

# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2018



**BLACKFALDS**  
ALBERTA



# A Message from the Mayor & Council

On behalf of Council, it is my pleasure to introduce the 2018 Annual Report to the Community.

This report is an opportunity to look back at last year's successes, reflect upon the challenges, and share many of the highlights that living here provides our citizens. 2018 offered some major milestones to celebrate and I look forward to continuing to work with staff, Council, and residents towards building a bright and healthy future for our community.

We hope you enjoy all that our community has to offer as you reflect on the past year with us.

Sincerely,



Richard Poole, Mayor



# Quick Facts About Blackfalds



The Town has grown by 180% since 2009, nearly doubling the population in 10 years with a population of 10,125 (2018 census).



Blackfalds has a base of young and growing families with 55% of the town population under the age of 40.



59% of the Town's residents have vocational training or secondary education.



Blackfalds offers 16 km of trails for use year round and the only indoor Trans Canada Trail inside the Abbey Centre.



BOLT - a regional partnership which offers daily transit service between Red Deer, Blackfalds, and Lacombe.



The municipality revels in award winning facilities and regional partnerships.



Hosts major events in almost every month of the year.

# Message from the CAO

2018 was a milestone year, one in which Blackfalds officially broke the 10K resident threshold. As we continue to grow, we are diligent in ensuring our infrastructure meets the needs and demands of our young, dynamic and growing community.

Blackfalds continues to be a desirable place to live and visit with a high quality of life and value of service. The Town continues to successfully host many popular annual events such as Blackfalds Days, Winterfest, Super Kids, Summer Culture Series and Light Up Blackfalds, to name just a few.

The Town also brought to completion some major projects this past year, some of which you will see highlighted throughout this report.

Furthermore, the Town, along with other Central Alberta partner municipalities received the prestigious Alberta Urban



Municipalities Association (AMUA) Sustainability in Collaboration Award last year.

Our Council and Administration are dedicated to managing our growth so we can maintain a welcoming, connected, sustainable and safe community as well as encouraging and supporting residents and businesses who live and work here.

The Town would like to sincerely thank our residents for their continued input and for working with us to make Blackfalds the best it can be!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Myron Thompson'.

CAO Myron Thompson



# Community Profile

The Town of Blackfalds is one of Canada's fastest growing communities - with 10,125 residents - and a great place to live, work and do business.

People make Blackfalds home because of its opportunities and quality of life, while maintaining a rural-feeling lifestyle, recreational amenities, affordable housing, and its ideal location central to major centres.

Great things are happening in Blackfalds; community members are benefitting from new high quality services, including improved waste management and snow removal programs, BOLT regional public transit system, parks and trail development, amenities and facilities, like the Abbey Centre and the proposed expansion to the Multi-Plex, both centerpieces for community gathering, recreation and leisure activities.



# Strategic Goals & Priorities Municipal Sustainability Plan (MSP)

1

**Community Life** encompasses everyday life of a resident of Blackfalds. It includes both social and cultural elements such as a sense of community, recreation, history, safety, and inclusivity, among others.

2

A sustainable **Economy** includes a diversity of both local and larger businesses and industries so there is a healthy balance of tax revenue.

3

**Infrastructure and Buildings** includes buildings that service a diverse population and are able to adapt as the community changes and grows.

4

**Leadership and Engagement** is crucial to move towards goals, inform residents so they can give feedback to make the best possible decisions.

5

**Natural Environment** contributes to a high quality of life where preservation and reclamation are key to create more natural spaces.

## Corporate Services

# Budget 2018

The 2018 capital budget is **\$6,877,500**.

The 2018 operating budget is **\$26,566,680**.

2018 budget saw a conservative increase of 1.1% or about \$24 per family.

### Capital projects included:



Architectural design for the future development of a second ice surface.



Phase 2 of the energy efficiency update for various facilities.

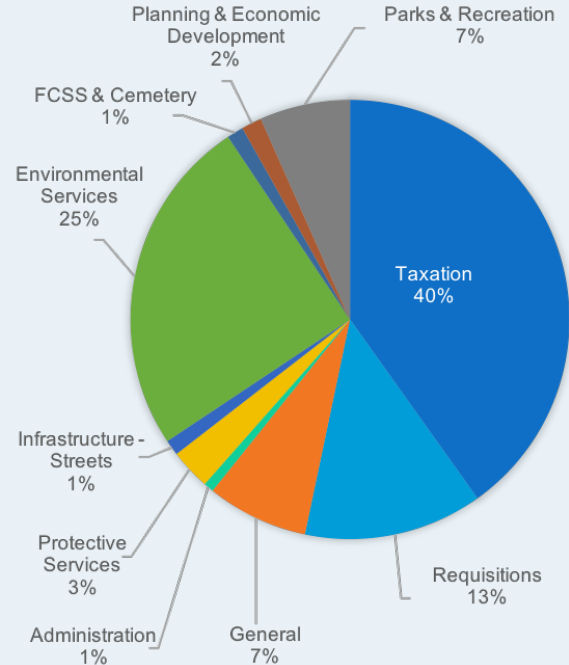


Transportation projects review and annual maintenance projects: re-paving/replacement of sidewalks curbs & gutters.



Completion of the Facility Review Study.

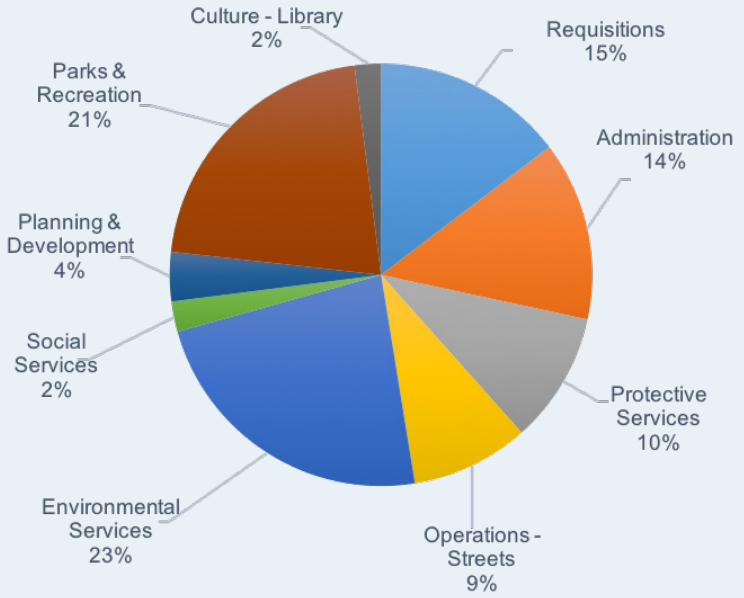
## Operating Revenue



# Blackfalds Public Library

The Blackfalds Public Library strives to be responsive and accountable to the community through cooperation, partnership, innovation, communication and flexibility in providing library services to all residents of Blackfalds and the surrounding area.

## Operating Expenses



**2,460** members  
**45,590** visitors



**25,551** Internet /WiFi users  
**22,335** hours Internet/WiFi used



**72,151** items circulated  
**28,636** total items in the library



**865** programs with **9,006** participants  
**2,546** people reached through library awareness including **45** library tours



**875** programs with **9,200** participants



## Protective Services & Enforcement



The Town of Blackfalds Protective Services includes the Blackfalds RCMP Detachment and the Blackfalds Fire Department, both of which provide comprehensive services within the community and surrounding rural area.

The Municipal Peace Officers and the Alberta Traffic Sheriffs are also housed in the Protective Services Building, rounding out the full complement of protective services delivered to local residents and businesses.

## RCMP & Peace Officers



**3,032** files created.

RCMP **1,785**, Peace Officers **1,247** files.



**357** fines issued, with over **540** warnings given.

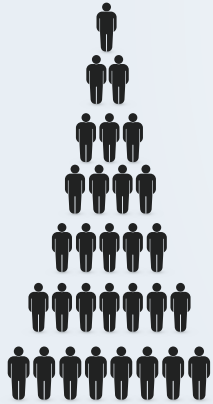


**33%** decline in property crime from a high of 654 in 2016 to 443 in 2018.



**100** motor vehicle collisions - rose slightly from 88 reported in 2017 to 100 in 2018; of these **5** involved injuries.

# Fire Department



**30** members in 2018.

## Member training included:

NFPA 1001 Level I and Level II standards,

Hazardous Goods Training to meet the NFPA 472 Standards.



## Incident Command System training

**161** emergency incidents; 33 of these occurred in Lacombe County.

**58%** total responses; the majority of which were motor vehicle accidents and alarm calls.

# Partnerships



On May 27, officers joined forces with several partner agencies in the Victims & Survivors of Crime Community Fair.



Member of Lacombe County Mutual Aid Organization - a coordinated emergency response partnership in the region.



394 participate in annual Bike Rodeo - a Bicycle Safety Workshop for Blackfalds youth organized by Big Brothers Big Sisters.



RCMP members and peace officers facilitate the "Kids & Kops" program organized by Big Brothers Big Sisters.



Various traffic checks were conducted in collaboration with the RCMP and the integrated traffic unit.





## Economic Development

# The Business Advantage in Blackfalds

Blackfalds continued to experience increased business activity in 2018. There was a 5% growth in the number of storefront shops and a 7% increase in the number of home-based businesses.

It was a busy year implementing new tools for business retention and attraction including a new Economic Development website that highlights the attractions for current and future businesses to invest in our Town.



## Industrial Development

The Town experienced significant Industrial growth; doubling from 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

Valley Ridge Industrial Park expanded with Castle Guard Storage and STEP Energy and 15 new units in Phase 3 of Garage World.



## New Businesses

We welcomed new businesses to town including Rotor Tech Canada, PL Customz, Viva Deli, OK Tire, and Blackfalds Towing.



## Commercial Development

After the boom in building in 2017, 2018 saw existing business expand and new businesses come to town and occupy spaces in the new highway commercial and residential strip malls.

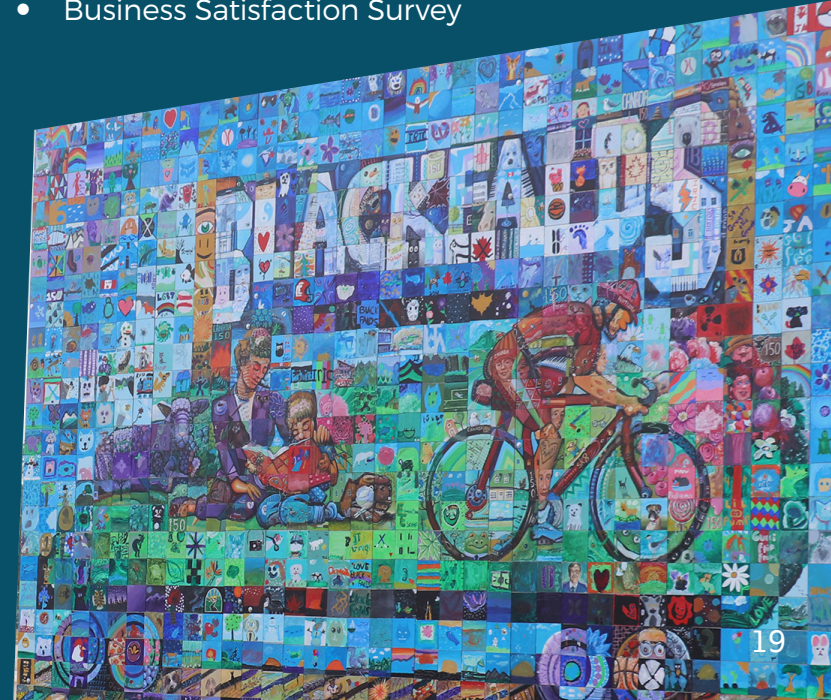
These included ATB, Pet-Valu, Kids 3 Daycare, Legacy Athletix, Petro-Canada, Aspen Lakes Child Care, Okinawa Sushi, and Black Diamond Nail Studio, and 35 new licensed local businesses.

# Economic Development & Tourism Projects



Successful funding applications and partnerships have allowed us to undertake:

- Regional Labour Profile to assist with attracting investment
- Visit Central Alberta website showcases Blackfalds and area events and amenities
- New trail development study
- Business Satisfaction Survey



**650** visitors to the Wadey  
Visitor Information Centre

## Community Services

### Recreation, Parks & Trails

As Blackfalds continues to grow, we always look to develop amenities that our residents will need and want in our community. With world class facilities like the Abbey Centre, Civic Cultural Centre, Community Centre and Multi-Plex Arena, Blackfalds continues to stay ahead of the curve.

This past year we expanded our offerings for user friendly, accessible recreation spaces including:

- Bike Skills Park
- Denise Nielsen Memorial Park
- Rolling Hills Playground
- Pine Crescent Outdoor Rink and skateboard structure



Other recreational amenities added in 2018:

- One (1) km of paved trail to existing trails
- Solar panel installation at Civic Centre
- Ball shelters installed at ball diamond #5 and at Cottonwood diamonds
- Trees added to Bark Park with assistance from Blackfalds Girl Guides Pathfinders program
- Lobby furniture and counters added to Arena lobby with thanks to the Blackfalds and District Agricultural Society
- Outdoor skating spaces throughout the community
- Expanded the Community Gardens program to two gardens and increased plots
- Light Up Blackfalds created by Parks staff continues to attract large number of spectators



## Abbey Centre

# Recreation's Destination of Choice



**150,000** visitors

**39,312** day admissions



**83,080** member visits

**5,080** monthly adult memberships purchased in 2018



**\$29,925** in party room rentals



**\$46,011** summer camp revenue

## Programs

The Town continues to offer new and fun recreational, social, youth, arts and culture programs.

### Fitness

We introduced new programs for youth, Mom and Tot including Bright Side Kids where 6-12 year old kids can learn yoga poses.

**\$18,947.43** revenue

### Arts & Culture

#### Classes

Young Rembrandts, music, languages and various arts and crafts are offered.

**74** total registrants

#### Events

9 unique shows as part of the Summer Culture Series 2018.

**1,000** total attendees.





## Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)

**FCSS is a partnership between local municipal governments, Metis settlements and Alberta community and social services.**

Blackfalds FCSS, under the guidance of an advisory board to Town Council, provides preventative social programs and activities that use proactive, strength-based and intentional strategies to help individuals, families and the community develop skills required to form a strong sense of self, resulting in the ability to build healthy relationships with others.

FCSS priorities, directed by the 2016 Social Needs Assessment and Master Plan, support community agencies and organizations through annual grant funding and provide collaborative efforts to strengthen and enhance the quality of life for all Blackfalds residents.



BE THE  
Difference  
IN YOUR  
Community

### Volunteerism

**1,205**  
volunteer hours

**428** volunteers

### FCSS Funded Programs through Community Grant Funding

15 programs funded for a total of

**\$42,000**

19 applied for with total ask of

**\$74,408.21**

# Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)



## Agencies funded:

- Iron Ridge Elementary Campus
- Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus
- Iron Ridge Junior Campus
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- St. Gregory the Great Catholic School

## Direct Programs Offered:

- Community events
- Good Food Box and other subsidized programming
- Volunteer Appreciation & Recognition and Snow Angels
- Intergenerational events, Bridging Diversity, Town Clean Up
- Youth Programs: Blackfalds Youth Crew, Circus Arts Day Camp, Kid Proof at Home Alone, Red Cross Babysitters, Move Your Mood Blackfalds, Youth Cooking Club

## Subsidized Programming Stats:

**122**

Students supported with Tools for Schools

**163**

Children dressed for winter

## Christmas Bureau supported:

**37** Seniors **176** children **78** families

Total of **315** people

Money Raised =

**\$29,008**





# Community Engagement



*We are social*

SM Channel	New followers	% Increase
Twitter	212	9.1%
Facebook	969	12.8%
Instagram	937	100%
LinkedIn	29	161.1%



**2,147** Total followers gained in 2018

**11,752** Overall followers **22%** increase

## New Talk of the Town newsletter



A new Talk of the Town newsletter was launched that features a Mayor’s Minute and Councillor’s Corner and was mailed with the monthly utility bill.

## New Program & Activity Guide

The new program & activity guide is published in March, August and November. It includes Town programs and events and features local businesses and non-profits.



# Infrastructure and Property Services

## Planning & Development

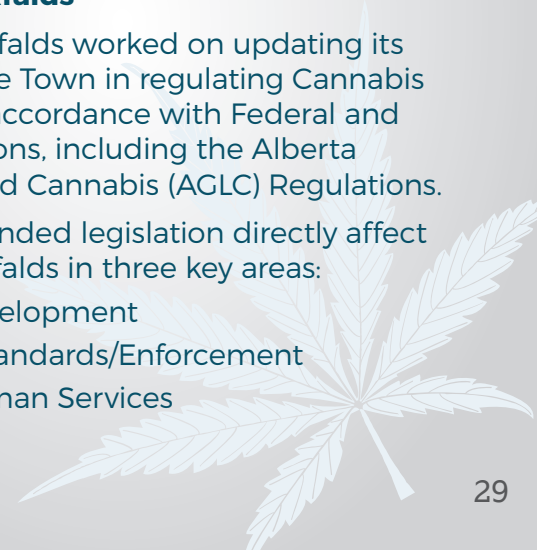
The Town of Blackfalds experienced a reduction in building permits in 2018 due to the economic conditions in Alberta. However, growth was still strong in Blackfalds compared to the rest of the province. Staff has been actively planning, implementing and communicating the Cannabis legislation and new requirements under the Municipal Government Act.

### Cannabis in Blackfalds

The Town of Blackfalds worked on updating its bylaws to assist the Town in regulating Cannabis stores and use in accordance with Federal and Provincial regulations, including the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) Regulations.

The new and amended legislation directly affect the Town of Blackfalds in three key areas:

- Land Use / Development
- Community Standards/Enforcement
- Social and Human Services



## Infrastructure and Property Services

### Infrastructure & Environmental Services

This department is made up of Public Works and office staff that keep Town services moving.

This includes construction of new services and ongoing operations and maintenance of roadways, sidewalks, water, sewer, stormwater, and environmental management.

#### Key projects in 2018



Construction of Highway 2A and Broadway Avenue realignment, traffic signals, and Tutty Pond improvements have been completed.



Grading of soccer field at All-Star Park.



North Red Deer Regional Wastewater System is in place and the Blackfalds' sewer system was approved to connect to the regional line.



South Street improvement west of Vista Trail have been completed.

#### Key Programs & Maintenance

- Spring and Fall large object recycling roundup.
- BOLT service changes included removing the Saturday service and added a late weekday evening run.
- Utility rates increased by 5% from 2017 with the regional sewer system coming online.
- The North Red Deer Regional Wastewater System substantially improves water quality returning to the Red Deer River. This system saved \$5 million in the immediate future and \$20 million over the next 20 years.
- Maintenance of 300 fire hydrants, 60 km of potable waterlines, 2 water reservoirs, 60 km of sewer lines, 5 lift stations, and 50 km of piping, drainage courses, and numerous stormwater ponds.
- Inspection and maintenance of 70 km of paved and gravel roadways, 140 km of sidewalks and trails.



## **TOWN OF BLACKFALDS**

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