



News Release
August 14, 2019

Town of Ponoka Releases Annual Report to the Community

(August 14, 2019 – Ponoka, Alberta) – The Town of Ponoka released its 2018 Annual Report to the Community today. With the 2019 Budget year well underway, the Annual Report to the Community invites citizens to take a look back and celebrate the many accomplishments and milestones Ponoka has achieved over the past year.

Along with the many community volunteers who donate their time and energy on Council Advisory Boards and Committees throughout the year, Town employees work year round to provide quality services and infrastructure that contribute to helping make Ponoka a vibrant community for our citizens and local businesses.

2018 Annual Report Highlights

Some of the work highlighted in the Town's 2018 Annual Report to the Community, which is posted on the Town website at <https://www.ponoka.ca/town-hall/2018-annual-report>, includes:

- **Redevelopment of the Old Hospital Site** – The Town facilitated the redevelopment of the old hospital site and construction of the Ponoka Civic Building which replaced an underutilized, deteriorating property with a modern new community hub. The Ponoka Civic Building houses a new library and learning centre that is bringing new post-secondary education programs and courses to Ponoka. The redevelopment of the old hospital site also led to the construction of a new care home next door to the Ponoka Civic Building. The new care home is expected to employ up to 60 people;
- **\$10 Million in Construction Values** – The Town oversees the licensing and permitting processes for business and development each year, which saw more than \$10 million of commercial, industrial, institutional and residential construction initiated in the Town of Ponoka in 2018;
- **Expanded Curbside Compost Program** – A review of the Town's curbside Waste and Recycling Program was completed in 2018 which resulted in the addition of a full organics composting program **at no additional cost to residents**. The program allows residents to now compost all food waste in their green carts, including meat and bones, soiled paper and cardboard, pet waste (in certified compostable bags or paper bags), animal bedding, coffee grinds, tea bags, yard waste and many other items;
- **Continued Development of the Town's Asset Management Plan** – The Town's Asset Management Plan identifies priorities for maintenance and replacement of key infrastructure such as the Town's annual Pavement and Concrete Improvement Program;



- **New Skating Trail** – A new skating trail and skating pond were developed in Lions Centennial Park, along with an expanded Christmas light display thanks to community volunteers on the Town’s Recreation, Parks and Culture Advisory Committee and the Ponoka Regional Fire Service;
- **New Oil Recycling Program** – A new year-round motor oil recycling program at the Ponoka Waste Transfer Station was launched in 2018, which recycled 1,900 litres of motor oil last year;
- **Implementation of Ponoka’s Downtown Action Plan** – Implementation of the Plan began with the creation of conceptual designs for a one-acre park at the southwest corner of the old hospital site, and for a parking lot that will be developed on the east side of 50 St. across from the Ponoka Civic Building;
- **Citizen-Centred Budget Consultation Process** – The public consultation process included a Public Open House and a Citizen Budget Survey. The input gathered from citizens was given careful consideration during the 2019 Budget deliberation process; and
- **Special Community Events** – The Town hosted several successful community events in 2018 including Family Day festivities at the Arena and Aquaplex, Canada Day celebrations in Centennial Park and the 4th Annual Ponoka Day in the Park.

“The Town looks forward to accomplishing much more in the year ahead,” says Ponoka Mayor Rick Bonnett. “We will continue working together in partnership with local residents and businesses over the coming months through our many advisory boards and committees, and through public open houses and citizen engagement sessions to ensure Ponoka continues to be a place we are all proud to call home.”

For more information:

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