

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

CAO – CORPORATE SUPPORT

Public Participation Events

There are no Public Participation Events scheduled over the summer.

COMMUNITY GROWTH, INVESTMENT, & SUSTAINABILITY

University of Calgary – Revitalization of Underused Spaces

The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape with the University of Calgary has chosen Okotoks, along with 2 other municipalities to participate in a project on revitalization of underused spaces. The study is aimed at taking under-utilized spatial assets in cities hit hard by the economic downturn and increasingly vacated cores and catalyzing them into positive assets that can help revitalize communities.

Gateway Signage

The design of the new Community Gateway Signs has been finalized, and approvals from Alberta Transportation for installation are being secured. Sign fabrication will commence in September and installation of the Gateway signs is anticipated by the end of the year.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

2023 Alberta Summer Games

On Monday August 9 the official announcement of the host Communities for the 2023 Alberta Summer Games was made. The Minister of Culture, Ron Orr was on site at the Okotoks Recreation Centre to congratulate the Towns of Okotoks and Black Diamond who have been selected as the host communities.

The Alberta Games board of directors is already in place under the leadership of Sandi Kennedy. Sandi is excited to lead the planning of this event that will take place from July 20 to 23, 2023. The games are going to be of benefit to both towns as communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Providing an opportunity to compete at a high level close to home will have a positive impact on the many athletes that live in the area. Administration will continue to support the games through the months of planning as well as the days of competition where the community will host approximately 2,500 athletes from across Alberta.

Party at the Plaza

Town organized events have transitioned, where possible, to on-line since March 2020. However, with the COVID guideline changes Programs, Culture and Heritage are in the process of planning an in person event in lieu of Chilifest this year. "Party at The Plaza" scheduled for August 28, will be an in-person event featuring musical

performances on the plaza stage from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. Some of the acts include Tanya Ryan and Michela Sheedy. A variety of children's games will be set up on the Landmark site and COBS Bread will be on-site with desserts available for purchase.

Residents are encouraged to come down to the "Party at the Plaza" and enjoy the day. Road closures will not be in place for this event.

Canadian Parks & Recreation Association

On August 3 the International Play Association Canada (IPA Canada) and Canadian Parks and Recreation Association released IPA Canada declaration on the Child's Right to Play in Canada (attached). Play is a natural, instinctive human behaviour! And children *NEED* to play! It is well-established through research and practice that play is critical to a child's physical health and emotional well-being. Recreation leaders or providers, planners, and decision makers at all levels of government, play a key role in supporting the child's right to play in Canada by providing children with the time, space, and freedom to play freely, every day. The declaration includes 10 statements on the child's right to play which can be used as a starting point to spark discussion about play rights and provision for children's free play in any and all contexts across the country. The importance of recreation and play for children's mental and physical health was notable in Okotoks during the COVID-19 pandemic and is included within Okotoks Social Pandemic Response strategy.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The 2020 Annual Report highlighting the Town's various corporate and financial accomplishments over the past year is completed and is available for viewing on the Town of Okotoks website at <https://www.okotoks.ca/annual-report>. Hard copies are available for pick-up at the Town of Okotoks Municipal Centre and the Okotoks Public Library.

The 2020 Annual Report is a concise way for the Town to report to residents and business owners on the progress and achievements towards the key strategic directions in the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan and share the Town's audited consolidated financial statements.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Canadian Award for Financial Reporting (CAnFR) to The Town of Okotoks for its annual financial report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. CAnFR was established to encourage municipal governments throughout Canada to publish high quality financial reports and to provide peer recognition and technical guidance for officials preparing these reports. The 2019 Annual Report was one of only 67 municipalities in Canada to be awarded this prestigious recognition.

The Town believes the 2020 Annual Report continues to conform to the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting program requirements, and has been submitted to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Canadian Award for Financial Reporting.

OPERATIONS & UTILITIES

Current Outdoor Watering

The current outdoor watering stage has remained at “Green” due to conservation efforts by Okotoks residents and businesses. The Town has been able to maintain regular water levels despite the heat waves experienced throughout Western Canada. With the low flows in the Sheep River, please continue following the outdoor watering schedule. More information on outdoor watering schedule and stages can be found at www.Okotoks.ca/watering.

Prepared by:
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