

# OUR Devon News



WINTER 2019

## Important Dates

**Jan. 1** – Single-Use Plastic Retail Bag Bylaw comes into effect

**Feb. 5** – Winter Walk Day

**Feb. 17** – Family Day/re:Fresh Air

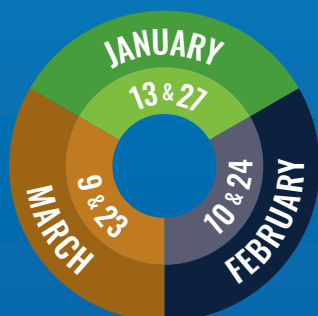
**March** – Clean Energy Improvement Program Open House

Learn more at [devon.ca/events](http://devon.ca/events)



## 1st Quarter Council Meetings

Council Meetings take place 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.



## Message from Mayor & Council



Mayor  
Ray Ralph

Happy New Year Devon! Another year has come and gone and we've made some amazing strides throughout 2019 and hope to continue this momentum through 2020.

### Some of our major accomplishments in 2019 include:

- Bolstering the Town's Protective Services with the addition of the Devon's first full-time firefighters, 2 full-time RCMP members and 1 full-time Community Peace Officer
- Hearing from the community on how you'd like to receive Town-related information to better inform how we allocate the spending of advertising dollars
- Beginning our journey towards reconciliation and building relationships with our indigenous community and neighbours
- Recognizing the state of the economy and doing our part to pass as low of

a tax increase as possible for 2020 at 1.98% as well as zero utility rate increases for a second consecutive year

- Our continued advocacy efforts for the provincial government to twin all of Highway 19

We have some big work ahead of us in 2020 as well. As of Jan. 1, 2020, we will be implementing our Single-Use Retail Plastic Bag Bylaw that will see Devon retailers no longer distribute single-use plastic retail bags to reduce the amount of plastic sent to our landfills.

We are also planning to introduce a Clean Energy Improvement Program in partnership with Energy Efficiency Alberta in early 2020 that will allow our local residents and businesses to provide affordable clean energy upgrades to their homes.

I hope everyone had a joyous year in 2019 as we look forward to what is shaping up to be another productive year!



# Devon to reduce single-use plastic waste starting Jan. 1, 2020



**Effective Jan. 1, 2020, single-use plastic retail bags will no longer be distributed at Devon retailers.**

Residents are encouraged to bring their reusable bags with them to shop prior to Jan. 1 to get a head start on this change in shopping experience.

In early 2019, the Town started work on a single-use waste reduction strategy to identify ways that the Town can reduce single-use waste in the community. After meeting with local businesses earlier this year and consulting with the Town's newly appointed Waste Reduction Task Force, Devon Council has now passed a Single-Use Plastic Retail Bag Bylaw that will remove single-use plastic retail bags from distribution in Devon as of Jan. 1, 2020.

## Items not included in the Bylaw

There are some exceptions to the Single-Use Plastic Retail Bylaw which include:

1. Single-Use Plastic bags for:
  - a. carrying fruits or vegetables
  - b. containing fresh meat or fish products
  - c. containing bulk food items (i.e. candy, nuts, grains, etc.) or bulk hardware items (i.e. screws, nuts, bolts, etc.)
  - d. freshly prepared bakery items
  - e. wrapping flowers or potted plants
  - f. clothes immediately following professional laundering or dry-cleaning
  - g. dirty, greasy, or hazardous products or materials.
2. Single-use plastic retail bags distributed by a non-profit, a food bank, a homeless shelter or an animal shelter, in its normal course of business
3. The sale of multiple or bulk, prepackaged single-use plastic bags (i.e. blue bags and garbage bags)
4. Pre-packaged items purchased from distributors and sold in store



## Two reusable bags to be provided by the Town

Throughout December, the Town delivered two reusable bags featuring designs from local artists (Under 15 and 15+ categories). Since then, we've seen these bags while shopping all over Devon! Thank you to everyone for using our bags and please, remember to bring them when going shopping.



## Why do we need to reduce plastic?

- Recycling has been changing on a global scale with less plastic now able to be recycled than previous years
- Out of all plastic bags used globally, only about 1% are currently recyclable
- Plastic designed for a single-use such plastic retail bags are used for a short period of time and can take 500 years or more to break down in a landfill
- Plastics never fully break down and become microplastics, making their way into our food, water, air and soil

## What can I do to reduce plastic waste?

- Don't use a bag in small waste containers at home or use and reuse a bag as a liner and dump the contents of your small waste container into your main bin or bag
- Use reusable shopping and produce bags
- Use reusable water bottles, coffee to-go containers and straws
- Use reusable food wrapping and containers
- Place garbage bags into your cart and blue recycling bags at your curbside only when full

**Learn more about Devon's single-use waste reduction efforts at [devon.ca/singleuse](https://devon.ca/singleuse).**





# 2020 Operating Budget

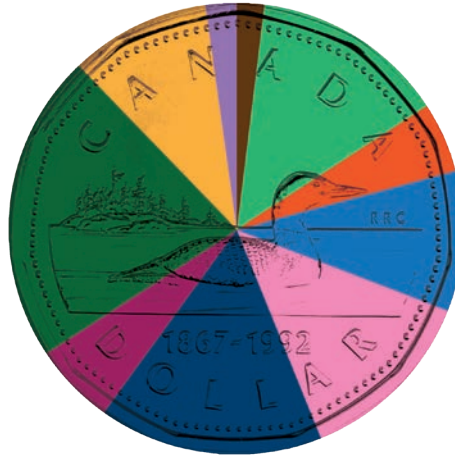
On Nov. 22 and 23, Devon Council held their annual Operating Budget Deliberations where they combed through the Town's proposed 2020 Operating Budget. At their Jan. 13, 2020 Council Meeting, Council approved the 2020 Operating Budget with a municipal tax increase of 1.98%.

Devon's Council recognizes the currently economic climate and the challenges associated with it. The main goal of the 2020 Operating Budget was to ensure there is as small a tax increase as possible while maintaining the current level of service from the Town to the community.

For a household with a median assessed value of \$316,300, the estimated impact of the 1.98% increase is about \$36.70 per year or \$3.06 per month on their property taxes. Property assessments are based off of the calculated value of a property as of July 1 of the previous year.

Tax notices will be mailed out to Devon property owners on May 31, 2020 and payment is due by June 30, 2020.

## Where municipal tax dollars go 2020 BUDGET



Planning & Development	\$0.02
Parks, Recreation & Culture	\$0.14
Elected Officials	\$0.05
Legislative Services	\$0.10
Corporate Services	\$0.13
Protective Services	\$0.16
Library	\$0.06
Infrastructure Management	\$0.22
Family & Community Support Services	\$0.10
Economic Development	\$0.02

## 2020 Utility Rates

Along with the small municipal tax increase for 2020, Council passed Devon's 2020 utility rates with zero increases to wastewater, water, municipal solid waste, natural gas or bulk water.

### Water Rate

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$13.46
- Commodity Charge: \$1.55 per cubic metre

### Sewer Rate

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$33.60
- Commodity Charge: \$1.76 per cubic metre

### Natural Gas Rate

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$35 per month
- Distribution Charge: \$1.57 per GJ

### Solid Waste & Recycling Rate

- Monthly Charge for Weekly Pickup: \$30 per month

### Bulk Water Rate

- \$4.75 per cubic metre

### Municipal Tax Increases by Year

2016	3.75%
2017	1.81%
2018	1.59%
2019	1.35%
2020	1.98%

## Devon Dispatch Distribution Update



Many members of the Devon community have noticed that Devon's local weekly newspaper the Devon Dispatch is no

longer available in the yellow community boxes across the Town. This is in fact the case for all of Postmedia's weekly newspapers as community boxes have been eliminated across Alberta as part of a cost saving measure for Postmedia.

In November, the Town met with Postmedia to see if there was any opportunity to work together to ensure all residents who were interested in receiving a weekly newspaper in Devon were given the opportunity to. In an

effort to assist, the Town offered some of its communication channels to inform residents of this change.

### How do I get a Devon Dispatch delivered to my home?

If you are not receiving the Devon Dispatch and would like to, you can contact Postmedia's local distribution office by phone or email and provide your address. Be clear with your address and that would like the Devon Dispatch as this office handles distribution for all publication in Northern Alberta.

**P: 780-436-8050**

**E: [abnorth.dist@postmedia.com](mailto:abnorth.dist@postmedia.com)**

The free-to-home model also has its challenges as carrier recruitment is an

ongoing process and occasionally there are stoppages in delivery due to this.

### Who do I contact with a question or concern with the Devon Dispatch or to buy an ad?

#### Editorial

Regional Editor: Alex Boates  
P: 780-986-2271 • E: [ABoates@postmedia.com](mailto:ABoates@postmedia.com)

Editor in Chief Postmedia Alberta:  
Lorne Motley  
P: 403-235-7546 • E: [LMotley@postmedia.com](mailto:LMotley@postmedia.com)

#### Distribution

Postmedia Edmonton Distribution  
P: 780-436-8050  
E: [abnorth.dist@postmedia.com](mailto:abnorth.dist@postmedia.com)

#### Advertising

Obituary/Garage Sale/Classified Ads  
P: 1-866-786-7821  
E: [classifiedads@postmedia.com](mailto:classifiedads@postmedia.com)

Local Devon Advertising Representative  
P: 780-987-3488 • E: [DBrite@postmedia.com](mailto:DBrite@postmedia.com)

# Clean Energy Improvement Program coming to Devon in early 2020



The Town of Devon has partnered with Energy Efficiency Alberta to serve as one of a handful of municipalities in Alberta

to pilot a Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP), formerly known as the PACE Program.

At their Nov. 25 Council Meeting, Devon Council passed the Clean Energy Improvement Tax Bylaw, becoming the first municipality in Alberta to have the Bylaw in place to provide the foundation for launching the CEIP in early 2020.

**A full list of CEIP-eligible upgrades and eligibility criteria is available at [efficiencyalberta.ca/ceip](http://efficiencyalberta.ca/ceip).**

## What is the Clean Energy Improvement Program?

The Clean Energy Improvement Program is a completely voluntary program that provides financing to help make energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades more accessible for residential and commercial property owners across

Alberta. One of the biggest parts of the CEIP is that the upgrade is tied to the property meaning if the owner sells, the efficiency upgrade and cost remains with the property and not the previous owner.

Once the program is officially launched in early 2020, Devon residents and businesses will be able to apply to Energy Efficiency Alberta with their energy efficient or renewable energy projects for their homes or businesses.

## How does a property owner qualify for the CEIP?

As long as the property is located in Devon, an owner can apply online for an energy efficiency upgrade and receive pre-approval from Energy Efficiency Alberta. Eligibility is based on the owner's property tax payment history and not their credit score.

## How is CEIP financing repaid?

Once a clean energy upgrade project is complete, the clean energy improvement tax is added to the applicant's property tax bill, similar to a local improvement assessment. This new tax payment will

remain tied to the property's municipal taxes for the length of the term chosen by the applicant.

A property owner's annual payment towards the CEIP assessment must be equal to or less than their existing property tax payment (ie: if a property pays \$2,000 a year in municipal tax, they can not pay more than \$2,000 per year towards clean energy projects on the property).

## Clean Energy Improvement Program Open House

As part of the launch of the CEIP, the Town will be hosting an Open House along with Energy Efficiency Alberta in the New Year to introduce Devon residents, businesses and local contractors to the program and show how CEIP can help build healthier communities, energize local economies and help property owners stay happy with affordable upgrades to their homes.

Stay tuned to the Town's website and social media for more details on the Open House in February.



## Indigenous Engagement Update

The Town has been hard at work over the past few months fostering the growing relationships with maskêkosihk (Enoch) and other Treaty Six First Nations, with discussions continuing between Town of Devon and Enoch Cree Nation leadership and various departments.

Lots of activities are currently being planned for the New Year, many of which will be a collaboration with Treaty Six

First Nations and Métis Nations including an official flag raising of the Treaty Six Territory and Métis Nation flags, National Indigenous Peoples Day, and a continuation of workshops and programs offered to the community.

## Cree Language Classes

After reviewing all of the great feedback from the Indigenous Engagement Open House on Nov. 7, 2019, we will now be offering nehiyaw (Cree) language classes starting

in February with our partners at the Devon Public Library! This is an introductory course to the nehiyaw language, and will focus on basic conversational and writing skills, progressing to more intermediate skills as the program continues.

**Date:** Classes start Tuesday, Feb. 11 and will run on Tuesdays bi-weekly until June 23

**Time:** 7-9 p.m.

**Place:** Devon Public Library

**Cost:** \$65 for all 10 sessions

**Register by Feb. 9 at [devon.recdesk.com](http://devon.recdesk.com)**

## CONTACT US



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Devon, AB T9G 1A1



780-987-8300



Office Open Monday to Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
(except holidays)



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