

OUR Devon News



WINTER 2023/2024

Message from Mayor & Council



Mayor
Jeff
Craddock

Hello Devon! Another year is in the books and with it, we are just over halfway through our four-year term with Council.

This past November, we approved Devon's 2024-28 Capital Budget and 2024-26 Operating Budget as we entered year two of our Three-Year Fiscal Recovery and Service Stabilization Plan. These past two budgets have been far from easy as we have been tasked with doing our part to maintain services throughout Devon while mitigating increasing costs and funding the Town's reserves for the future.

Earlier this summer, we hosted the inaugural Make-a-Wish Slo Pitch Tournament at our new Paragon Ballpark to wrap up our first full season at the ballpark. We were very proud to support this event and showcase both our diamonds and community to the hundreds that made their way out to Devon to be a part of making kids' wishes come true.

October was a huge month for us as we celebrated the official opening of the long-awaited Michigan Street extension that connects to the new intersection on Highway 19. This is absolutely huge for Devon as it opens up access to our south

border, making it more attractive to developers and investment in our community.

We have been working hard with Administration to continue to progress our Strategic Priorities and we were pleased to hear another update this past November. Our Strategic Priorities, along with all updates, are available on the Town's website at devon.ca/strategic-priorities shortly after they are shared with Council and I encourage everyone to have a read and share your feedback with us anytime.

On behalf of Council and our amazing staff at the Town, I wish you all a Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays and look forward to what we can accomplish as we enter the New Year.

Important Dates

Dec 23-Jan. 1 – Christmas Office Closure

Dec. 24-26 – Arena Closed

Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 – Arena Closed

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day!

Dec. 25, 27 & Jan. 1 – Recycle Depot Closed

Feb. 7 – Winter Walk Day

Feb. 19 – Family Day

Apr. 19 – Volunteer Appreciation Night

Apr. 18-24 – Community Clean Up Week

Apr. 24 – Community Clean Up BBQ

May 6-12 – Spring Mental Health Week

April – Day Camp Registration Opens

April – Swimming Lesson Registration Opens

May – Weekly Organics Pickup Resumes

** Events are subject to change learn more at devon.ca/events*

January
8 & 22

February
12 & 26

March
11 & 25

April
8 & 22

Upcoming Council Meetings

Council Meetings occur on the second and fourth Mondays of the month and start at 7 p.m. at the Town of Devon Office at 1 Columbia Ave. West, Devon.

All public is welcome to attend in person or watch online.



Devon's 2024 Operating & Capital Budget

Devon Council approved the 2024-2026 Operating & 2024-2028 Capital Budgets at their Nov. 27 Council Meeting with a 5.25 per cent municipal tax increase for 2024.

For a household with an assessed value of \$322,000, the estimated impact of a 5.25 per cent tax increase is about \$111 per year or \$9.25 per month.

Property assessments are based on the market value of a property as of July 1 of the previous year and as such, these are estimated impacts.

The final municipal tax rate will be approved in May 2024 and tax notices will be mailed out to Devon property owners on May 31 with payment due June 30, 2024.



Where municipal tax dollars go:

- Corporate Services 16¢
- Planning & Development 3¢
- Governance & Legislative Services 14¢
- Protective Services 18¢
- Public Works 22¢
- Parks & Recreation 15¢
- Social Services 12¢

Three-Year Fiscal Recovery & Service Stabilization Plan

Last year, the Town developed a plan to mitigate a large municipal tax increase due to costs outside of the Town's control. In December 2022, Council approved the Three-Year Fiscal Recovery & Service Stabilization Plan to mitigate this increase through select service reductions and the use of the Income Stabilization Reserve (ISR), while ensuring that this reserve is replenished by 2026.

2024 Budget Notable Items

Cost Increases Impacting 2024 Property Taxes

- RCMP contract increases. These costs are federally regulated and out of the Town's control.
- Rise in operating costs due to inflationary pressures (fuel, equipment, utilities, insurance, etc.)

Reserve Funding – Income Stabilization Reserve & Capital Reserves

- The Town will continue repaying the ISR, contributing \$125,000 back into the reserve in 2024. This important reserve was utilized for the 2023 & 2024 budget to mitigate municipal tax increases for the years.
- Other critical Capital Reserves will also receive large contributions in the amount of \$330,220 to fund future projects.

Select Service Levels Restored – Crack Sealing & Storm Sewer Repair

- In 2023, the Town chose to reduce crack sealing to main roads and trails saving \$42,000 and reduce the Storm Sewer repair budget by \$25,000 to help balance a challenging budget. These critical pieces of maintenance are restored in the 2024 budget.

2024 Utility Budget

The 2024 Utility Budget includes increases to the Town's water, wastewater, bulk water, natural gas, and solid waste & recycling starting Jan. 1, 2024, to ensure Devon's utilities remain self-supporting.

The estimated utility increase for a Devon household that uses 240m³ of water and 130 GJ of natural gas per year in 2024 is approximately \$14.41/month or \$172.92/year.

2024 Utility Rates:

Water Rate (increase of 9.7%)

- Basic Monthly Charge: 16.43 per month
- Commodity Charge: \$1.90/m³

Wastewater Rate (increase of 6.8%)

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$38.57 per month
- Commodity Charge: \$2.53/m³

Natural Gas Rate (increase of 7.2%)

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$35 per month
- Commodity Charge: \$1.93/GJ

Solid Waste & Recycling Rate

(increase of 5.2%)

- Monthly Charge for Weekly Pickup: \$32.60 per month

Bulk Water Rate (increase of \$0.25/m³)

- \$5.50 per cubic metre

Storm Water Drainage (no change)

- \$8 per month

2024 Capital budget highlights

Some of the major projects slated for 2024 in the Capital Budget include:

- Repurposing the Esso Building (Federal Grant Dependent)
- Solar pathway & signalized crosswalk lighting
- Underground sanitary and water infrastructure evaluation
- Zamboni replacement (cost share with Parkland County)
- Splash Park feature replacement – Tower Spinner
- Walking trail rehabilitation
- Roadway reconstruction – Continued on Erie Street



Devonian Trail now open



Devonian Trail & Hwy 19 Interchange is open!

Devon's new Devonian Trail that connects from the new south Michigan Street connection to Highway 19 is open and ready to welcome everyone here to Devon!

This long-awaited infrastructure upgrade is significant for Devon as the southern border now connects directly to the newly twinned section of Highway 19 providing shorter commute times for residents and a whole new avenue of access into the community.



Thank you to the Government of Alberta for their support with this project and for turning over the old section of Highway 19 (now Devonian Trail) to the Town.

We look forward to seeing the middle section of Highway 19 twinned in the near future to provide a safer commute for everyone that uses this busy road.

Outdoor Rink Update



Robina Baker Outdoor Rink

With construction of the Twin Arena, the outdoor boarded rink will not be available this year as we determine a permanent new home for this ODR. In the meantime, Black Gold School Division has permitted the Town to create an ice surface in the field by Robina Baker next to the 1949 building for the community to enjoy this season.

Robina Baker School

Ice Rink Location

Devon United Church



ODR Update

With the unseasonably warm weather, the Town's Parks staff have been working hard to flood and try to establish the ODRs for the season. Stay up to date on their status through the Town's website at devon.ca/ODR or follow the Town's social media for updates on when they will be ready to go.



**BIRD FRIENDLY
CITY**
DEVON
CERTIFIED BY NATURE CANADA

Devon receives Bird Friendly City Certification

Earlier this month, the Devon volunteer Bird Team shared with Council that Devon has been recognized by **Nature Canada** as one of Canada's newest Certified Bird Friendly Cities/Towns. Devon is now 1 of 24 municipalities across all of Canada to receive this recognition.

A huge thank you to Devon's volunteer Bird Team for their hard work to engage the community and for going out of their way to protect, monitor and celebrate Devon's local bird populations. Stay tuned for a webpage on the Town of Devon website (devon.ca/bird-cities) in the New Year with more information about Bird Friendly Cities and how to support this amazing program.



What's happening this Winter

There are many ways to **#ExploreDevonAB** in the winter! Join us at one of the community events to explore what Devon has to offer. Plans to occasionally change - stay up to date on all community events at devon.ca/events and follow the Town's social media pages.



FEB 7 WINTER WALK DAY

Whether you walk, run, snowshoe, roll or have another way you get around, enter our Winter Walk Day photo contest! Hosted from February 7-11, enjoy the outdoors, take a photo and get entered to win a prize valued at \$50. Open to Devon residents and schools.

FEB 19 FAMILY DAY EVENT

Ready for outdoor adventures? Join us on Family Day from 1pm-3pm for snowshoeing, marshmallow roasting, snow painting and a family day word hunt.



APRIL 19 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

Calling all volunteers! This evening is to recognize you and your contributions to the Devon community. Stay tuned for full details!



APRIL 18-24 PITCH IN! DEVON COMMUNITY CLEAN UP WEEK

Help us Clean Up our Community from April 18-24, just in time for Earth Day! Teams can register and complete their clean-up on their own time. Submit a photo to be entered to win a \$50 gift card to a local Devon business of your choice.

Teams can be individuals, families or small groups and registration will open on March 18, 2024.

Questions? Email events@devon.ca or call 780-987-8332.

CONTACT US



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(closed holidays)



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