

Summary of Upcoming Events

CLASS/ACTIVITY	INSTRUCTOR/ FEATURING	DATE TIME	PLATFORM
Fitness			
All previously recorded fitness classes can be accessed on YouTube			
Culture & Heritage Activities			
Art House Film Series@RPAC			Monthly, on Tuesday nights at RPAC for our new Art House Film Series. \$10 OR get a 10x pass for only \$50 Tickets only available on Showpass ahead of time, no cash sales or tickets at the door. Doors open 6:30 pm Film starts at 7 pm *Join us after the film for a post film chat!
Programs & Events Activities			
Champion Park Virtual Open House Tour		TBD	Virtual tour of Champion Park is in the final stages of production. Final edits are being completed on the videos. These will have a new tab on the Town of Okotoks webpage (Link TBD). Planning to have this launch towards the end of September.
Frame Project			5x7 canvases are being distributed into the community; residents will paint inspiring words or phrases on them that they found during the COVID-19 pandemic. Canvases can be reserved by emailing events@okotoks.ca and will be announced this week on social media. This will be in conjunction with Alberta Culture days taking place the entire month of September. The completed art will be collected and a mural created for display at Pason Centennial Arena. Canvases will be collected during the first week of October and installed later in the month.
Thanksgiving Project			A Thanksgiving activity is in the process of being planned and will be communicated with the residents in October.
Environment & Sustainability			
Green Living Workshop Webinar – Befriending Bats		Sept 19 7-8pm	This session is part of the monthly Okotoks Green Living Workshop series. These family-friendly, hands-on workshops focus on the various things we can do at home and around Okotoks to live in balance with nature. Registration: https://www.okotoks.ca/discover-okotoks/community-events-calendar/befriending-bats-green-living-workshop
Composting Green Living Workshop		Oct 14	Kick off for Waste week; this session is part of the monthly Okotoks Green Living Workshop series. These family-friendly, hands-on workshops focus on

			the various things we can do at home and around Okotoks to live in balance with nature.
Waste Week		Oct 19 -25	Education on Waste and waste reduction throughout the week. Online Waste Reduction Challenge with participants entered to win a prize if they try to reduce their waste.
Waste Week Repair Café		Oct 25	This is one of our quarterly Repair Cafés. In person, reduced capacity. No sign up yet.

SUMMARY FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT AND PLANS GOING FORWARD TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, providing social supports to the residents of Okotoks has been a priority for the Emergency Social Services (ESS) team. Community Wellness, including the Okotoks Family Resource Centre (OFRC), is offering all programs and services that were available prior to COVID-19, with additional supports being added as needed in response to identified needs. Through the Okotoks Interagency group, information and resources have been shared and conversations with opportunities for feedback have been facilitated to ensure the needs of residents, and the agencies that serve them are quickly identified and responded to in a cohesive and strategic manner. OFRC has received additional funding from the United Way of Calgary and Area to meet basic needs and provide supports as needed. It is expected that social supports will continue to be needed until the end of 2020 and into 2021, so this will be monitored to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of residents.

Social Supports

Category	Objectives	Strategies
Social Supports	Facilitation of Grants	COVID-19 FCSS Funding
		Regular stream of FCSS Funding
	Direct Programs	United Way/Okotoks Partnership Community Investment
		Okotoks Family Resource Centre
		Community Access Program
		Volunteer Resource Centre
Direct Supports including Vulnerable Populations		Connect Residents with Resources
		Daily Check In Program

Okotoks Family Resource Centre (OFRC)

The Okotoks Family Resource Centre continues to provide service to residents. Staff have been able to provide in person supports to residents by appointment throughout the pandemic. Demand for support is increasing, and staff predict that they will continue to see increases in residents accessing services as the longer term impacts of COVID-19 arise. CERB payments are coming to an end, which is, and will continue to increase the need for social supports. Additional funding from the United Way of Calgary and Area was received to allow OFRC to support residents with basic needs.

Daily Check-in Program

Community Wellness launched a daily check-in program to support the community during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Through the Volunteer Resource Centre, this program gave the opportunity for isolated residents to receive a daily social check-in program with a caring volunteer through a phone, email or text. This program continues to be available to residents who require this additional support, however there is currently low demand for this program.

Facilitation of Grants

Community Wellness continues to facilitate regular funding streams to ensure that agencies serving the residents of Okotoks were able to maintain programming. All Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and United Way funds were distributed, and agencies will provide reports by January 31, 2021. In October 2020 agencies will be able to apply for 2021 FCSS funds, which is consistent with the regular annual schedule.

Community Coordination/Facilitation

Category	Objectives	Strategies
Community Coordination/ Facilitation	Supporting Community Groups	Healthy Okotoks Coalition
	Interagency Coordination including Regional Collaboration	Update and Resource Sharing
		Provide support for agencies

Healthy Okotoks Coalition - Community Garden

The Healthy Okotoks Coalition has operated the Okotoks Community Garden since 1991 with administrative support from the Town of Okotoks. The garden consists of 56 plots and a large area for the Okotoks Food Bank. The Healthy Okotoks Coalition and Community Garden Coordinator worked with Administration to develop COVID-19 guidelines that aligned with recommendations from Alberta Health. These guidelines were quickly implemented, and the Community Garden has had a successful gardening season.

Okotoks Interagency

Through the Okotoks Interagency, resource updates were shared continuously with service providers. This group previously met in person, but have successfully transitioned to meeting in a virtual setting. Webinars are now being utilized to continue to provide options for sharing community resources with service providers. Facilitated Conversation Cafes have been held, and feedback has been collected from service providers to ensure there is a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the community. The Interagency group has been able to work collaboratively ensuring a cohesive community response that continues to utilize resources strategically and efficiently.

Programs and Events**Summer Daycamps**

Summer Daycamps, for children between the ages of five to twelve years, were scheduled throughout the summer and located at the Foothills Centennial Centre so that appropriate measures could be put in place with social distancing, reduced interaction with other cohorts, etc. Accessible childcare contributes to economic recovery – the program reached 64% of capacity. The Canada Summer Jobs grant provided a grant of \$8K to offset the cost of the daycamp leader wages. Summer daycamps started June 29 and wrapped up August 28 – no COVID cases were reported during the running of this program.

Social and Community Engagement**Virtual Events**

Virtual events replaced the downtown summer events due to COVID restrictions on gatherings. In addition, some creative engagement pieces were implemented.

Blended Programming

As part of the planning for fall programming, Programs and Events is going on line. Due to COVID gathering restrictions the programs team is developing blended fall classes. There will be on-line, as well as in-person options for any vulnerable resident who needs to continue to self-isolate due to existing health conditions; these programs will be available in October. The equipment required for this initiative is being purchased through grant \$'s and FCSS funding.

Out of School Care

The Licensed out of school care program re-opened August 31. This program provides care to children attending the three schools within walking distance of the Okotoks Recreation Centre – Percy Pegler, Dr. Morris Gibson, and Good Shepherd. Alberta Health Services has implemented restrictions for operators to a maximum cohort of 30, including children and childcare workers. This program continues to operate in the Okotoks Youth Centre following all COVID guidelines and contributing to economic recovery as parents return to work and is currently at capacity in the morning.

Community Coordination / Facilitation

The Town of Okotoks will be working with Foothills School Division through the Minds Matter program to develop and present mindfulness programming to children and youth. Once in place this will be made available to all community members. This program will be supported by FCSS funding.

Outcomes from Previous Activities (August 14 to September 7)**Environment & Sustainability**

TD Green Space Grants for Tree Planting (August 19) - A grant of \$5000.00 was awarded to the Town of Okotoks to assist with tree planting in our community. We purchased 421 native trees and shrubs (poplar, willow, Saskatoon and buckbrush). Trees were planted with the help of 10 volunteers and parks staff in the bio-retention area that filters the storm water from our Operations Facility south of the main building.