



WINTER 2022/2023

OUR Devon News



Message from Mayor & Council



Mayor
Jeff
Craddock

Happy Holidays Devon! As 2022 wraps up, we are so excited about all that has happened this year and look forward to everything that is to come in 2023.

This year we saw a return of in-person programs and events including Devon Days, our annual Canada Day Celebration, many Indigenous events, and Christmas in the Park. We also enjoyed the Town's first Downtown Market Series, which ran three times over the summer months and showcased many local businesses and vendors to our community.

Another major highlight was the grand opening of Paragon Ballpark in July and we look forward to the facility being fully operational for the 2023 ball season.

Devon is primed for growth and we are excited about construction starting on the Dale Fisher Arena twinning in spring 2023. The expansion is slated to be complete in 2024 and will feature a second sheet of ice, second floor spectator seating, new dressing rooms, and potential lease spaces for interested businesses.

Looking at the upcoming year, Council has had some difficult decisions to make during the 2023 budget deliberations in efforts to

mitigate tax increases for residents and local businesses while maintaining service levels wherever possible.

To achieve these goals, Council approved a Three-Year Fiscal Recovery and Service Stabilization Plan. Page 3 of this newsletter includes a brief breakdown of the Three-Year Plan including the 2023 Capital, Operating, and Utility Budget highlights.

As we head into the winter months, the Town is gearing up for the by-election to fill the vacant Council position. Residents are encouraged to come out and vote at the advance poll on Feb. 4 or on Election Day on Feb. 10. For those interested in running, the nomination period closes on Jan. 13.

I hope everyone has a joyous 2023 as we look forward to what is shaping up to be another productive year!

Important Dates

Dec. 24 – Jan. 2 – Christmas Office Closure

Jan. 14 – Annual Christmas Tree Burn

Feb. 1 – Winter Walk Day

Feb. 4 – Devon Municipal By-Election Advance Voting

Feb. 10 – Devon Municipal By-Election

Feb. 20 – Family Day/re-Fresh Air Event

Apr. 14 – Volunteer Appreciation Night

Apr. 16-21 – Community Clean Up Week

Apr. 22 – Community Clean Up BBQ & Repair Fair

May 1-7 – Spring Mental Health Week

May – Weekly Organics Pickup resumes

May 5 – MMIWG2S+ Day of Awareness

May – Swimming Lesson Registration Opens

Learn more at devon.ca/events

January
9 & 23

February
13 & 27

March
13 & 27

April
11 & 24

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.



Dale Fisher Arena Expansion Project Gets Green Light

After a year and a half of hard work, the Town is thrilled to announce that the Dale Fisher Arena Expansion Project has officially begun with construction expected to be complete in 2024.

The upgraded facility will fill a need for ice in the region with additional ice time available for Town programs, local user groups, ice rentals and the Northern Alberta XTreme (NAX) Hockey Academy.

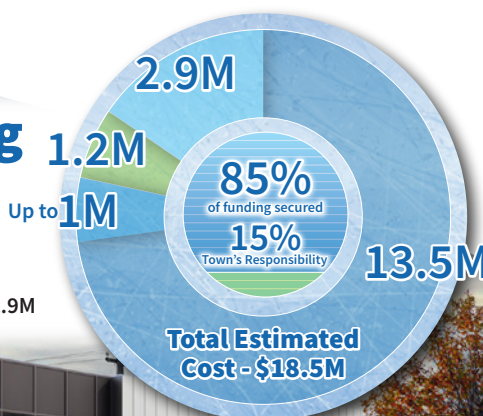
Arena Cost & Funding

The total cost for this project is estimated to be \$18.5 million and the Town has a fiscally responsible plan in place to complete the expansion with \$13.5 million (73%) of the cost coming from grant funding through the Federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and Provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding.

The remaining costs will be split between cost sharing with Parkland County (Up to \$1M) and the Town's Reserves (\$1.2M) meaning 85% of the project is currently funded. The remaining \$2.9M (15%) will be debentured to be paid over the next 30 years.

Arena Funding

- **Grant Funding - \$13.5M**
(ICIP \$7.3M, MSI \$6.13M)
- **Cost Sharing - Up to \$1M**
Parkland County
- **Town Reserves - \$1.2M**
- **Debentured Costs (30 Yrs) - \$2.9M**



New Arena Amenities

The new upgraded facility will provide many improvements for residents including:

- A second full sheet of ice
- Second floor spectator seating
- New dressing rooms
- Potential lease spaces for interested businesses
- A unified energy efficient ice plant
- Additional parking to the west of the twin arena

Relocation of Outdoor Boarded Rink & Soccer Fields

The Town is looking into replacement sites for both the outdoor boarded rink and soccer fields west of the current arena. Public engagement sessions will be held in early 2023 to share new placement ideas with the community and receive feedback to ensure the new locations meet Devon's needs.

Economic & Community Benefits of the Expanded Arena

The arena expansion project brings a number of benefits and opportunities to Devon including:

- Increasing the capacity for hockey tournaments & skating competitions
- A year-round sheet of ice with event space in the summer months
- Acting as a catalyst for investment and growth, both residential and business
- Bringing in more visitors to Devon through arena activities, leading to potential for increased traffic at local businesses

Learn more about the Dale Fisher Arena Expansion Project at devon.ca/recexpansion.





Devon's 2023 Operating & Capital Budget

Devon Town Council has approved the 2023 Operating & Capital Budgets and the Three-Year Fiscal Recovery and Service Stabilization Plan at their Dec. 12 Council Meeting with a 5.67 per cent municipal tax increase for 2023.

For a household with a median assessed value of \$322,000, the estimated impact of a 5.67 per cent tax increase is about \$113.15 per year or \$9.43 per month.

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

The final municipal tax rate will be approved in May 2023 and tax notices will be mailed out to Devon property owners May 31 with payment due June 30, 2023.

Cost increases impacting 2023 property taxes

- RCMP contract policing cost increases over two fiscal years. This increase is federally regulated and out of the Town's control.
- Rise in operating costs due to inflationary pressures (fuel, equipment repairs, utilities, insurance, etc...).

The Town is working hard to mitigate these cost increases through select service level decreases and reserve fund usage.

Mitigating tax increases

The Town is mitigating tax increases over the next three years in two ways:

Reserve funds

- The Town will use funds from the stabilization reserve to mitigate tax increases for the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years and will work towards having the reserve replenished by the 2025 fiscal year.

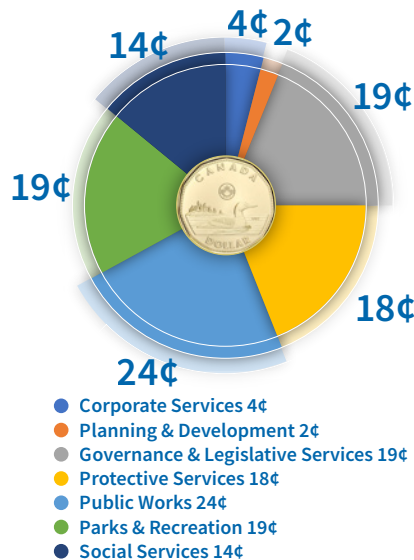
Select service reductions

- Reducing crack sealing to main roads and trails for 2023 saving a total of \$42,000.
- Reducing the Storm Sewer repair budget by \$25,000 over the next three years.

Learn more about the Three-Year Fiscal Recovery and Service Stabilization Plan at devon.ca/2023budget

The Dale Fisher Arena Expansion Project will have no impact on 2023 property taxes, as it will not be operational until 2024. In 2024, due to the efficiencies of a twin arena, net revenue will increase in the area of \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Where municipal tax dollars go: Budget 2023



2023 Utility Budget

The 2023 Utility Budget includes increases to the Town's water, wastewater, bulk water, natural gas, and solid waste & recycling starting Jan. 1, 2023, to ensure Devon's utilities remain self-supporting.

The estimated utility increase for Devon household that uses 240m³ of water and 130 GJ of natural gas per year in 2023 is approximately \$18.73/month or \$224.76/year.

Water Rate (Increase of \$0.22/M³)

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$14.94/month
- Commodity Charge: \$1.77 per cubic metre

Wastewater Rate (Increase of \$0.45/M³)

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$37.50 per month
- Commodity Charge: \$2.30 per cubic metre

Natural Gas Rate (increase of \$0.03/GJ)

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$35 per month
- Distribution Charge: \$1.60 per GJ

Solid Waste & Recycling Rate

(increase of \$1 per month)

- Monthly Charge for Weekly Pickup: \$31 per month

Bulk Water Rate (increase by \$0.25 /M³)

- \$5.25 per cubic metre

Storm Water Drainage (no change)

- \$8 per month

2023

Capital budget highlights

- Relocation of soccer pitches west of the Arena.
- Upgrading firefighter and CPO radios, linking emergency responders.
- Continuation of River Valley Alliance east trail.
- Vehicle and equipment repairs and replacement.
- Solar pathway lighting (locations to be determined).
- Speed enforcement monitoring signage.
- Partnership with Devon Lions Club on construction of new canoe launch.



Be Snow Smart

Winter is in full swing and to make it easier for residents to stay up to date on snow removal happening around Devon, the Town is launching a new snow removal webpage in the New Year.

When there is a big snowfall, residents will go to devon.ca/snow-removal and receive live updates on collector/arterial and residential snow removal routes.

There will also still be reminders sent out regularly on the Town's social media pages directing residents to the webpage.

SNOW BUSTERS PROGRAM

Devon FCSS runs the Snow Busters program in the winter to provide snow removal assistance to seniors and other residents who are unable to shovel themselves.

If you need help shoveling your walk/driveway or want to sign up to be a Snow Buster, call 780-987-8308.

SNOW REMOVAL FAQS

When does snow removal take place?

Snow removal on main roads occurs when snow accumulates to a minimum of 5 centimetres. Windrows will be removed once they reach a width that impedes traffic or parking.

How can I check the progress of snow removal?

When snow removal is active, progress will be posted on the Town's snow removal webpage at devon.ca/snow-removal starting in January 2023.

What are priority areas for snow removal?

Priority is given to the following areas in this order:

- ❄️ Central business district
- ❄️ Arterial and collector roadways
- ❄️ Residential areas

Parks also follows a priority sequence for snow removal in this order:

- ❄️ Public Buildings
- ❄️ Sidewalks
- ❄️ Trails

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

Following the Town's snow removal procedures helps keep the community safe throughout the winter! Here are some important things for residents to know:

- ❄️ Signs for snow removal are put up 24 hours in advance. Please make sure your vehicles are off the road prior to snow removal. As per the Traffic Safety Bylaw 884/2016, vehicles parked on these streets during scheduled snow removal operations can be tagged, fined and towed at the owner's expense.
- ❄️ Snow from residential properties is not permitted to be thrown on Town property including roadways and back alleys.
- ❄️ Snow/ice must be cleared from your driveways and adjacent sidewalks within 48 hours of the last snowfall.
- ❄️ Residents can pick up free sand from the yellow bin outside of the Recycle Depot entrance.

Municipal By-Election Set For February 10, 2023

The Town of Devon is hosting a by-election to fill a vacant seat on Council and all residents are encouraged to head to the polls and mark their ballot at the Devon Community Centre on Feb. 10, 2023.

The current term of Council will run until fall 2025 when the next municipal election is scheduled.

ADVANCE VOTING DAYS

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Devon Public Library (17 Athabasca Ave.).



BY-ELECTION DAY

Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Devon Community Centre (20 Haven Ave.).



MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES PUBLIC FORUM

Tuesday, Jan 17, from 6-8 p.m. at the Devon Community Centre (20 Haven Ave.)



The Devon & District Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Municipal Candidates Public Forum for residents to learn more about the candidates running in the by-election.

NOMINATION PERIOD CLOSES JAN. 13

The nomination period for the vacant seat runs from Nov. 29 to Jan. 13. Residents looking to serve on Council for the next 2 ½ years must have their nomination paperwork submitted to the Returning Officer by Friday, Jan. 13 at 12 p.m.



Appointments for prospective candidates to file their paperwork can be made with Devon's Returning Officer by email or phone at:

e: MCrothers@devon.ca
p: 780-987-8310

CONTACT US



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8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(closed holidays)



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