained through those as well as from the Alberta Vitalize Conference with community non-profit groups.

Initiatives that benefited from having volunteers recruited and assigned include: the Good Food Box program, Blackfalds Days, One Seed at a Time garden, Blackfalds Youth Crew, Little Tots Playtime, and Parent's Coffee Talk. Through increased volunteer-ism, the Good Food Box program was able to grow substantially in 2015 providing 330 boxes throughout the year, 172 of which were sponsored.

The annual volunteer appreciation celebration took place in April. Guests and nominees were treated to a dessert buffet at a presentation from former Olympian, Lyndon Rush. Congratulations and thanks to all of the community volunteers, those nominated, and to the 2015 winners, Jeanette Edwards, Rebekka Flyer, Asia Deacon, and Adam McCarroll.





Recreation

Community Trails

In 2015, additional development of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) was undertaken in the Aspen Lakes and Valley Ridge neighbourhoods. It is anticipated that the TCT will be fully connected through the Aspen Lakes West subdivision in the near future.

Further trail additions took place on the east side of Town at the Pine Crescent Park, giving community members increased access to the playground there, as well as on the Abbey Centre grounds, providing visitors with a walkable entrance to the amphitheatre.

Phase one of the Community Place-Making Initiative resulted in the development of a new parks and trails map that is available for residents to download from the Town website or to pick up at the Abbey Centre. Watch for new trail signage to be installed over the coming summer months!

New Playgrounds

To help local kids of all ages have fun and stay active, a new outdoor play centre was erected in the McKay Ranch neighbourhood.

It has a ranch theme and play structures for a variety of ages.

The popular playground at the Tayles Water Spray Park required upgrades to maintain a safe play environment and so a new pirate-themed play structure was installed there. As has been done previously with playground equipment that does not meet the high Canadian standards, the former play structure was donated to a community in Costa Rica.

Recreation Plans

Extensive community engagement resulted in the finalization of Master Plans for municipal parks and facilities and All-Star Park. These two important planning documents will direct the allocation of funding for and the implementation of recreational amenities identified as priorities by Blackfalds' residents. Some of the new features that community members and visitors can look forward to in the coming years include: an off-leash dog park, additional ball diamonds and bleachers at All-Star Park, a new skateboard park, and expansion of the Multi-Plex Arena. See the

“ Events are a key part of the Town’s economic development & tourism strategy. It’s always great to see community members out enjoying themselves and it’s a pleasure to welcome visitors to Blackfalds.”

JENNIFER HARTIGH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



Recreation, Culture, and Parks Master Plan for full details at blackfalds.com/publications.

Abbey Centre

This community gem just keeps getting better! In 2015, programs and services were expanded and enhanced and more facility equipment was added.

The popularity of the Servus Program Room for use for birthday parties brought about the outfitting of a second room for this purpose and users of the Border Paving Fitness Centre benefited from an infusion of additional work out equipment.

Children’s summer and day camp enrollment exceeded expectations and the school PD day camp program was expanded to align with local public and Catholic school schedules. Additional new drop-in fitness classes were also launched for Abbey Centre members or for guests with a day admission.

Staying on top of Abbey Centre and community happenings became easier than ever, with the launch of the Abbey Centre Facebook page and monthly e-newsletter. Sign up at blackfalds.com/abbeycentre.

Community Events

Blackfalds has become well know for its family-friendly events and 2015 saw the addition of even more of these. New events during Blackfalds Days included a street dance, a farmers’ market, the “mud challenge,” and a “party in the park.” The annual favourite, Breakfast with Santa, was relocated to a larger space in the Abbey Centre in order to accommodate the increased interest from Blackfalds’ families.

A new Halloween family function, the Monster Bash, proved to be a bit hit, selling out and receiving great reviews from participants. In addition, the community was treated to the first ever stop by the CP Holiday Train, making the season that much more festive!

Thanks to all community members for your support of and participation in such events.



Resilient & Sustainable Business

Despite the economic challenges that came about in 2015, the business community in Blackfalds continued to make forward strides.

Residents benefited from the addition of the products and services of many new businesses such as Sik Session Boards & Apparel, A-1 Max convenience store, TaDah Home Store, Pizza Hut, Rob's Gym, Co-op Gas Bar, Rebel Hair, and more!

Existing businesses also expanded or diversified their offerings, with Granden Auto offering tire sales and service, Horizon Childcare embarking on adding additional classroom space and a mini-gym, and a second lawyer joining the team at Blackfalds Law Office.

With our businesses doing so much for the community, it's great to know that there are supports in place for them too. The Town Economic Development & Tourism Board's 2015-2020 Economic Development Business Plan was adopted and identifies strategies and resources needed to inspire entrepreneurs, support business retention and expansion, develop the local value-chain to encourage new business investment,

and implement tourism attraction projects that lead to growth of businesses catering to community visitors.

Chamber of Commerce



The Blackfalds & District Chamber of Commerce is another beneficial resource for local business. This non-profit organization is experiencing continued success, serving an expanded membership and implementing new initiatives to help businesses in the region. An enhanced website featuring a business directory was launched at blackfaldschamber.ca and the first ever two-day "Merry Market," featuring over 100 vendors took place in late November 2015.

Chamber events like the Spring Meet & Greet and the Business of the Year Awards during

“We wanted to bring something to Blackfalds that we could all benefit from... this is the only store of its kind in the community and we really want locals to feel like this is their store.”

COLE GEORGE. SIK SESSION OWNER



Small Business week in the fall, provide great networking opportunities, informative speakers, and are increasingly well attended. Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 business awards: Sik Session Boards & Apparel, Nurture Salon and Spa, and Highway Angels Eats & Treats, as well as all the other deserving nominees.

Regional Economic Development & Tourism Initiatives

Blackfalds has been a key player in several important regional collaborations over the past 12 months.

The Town engaged with other local business service providers including the Rural Alberta Business Centre and Community Futures to form a Regional Business Network. In 2016, this partnership will be implementing a community business visitation program to foster business growth as well as hosting training and networking opportunities for local entrepreneurs and women in business.

Initiatives focusing on business attraction are being moved forward through ongoing work with the Central Alberta Economic

Partnership and Central Alberta Access Prosperity and include a Tourism Investment Opportunity Assessment, which will result in the development of business cases for investment, and the implementation of the Invest in Central Alberta website to showcase available commercial and industrial properties in the region.

Blackfalds was also one of eleven Central Alberta communities to participate in the creation of a Tourism Destination Management Plan that outlines a regional approach to developing tourism product, attracting tourists to the area, and providing the desired services to extend visitor stays and promote return trips. Actions coming from this plan that will be implemented in summer 2016 include the undertaking of a regional visitor friendly assessment with the City of Lacombe and Lacombe County and an initiative to support the development of visitor accommodations in the community.



Managing Growth

Transportation

The summer months of 2015 saw the much welcomed addition of a 2-lane roundabout at the south entrance to Blackfalds on Highway 2A and new paving on Highway 597. Despite the large scope of these projects, they were managed very efficiently, with minimal disruption for residents and are now providing the benefit of significantly improved traffic flow into the community and surrounding industrial areas.

BOLT Regional Transit acquired new buses in early 2015 and celebrated one year of service in August. Rider feedback brought about an enhanced route/ schedule in November, and the ability to transfer from BOLT Transit to Red Deer Transit Route 10, at no extra cost, enabling riders to access Red Deer Hospital, Red Deer College, and Bower Mall.

Owing to the rapid community growth, an update to the Town's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) was needed. This work was completed in May 2015 and provides proposed roadway networks to serve the Town until it reaches a population of 22,000, provides current traffic counts to assist with related planning initiatives, and

makes recommendations on Highway 2A access points.

Water & Wastewater

Several initiatives aimed at improving efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability have been advanced.

Last summer, the lagoons were dredged, the pump was upgraded and the water reservoir and watermains were cleaned. This work will improve short-term treatment of the lagoons and ensure better quality drinking water.

Water meter read software was installed to allow data from water meters to be received remotely. This saves time and money and reduces the environmental footprint of vehicle traffic to collect the data.

Advancement was made toward attaining a regional wastewater line. The Town, along with Lacombe County and the City of Lacombe undertook work on a detailed design and land acquisition strategy, so that when appropriate funding for construction is available, the project will be deemed to be feasible and shovel ready.

“ Feedback from BOLT Transit riders has been positive overall, but the BOLT group continues to work on improving service levels and increasing ridership.”

PRESTON WERAN, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE & PROPERTY SERVICES



Planning & Development

Following a record year for building permits issued, 2015 proved to be a crucial year for reviewing bylaws and revising plans to facilitate future development.

Significant time and energy were deployed to update the Land Use Bylaw and implement a new Off-site Levy Bylaw. These processes involved extensive engagement with local developers and will result in having effective legislation in place to direct future subdivision development within the Town boundaries.

It was exciting to issue a building permit for Iron Ridge Intermediate School (grades 4 - 6), to open in September 2016, and to provide a development permit for St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (grades K - 9), which will open in September 2017.

Work on two new developments in town commenced in 2015. The Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the Aspen Lakes West residential neighbourhood was approved and servicing for phase one of this development

commenced. An ASP for a combined commercial and residential development, Blackfalds Crossing, was also brought forward to the Town and presented to community members at an Open House. It is anticipated that the Blackfalds Crossing ASP will be approved in the first half of 2016.

Overall, the dollar value of the building permits issued in 2015 was down from the previous year, but it was encouraging to see an increased diversity in the permits being drawn. Instead of the large numbers of permits for single family dwellings, there were a positive mix of requests for a variety of multi-family accommodations, including 8-plexes, condominiums, and manufactured homes. This increased diversity in housing options will serve the community well, providing the right mix of accommodations for our growing population.

The Town also assisted Canada Post in determining the best locations for community mailboxes. Many residents can now conveniently pick up their mail instead of being on general delivery.



Enhanced Services

Public Works

The Town constantly strives to increase efficiencies and cost-savings, while providing better service to community members. Some of the highlights from 2015 are the addition of equipment to improve snow removal and required earth work.

A loader was added to the fleet, allowing one loader to operate with a blower and the other to use the blade or bucket. Having both of these vehicles operating simultaneously provided timely and efficient removal of snow from Town roadways.

Cyclones were installed on the hydro-vac truck enabling municipal staff to undertake digging work in-house, and enabling required projects to be completed in a shorter time frame and with less expense.

Storage capacity was increased with the addition of a mezzanine in the Public Works Shop and a tent that was erected on the grounds. Having the ability to more securely store the waste and recycling carts, composters, rain barrels, and signage allows the Town to realize cost savings through bulk purchases and prolongs the life of the items

being stored.

Lastly, the addition of signalized pedestrian crosswalk lights at both Broadway Ave. and Park St. and Highway 2A and Cottonwood Dr. have provided improved safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists at these intersections.

Corporate Services

While not always visible to community members, the enhancement of internal processes can have a significant impact on the levels of municipal services provided to residents.

Exploration of an improved records management system commenced in 2015 and prompted the implementation of Sharepoint software in the coming months. It is anticipated that this program will integrate smoothly with the new Town website and allow community members to easily access more municipal documents at their convenience.

Caseware, software used for auditing purposes, has also been introduced.

“ Our aim has been to provide an improved website that allows community members to quickly & easily get the information they are seeking. It was very important to ensure that municipal information is accessible, streamlined, time-efficient, & cost-effective.”

SEAN BARNES, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



This program is being adopted by many municipalities and results in significant cost savings in the preparation of year end financial reporting. A new auditor, Collin Barrows from Red Deer, was selected through a request for proposal process and the Town looks forward to working with this trusted and experienced financial services provider.

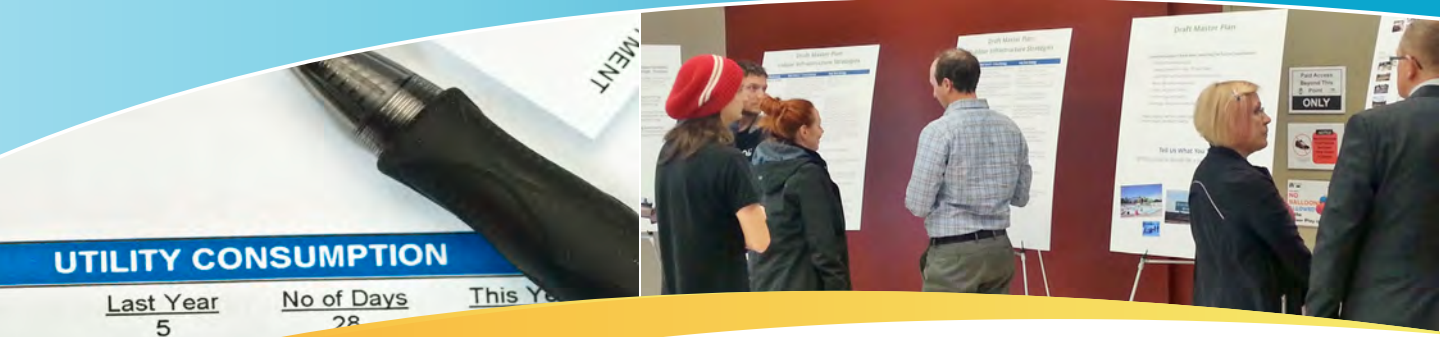


The departments responsible for municipal utilities and property taxes are moving toward an increased electronic-billing system. Residents are being encouraged to sign up for electronic billing, as a paperless

billing system would result in a cost savings of approximately \$40,000!

A move to permanent tags for dogs and cats was also explored. The intention is to provide animal owners in the community with tags for their pets that they would keep for the long term and not have to replace each year. Residents will still receive the annual license invoice from the Town and can then choose to make their payment online.

The benefits of this enhanced program include reduced expenses for the purchase of tags and less time spent processing annual payments. Customer service will also be enhanced greatly, as community members will no longer be required to come to the Town Office annually to renew the licenses for their pets.



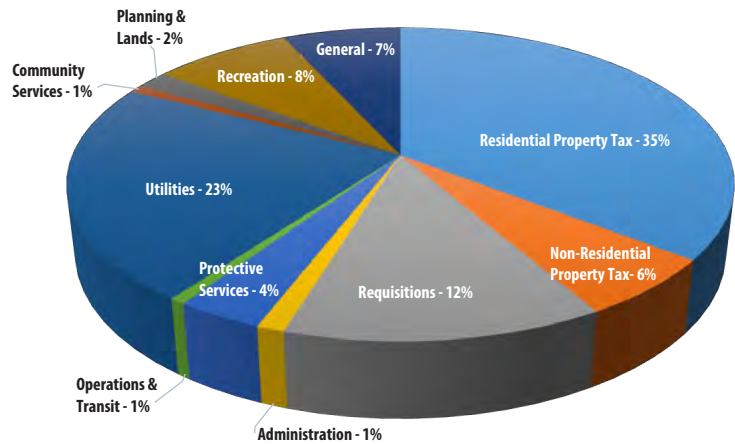
UTILITY CONSUMPTION

Last Year	No of Days	This Year
5	28	

2015 Budget

Proposed 2015 Budget Revenue

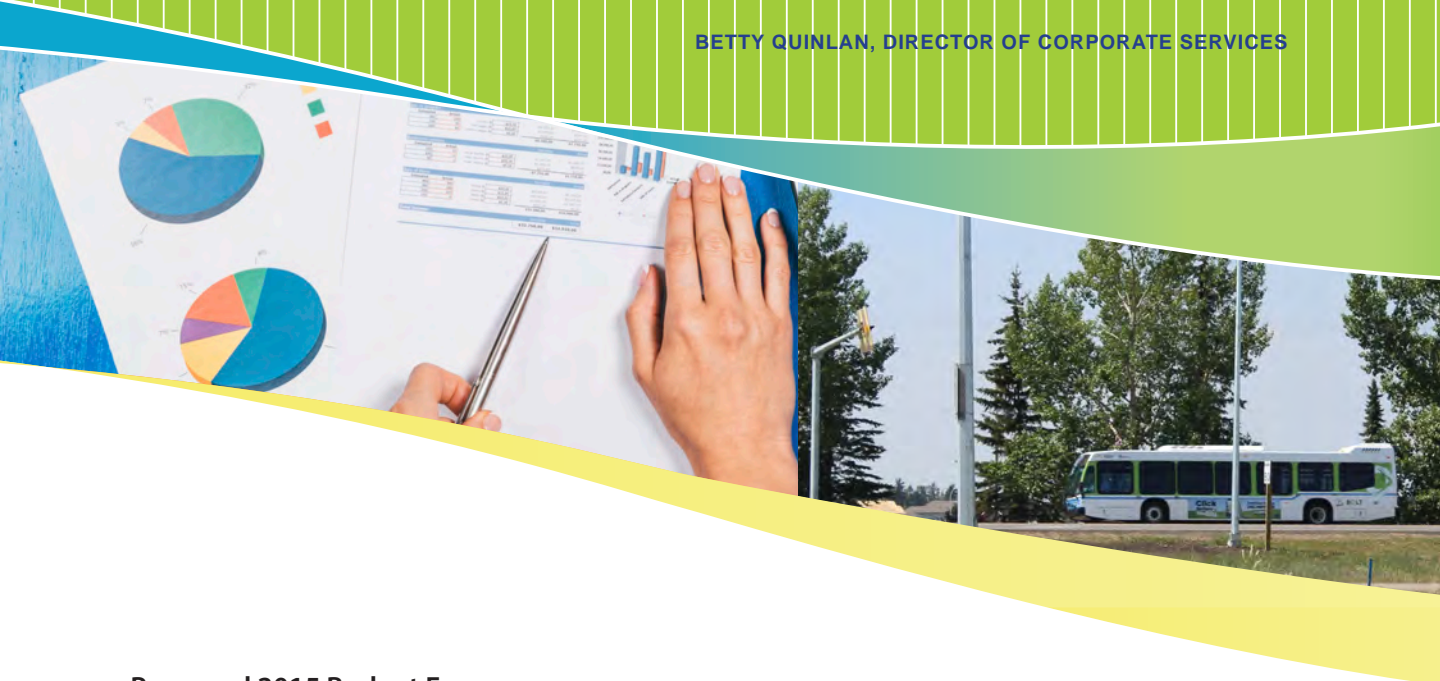
General	1,438,100.00
Property Tax (Residential)	7,491,300.00
Property Tax (Non Residential)	1,287,300.00
Requisitions:- Education & - Lacombe Foundation	2,752,200.00
Administration	241,300.00
Protective Services	753,600.00
Operations & Transit	135,500.00
Utilities	4,733,400.00
Community Services	163,400.00
Planning & Lands	386,100.00
Recreation	1,690,700.00
Total Revenue	21,072,900.00



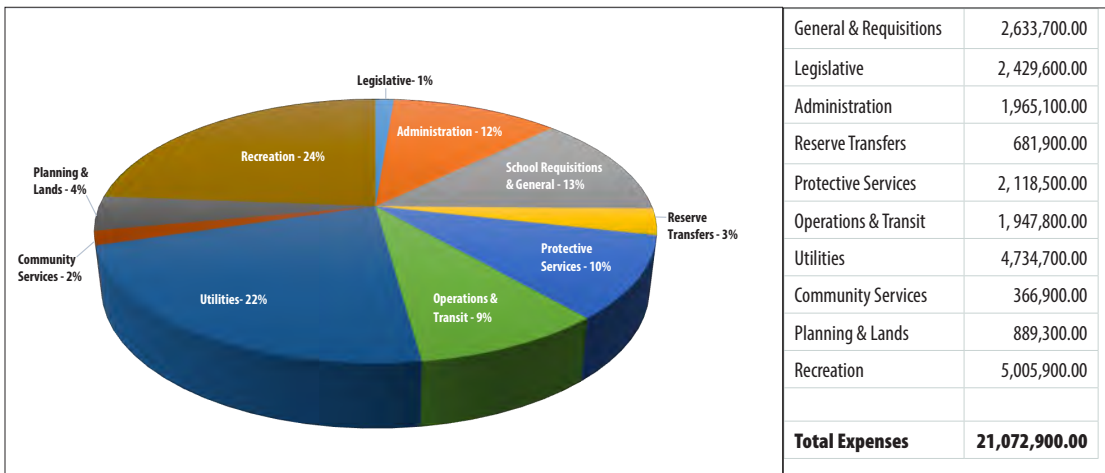
*** These pages are a high level overview of the 2015 finances for the Town. Please note that the complete Town of Blackfalds official audited financial statements for 2015 will be posted on the Town web site at www.blackfalds.com once they have been adopted and published.

“The budget is one of the most important policy documents to be approved by Council. It has substantial impact on the service levels in the community and it establishes the amount of funds that need to be collected through property taxes.”

BETTY QUINLAN, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES



Proposed 2015 Budget Expenses



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Town of Blackfalds Contact List

DIAL 911 for EMERGENCIES

MUNICIPAL TOWN OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS **8:30am - 4:30pm**

Monday - Friday

Main Line **403.885.4677**

Fax **403.885.4610**

Council | Office of CAO **403.885.6248**

Economic Development **403.885.6246**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Building Permits | Licenses **403.885.6236**

Development Permits **403.885.6236**

PUBLIC WORKS

On-Call | Emergencies **403.340.9593**

Water, Sewer, Roads, & Solid Waste

Public Works Manager **403.396.9883**

Infrastructure & Engineering **403.885.9679**

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Police Assist (Complaints) **403.885.3333**

RCMP Administration **403.885.3300**

RCMP Fax **403.885.4720**

Bylaw | Animal Control **403.885.0020**

Fire Hall **403.885.4144**

COMMUNITY SERVICES

After Hours On-Call **403.357.9888**

Facility Rentals **403.885.4039**

Family & Community Support Services **403.600.9066**

Marketing **403.885.6235**

Parks & Facilities **403.885.6244**

ABBEY CENTRE

Main Line **403.885.4039**

General Manager **403.885.4029**

Recreation Coordinator **403.885.0157**

Fitness/Aquatics Coordinator **403.885.0183**

Children's Services Programmer **403.885.0162**

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