



2016
TOWN OF
OKOTOKS
COMMUNITY REPORT



Introduction

The Town of Okotoks is pleased to share the 2016 Community Report. This publication is a concise way for the Town to report to our residents on progress and achievements towards key strategic direction areas identified in the 2014-2017 Business Plan.

Vision

The Town of Okotoks is resilient, where people, businesses, ideas and sense of community thrive. Grounded by the Sheep River Valley and supported by thoughtful planning and design, a strong local economy and a vibrant civic culture, Okotoks offers exceptional quality of life at every stage of life. Respect for each other and the natural environment makes Okotoks home.

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ORGANIZATION
EXCELLENCE



MESSAGE FROM OKOTOKS COUNCIL

2016 has been another busy year! Major initiatives included launching the Universal Cart Program, completing the process for annexation, continuing to work towards the Calgary/Okotoks water pipeline, and the opening of the new Operations Centre. The joint acquisition of Champion Park with the MD of Foothills will open the private park to the public for all to enjoy in the future.

The EPCOR Water Main Replacement Program, the FortisAlberta conversion of Okotoks streetlights to LED technology and the Okotoks Community Campus all contributed to the many projects that positively impacted Okotoks over 2016.

Our community continues to be a favourite place to live and visit. We hosted the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling Masters and popular annual events such as the Spirit of Okotoks Parade and Children's Festival, the Taste of Okotoks, and Light Up Okotoks. 2016 welcomed new events like Pop Up in the Park, National Health and Fitness Day and the Harvest and Blues Festival.

In 2016, we received some notable awards such as the Economic Development Association of Alberta's prestigious Alex Metcalfe Award recognizing the 'best of the best' in the province for Business Investment and Attraction.

Okotoks Council and administration are dedicated to managing growth so we can retain our welcoming, connected, sustainable and safe neighbourhoods as well as encouraging a strong business community. We wish to enthusiastically thank residents for your continued input and support.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bill Robertson

on behalf of Okotoks Town Council





POPULATION OF OKOTOKS

28,016

39%
SINCE
2006



A DYNAMIC OKOTOKS

MANAGING COMMUNITY GROWTH

The Town of Okotoks will build a complete community that provides economic, social, and environmental sustainability for people to live, work and play.

Regional Pipeline Background & Update

Okotoks is experiencing steady growth, with a projected population of over 80,000 in the next 50 to 60 years. This has led Okotoks to seek a long-term, sustainable source of water through a Calgary/Okotoks pipeline. This has an estimated cost of \$35 million dollars.

Because of the current limited water supply, this critical infrastructure must be operational as soon as possible (i.e. by 2018) to meet our growing population's immediate needs, while allowing sufficient time for design approvals, funding and construction.

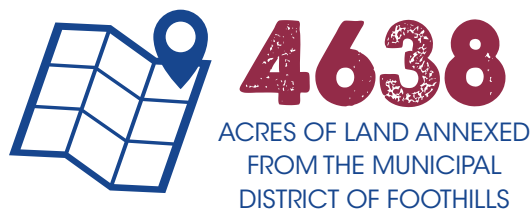
The Calgary/Okotoks pipeline is the initial phase of a sub-regional water solution that will meet Okotoks' needs. It will also open opportunities in the future for other communities within the Foothills region. The 14 members of the Calgary Regional Partnership agree that the pipeline is the preferred solution, both for the short (Okotoks) and long term (regional).

The Town has received approval from the City of Calgary for the water supply, has submitted applications for grant funding, and continues to lobby the provincial and federal governments for funding assistance. We have also completed detailed designs for the pipeline, and are in the process of securing utility right-of-ways with the MD of Foothills.



Annexation Update

In response to recent unprecedented growth and forecasts for continued growth, the Town of Okotoks has completed the process to annex 4638 acres (1877 hectares) from the Municipal District of Foothills.



In October 2016, the Town of Okotoks and the MD of Foothills submitted the proposed annexation application to the Municipal Government Board for review. This completed the process to annex the land and we now await the province’s approval.

Okotoks Community Campus Update

In 2015, the Town purchased a 40-acre parcel (commonly known as the Wedderburn lands) on the northeast boundary to accommodate additional education, recreation, and culture facilities. The most immediate need is for a K-9 public school. Site servicing (utilities) construction on the land began in September 2016; construction of the school is anticipated to be complete for the 2018 school year. The Town has worked closely with the Foothills School Division on design concepts and is also working with Christ the Redeemer School Division regarding its future requirements.

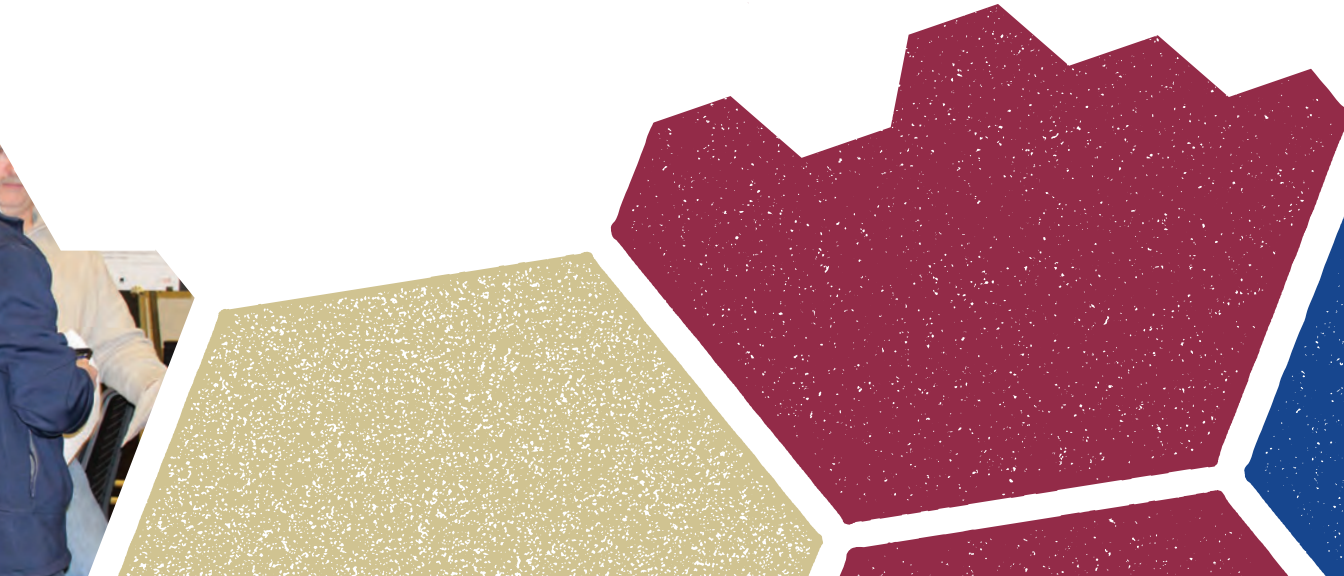
Water Management Strategies

While our long-term water solution of a Calgary/Okotoks Regional Water Pipeline is a multi-year process, there are a number of short-term strategies the Town continues to employ, such as purchasing water license transfers. Okotoks has invested over \$3.4 million to date obtaining water licenses.

New Neighbourhoods

The Northwest Okotoks Area Structure Plan (NWOASP) has been recently amended to provide direction for new development in the future community of D’Arcy. The Town is currently working with the land developer, United Communities, on an Outline Plan that reflects the Community Vision for Okotoks. A North Okotoks Area Structure Plan (NOASP) has also been developed to guide development of the Wedderburn Lands and is currently under consideration by Council.

 **The D’Arcy and Wedderburn neighbourhoods will be the first in Okotoks whose design reflects the 2014 Community Vision, the Active Transportation Strategy and the Calgary Metropolitan Plan’s density targets.**



ATHRIVING OKOTOKS

FOSTERING ECONOMIC VITALITY

The Town of Okotoks will facilitate a healthy economy where quality jobs and business opportunities are abundant.

Okotoks has continued to experience increased business activities with the number of new storefronts and homebased businesses continuing to grow in 2016. The Town is confident about moving forward with a variety of exciting projects in 2017, which will cater to business retention and help maintain and expand the community's resilience.

Community Events & Sponsorships

In October the Town hosted the curling masters, which had a positive economic impact on businesses throughout the community. 15,000 fans attended the event and left a profitable footprint on local businesses.

In 2016, nearly 100,000 visitors attended Town-sponsored events including Taste of Okotoks, the parade, Light Up Okotoks, BuskersFest, curling masters, and the Foothills Holiday Roadshow. The annual Light Up Okotoks event exceeded 20,000 visitors, having a very positive impact on local businesses. Participating businesses in the Foothills Holiday Roadshow reported that they doubled their return on investment.

Urban Design Masterplan

The Downtown Steering Committee initiated a workshop that led to Council's directing administration to undertake an Urban Design Masterplan for the downtown area, to be completed in 2017. The plan will reflect the Committee's recommendations in identifying Okotoks' competitive niche and will guide the process to fulfilling Okotoks' brand as an innovative community.

Tourism Video

A 30-second tourism commercial was aired during the televised broadcast of the Masters Grand Slam of Curling event held in Okotoks. The commercial aired on Rogers SportsNet 11 times between Thursday, October 27 and Sunday, October 30, 2016. When shared to our social media sites, the video received over 16,400 views in the first two weeks with a reach of over 32,375 people. The video can be found at okotoks.ca/discover-okotoks.





607
STOREFRONTS



700
HOME BASED

OVER 349

NEW JOBS CREATED



Cool Little Towns

This regional partnership launched a new website that featured a series of driving tours to attract visitors to the area. The new website has generated more than

700 website visits from people in Canada, the United States and internationally.

Business Awards

The Canadian Property Investor Magazine identified Okotoks as the only community in Alberta to achieve the Top 10 list for 'Top places to invest in Canada'. The Town also received three awards for Business Investment and Attraction projects from Economic Development Alberta and Alberta Tourism.

\$94
MILLION

INVESTED IN
CONSTRUCTION
DEVELOPMENT
IN 2016

\$4

MILLION

SPENT ON
MISCELLANEOUS
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS



\$55
MILLION

INSTITUTIONAL, INDUSTRIAL
AND COMMERCIAL
CONSTRUCTION



\$34
MILLION

RESIDENTIAL
CONSTRUCTION



OVER 3400
PERMIT INSPECTIONS
CONDUCTED

ASTRONG OKOTOKS

PROVIDING QUALITY COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Town of Okotoks will strategically manage, invest and plan for municipal infrastructure to meet the community's current and future needs.

Transportation Master Plan Update

The transportation plan was updated and presented to Council in October 2016. It reflects the proposed annexation areas and identifies necessary upgrades to the transportation network and anticipated costs.

Veterans Way

Centre Avenue was officially renamed Veterans Way in April 2016 and construction began in August to improve pedestrian and cycling connections.

Okotoks Eco Centre Replaced the Okotoks Recycling Centre

In April 2016, the new Okotoks Eco Centre opened its doors! The new facility accepts recycling items not included in the residential blue cart program and for the safe disposal of niche materials (household hazardous waste, CFL bulbs, electronics, oversized items that don't fit in the blue cart, etc.).

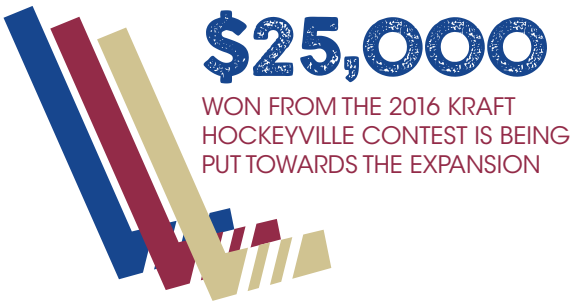
Cimarron Traffic Calming Study

Public engagement resulted in improved signal timings at either end of Cimarron Boulevard, line painting in Cimarron Estates and rapid flashing beacons for cross walks.



**Pason Centennial Arena
Expansion Project**

Construction of the \$15 million expansion started in October 2016 and is anticipated to be open to the public in January 2018. The expansion will include one NHL-sized ice surface, a leisure ice surface that will accommodate up to 100 people, five dressing rooms, and three multi-purpose rooms.



Operations Centre Buildings

The \$17 million construction project included over 58,000 square feet of space for housing the Transportation, Parks and Resource Recovery functions, and all their equipment. The buildings were built to LEED specifications and are undergoing the certification process in 2017.

**Water Meter Upgrade/
Replacement Project**

The program will replace existing water meters to provide advanced metering features for approximately 8,400 residential and commercial properties.

**Regional Waste Management/
Materials Recovery Facility Study**

Foothills Regional Services Commission received a \$150,000 grant to fund the Regional Waste Management/Materials Recovery Facility study.

**Drake Landing and Crystalridge
Ponds Goldfish Eradication Project**

In order to control invasive goldfish, Alberta Environment and Parks and the Town of Okotoks removed fish from storm ponds. The Town implemented a public awareness campaign to remind residents not to compromise the storm pond ecosystem by releasing aquarium or domestic animals or plants.

Water Spray Park Expansion

The expansion of the water spray park (phase 2) began in late August 2016 and included installing new play features, building a mechanical shelter and public washroom. The work is expected to be complete for the park's opening in May 2017.



A SUSTAINABLE OKOTOKS

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Town of Okotoks will be a leader in environmental protection and preservation.

Waste Diversion

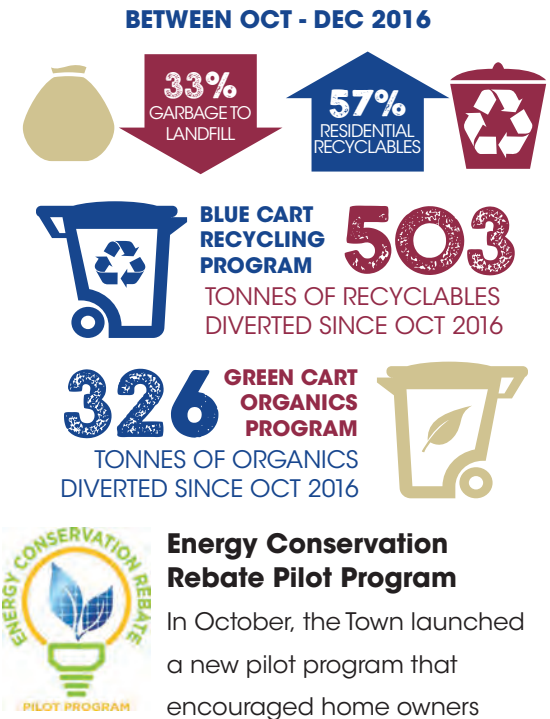
Residents continue to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by utilizing the new residential universal cart program and the Okotoks Eco Centre. Because residents used a variety of diversion options to manage their waste, the community collectively reduced our annual landfill tonnage by 1146 tonnes fewer greenhouse gases emitted to the environment.



Universal Cart Program Launch

The universal blue recycling and green organics cart collection program was introduced in October 2016. It's been proven that these programs divert waste from landfill, which extends its lifespan and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, specifically methane. The diverted material is recycled and reused to create new products in the global market and the organic material is composted regionally into residential grade compost. The blue recycling cart is collected weekly year-round and the green organics

cart is collected weekly in the summer season and bi-weekly in the winter months (November through April) when there is less yard waste.



to hire a certified Energy Advisor to complete a comprehensive energy audit on their homes. An energy audit report identifies a home's energy deficiencies and makes recommendations on where homeowners can most effectively invest in energy saving improvements. These upgrades could save homeowners money on their utility bills and reduce their carbon emissions. In partnership with the rebate program, the Town also introduced Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audit Kits for residents to complete a home energy audit on their own.

Conservation Education Program

The 2016 program's main focus was informing residents about the new Universal Cart Program and engaging them in conversations about increasing waste diversion from the landfill and how to reduce household water and energy consumption.



374 HOUSEHOLD
SURVEYS
COMPLETED

**OVER
2000** RESIDENTS
EDUCATED

**OVER
1100** STUDENTS IN 50
CLASSROOMS
EDUCATED

APPROXIMATELY
800 KIDS ENGAGED IN
SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Water Conservation Rebate Program

The 2016 Water Conservation Rebate Program's \$40,000 budget was distributed by mid-October with 638 water efficient installations/purchases. The average rebate per household was \$97.20 with mulch accounting for the majority of the items purchased. This is double the submissions made in 2015. Of the 416 approved applications, 64% of respondents indicated that the rebate program motivated their purchase.



On-It Public Transit Pilot Program

In 2016, the Town, in collaboration with the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP), launched a public transportation service in our community! The two-year public transit pilot project commenced in October providing Okotoks, Black Diamond, High River, and Turner Valley, with transit service between the towns and Calgary's Somerset/Bridlewood LRT Station every morning and evening. Since the pilot launch, the service has provided 1384 passenger trips in the region, with 873 trips between Okotoks and Calgary exclusively.

Living Soil Filtration (Riparian) Research Project

The Town of Okotoks, in partnership with the University of Calgary (U of C), the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC), the City of Calgary and Source 2 Source Environmental Design and Engineering, are implementing an innovative 'living soil' stormwater management system and research project at the Town of Okotoks Operations Centre.

The project is both a demonstration and research site. Within the demonstration site, excess water runoff from storm events is slowed and processed through interactions between soil particles, plant roots, microorganisms, insects, and animals. This improves the quality and quantity of the discharged water. The University of Calgary is performing research at this site to discover how these processes relate to one another and how these interactions specifically benefit stormwater management.

Water Consumption

Residents of Okotoks continue to be successful in maintaining one of the lowest per capita water usages in Canada.



NATIONAL AVERAGE
RESIDENTIAL WATER
CONSUMPTION



OKOTOKS AVERAGE
RESIDENTIAL WATER
CONSUMPTION

A VITAL OKOTOKS

FACILITATING A HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITY

The Town of Okotoks will strengthen our social fabric and enhance the safety of our community through public safety, culture and recreation.

Speed Limit Reduction

In January 2016, Council approved reducing speed limits to 40 km/hour on all streets in Okotoks except for major routes such as Northridge Drive, Southridge Drive, Milligan Drive, 32nd Street and Big Rock Trail. Some streets remain 30 km/hour zones and public lanes remain at 15 km/hour.

Fire Services

Okotoks Fire Services is comprised of 17 full time firefighters, 36 community volunteer firefighters and two administrative staff who provide fire and rescue services to Okotoks and surrounding area.

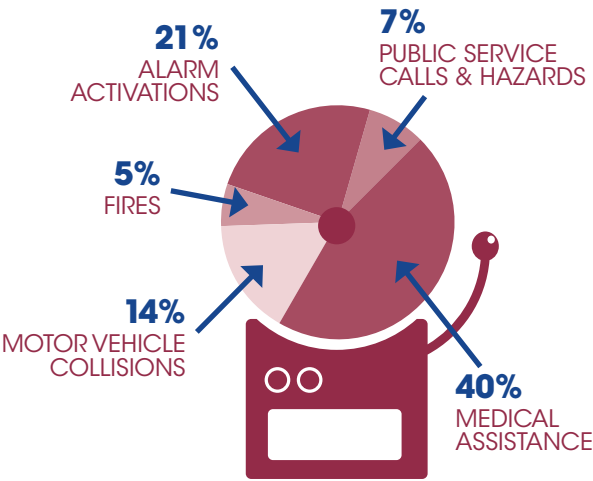
Fire Services has continued the home inspection program for residents in high risk sectors (e.g. seniors, people with a disability or special needs). Firefighters inspected over 30 homes and 773 businesses in 2016 for fire hazards and properly installed smoke detectors where needed.

773
BUSINESSES
INSPECTED

38
COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY
EVENTS HOSTED/ATTENDED

3949 HOURS OF TRAINING **118** CAR SEATS INSPECTED

995 INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO





1800

HOURS SERVICE FROM 6
MRU PRACTICUM STUDENTS

17%
FROM
2015



5121

TICKETS ISSUED IN 2016

20%
FROM
2015



2301

NUMBER OF CALLS PEACE
OFFICERS RESPONDED TO

17%
FROM
2015



FIRST MUNICIPALITY ON THE ALBERTA FIRST
RESPONDER RADIO COMMUNICATION
SYSTEM (AFRRCS)

Community Policing & Public Education

The Okotoks RCMP Detachment provides 24-hour policing with 25 officers and 10 support staff (eight municipal, two federal), as well as three officers in the Plain Clothes Section. The officers work together to assist in major investigations and proactively work on community issues, including drugs and prolific offenders. 90% of RCMP services and 100% of municipal staffing is covered by municipal taxes.

Municipal Enforcement Officers and RCMP work together on community police-led initiatives such as Victim Services, Auxiliary Constable Program, Citizens on Patrol (COP), and the Observer Program and have continued public education on DARE (Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education), Anti-Bullying, Internet safety, crosswalk safety, block/neighbourhood watch, anti-graffiti, animal safety, etc. It takes the whole community to be a safe community. Residents are encouraged to get involved with these programs and get to know your neighbours!



OKOTOKS CONTINUES
TO BE ONE OF THE SAFEST
COMMUNITIES IN ALBERTA





**TOTAL CULTURAL
VISITORS TO ALL
THREE FACILITIES**

30,060

VISITORS IN 2016

10%
FROM
2015

Culture & Heritage

The Town's cultural offerings were more popular than ever in 2016 with attendance at the Okotoks Art Gallery (OAG), the Okotoks Museum (OMA) and the Rotary Performing Arts Centre (RPAC) increasing significantly.

The Culture and Heritage team introduced two popular new initiatives downtown during the summer months. Art on the Lawn featured eight art markets and open-mic events in July and August. Additionally, two pianos were placed in popular public spaces, outdoors at the Okotoks Plaza and indoors at the Okotoks Recreation Centre where the public are invited to engage with, activate and take ownership of their urban environment. Several outdoor concerts took place at the plaza piano and more are planned for 2017!

The Museum also introduced a raised vegetable garden to help educate children on where food comes from. Children got hands-on in helping plant heritage seeds in the spring and harvesting their produce in the fall, which was all donated to the Okotoks Food Bank.

Community Events

2016 saw more than 15 Town-organized community events draw an estimated 72,000 residents and visitors from around the region, generating economic activity and showcasing Okotoks as a day trip and weekend destination.

OKOTOKS ART GALLERY

11,162

VISITORS IN 2016

27%
FROM
2015



1%
FROM
2015

THE ROTARY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

11,919

2016 ATTENDANCE



OKOTOKS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

6979

VISITORS TO THE
OMA IN 2016

3.5%
FROM
2015

STUDENT ART PROGRAMS

29

PROGRAMS

584

STUDENTS

156

ADULT
VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BIGGEST ATTENDANCE INCREASE:

TASTE OF OKOTOKS



50%

TICKET SALE INCREASE

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY
EVENTS HOSTED BY OKOTOKS

20

Indoor and Outdoor
Recreation/Community Programs

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES



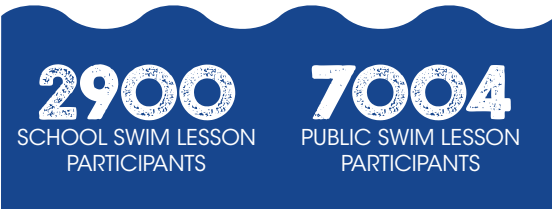
RECREATION FACILITIES



NEW RECREATION CLIENTS **2052**



WALKING TRACK USERS **30,000**



In support of the Social Wellness Framework, a number of free, affordable and discount drop-in activities continued to be offered in 2016.



Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

In 2016, FCSS provided \$230,000 in grants to 15 social agencies to help fund local social service initiatives.

An additional \$94,050 was provided in Innovation Funding for Pilot Projects for services and programs for youth, families and prevention of family violence.

Qualified residents continued to enjoy subsidized taxi service through the Community Access Program, which allows seniors and the disabled to remain active.

1043 RESIDENTS ENROLLED IN THE COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM

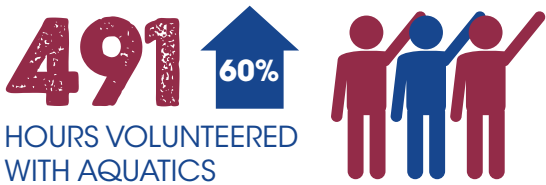
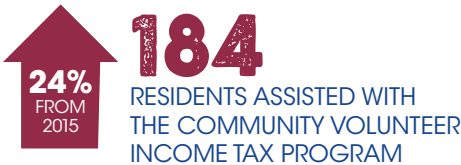


277
RESIDENTS TOOK
7189
TAXI TRIPS

Volunteer Centre

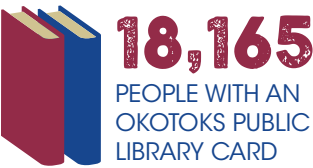
Okotoks continues to be a generous, caring community with 102 youth and 109 adults registered as volunteers. 2016 was the 21st year for the Annual Leadership Awards, where we highlight and appreciate those who make our community stronger through volunteerism. The centre always welcomes new volunteers.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



Community Highlights

OKOTOKS PUBLIC LIBRARY



7 **LITTLE
FREE
LIBRARIES**

IN PUBLIC PARKS, OKOTOKS RECREATION
CENTRE, AND OKOTOKS FOOD BANK WITH
VOLUNTEERS STOCKING/MAINTAINING
THE COLLECTIONS

Community Garden

Work began in late September 2016 on an expansion of the Okotoks Community Garden in Kinsmen Park. A volunteer team helped build 21 new raised garden beds next to the existing 35-bed garden. The Healthy Okotoks Coalition, the Okotoks Garden Club, Okotoks Food Bank and the Town of Okotoks partnered on the project. This is the first of a two-phase project being funded by the Healthy Okotoks Coalition and the Calgary Foundation. The Town provided equipment and gravel. Employees from Stantec Inc. also volunteered to support this initiative. We will be applying for grant funding to build the second phase.

Foothills Centennial Centre (FCC)

FCC is an important space for hosting large community events, fundraisers, private events, concerts, banquets and celebrations.



Okotoks Family Resource Centre (OFRC)

In 2016, OFRC handled 4284 inquiries, connecting residents with available resources and social services, making referrals, providing support in times of stress or crisis and assisting with applications. OFRC's social programs and services directly supported 1167 residents in need, with an increase from 2015 in most programs. These include the Recreation Fee Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Volunteer Driver, Volunteer Income Tax, and Back to School Supply programs, as well as the Annual Teddy Bear Picnic.



391

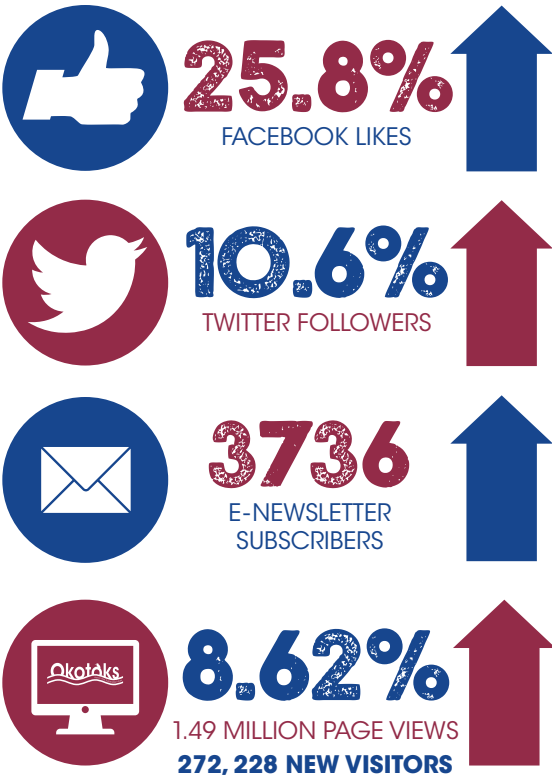


AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT OKOTOKS PROVIDING STRONG GOVERNANCE

The Town of Okotoks will provide strong governance including fiscal responsibility, open communication and strong inter-governmental relationships.

Social Media

Use of social media continues to play a significant role in customer-centred engagement. The Town Facebook, Twitter and YouTube profiles continue to increase in traffic and engagement. Join the conversation!



Public Engagement & Communications

Over 20 public open houses, workshops and online surveys were held throughout the year to provide information and gain feedback on current issues and projects including: Community Sustainability Plan, North and NW Area Structure Plans, Annexation, Universal Cart Collection Program, Flood Planning, Fire Prevention Week, Emergency Preparedness Week, Pason Centennial Arena Expansion Project, Okotoks Community Campus Construction, Recreation, Parks and Leisure Master Plan, Outdoor Spray Park Expansion Project, Veterans Way Pedestrian Corridor Project and the Cimarron Traffic Calming Study.

Seven surveys were developed to engage the public on a wide variety of topics, with nearly 2000 residents participating. Topics included annexation, Okotoks Community Campus, Cimarron Traffic Calming Study recommendations, business visitation, healthy food choices at the Recreation Centre, conservation and sustainability initiatives, summer tourism and events, Recreation Centre customer service experience, etc.

Mobile Apps

To help residents stay connected, engaged and informed with more information at their fingertips, the Town has three apps that have been well-received.

Residents can visit okotoks.ca/townapps for instructions on how to download each app.

1. Okotoks Waste:

Residents can check garbage and recycling schedules, find out what goes in each cart, and receive weekly reminders. The search feature also shows residents where to place products that do not go in the carts.



1494 MOBILE APP INSTALLS **14,691** DESKTOP VIEWS

1489 SERVICE ALERT CONTACTS

2. Click 'n Fix:

Residents have the ability to report non-emergency issues on public land in real time and play an active role in improving our community. Issues can be reported by smart phone or through the Town website, with location-based technology, and photo upload capabilities.



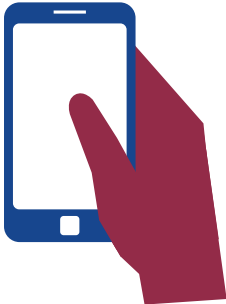
195 ISSUES REPORTED

SAFE COMMUNITIES)
Alert Network

3. Safe Communities Alert Network:

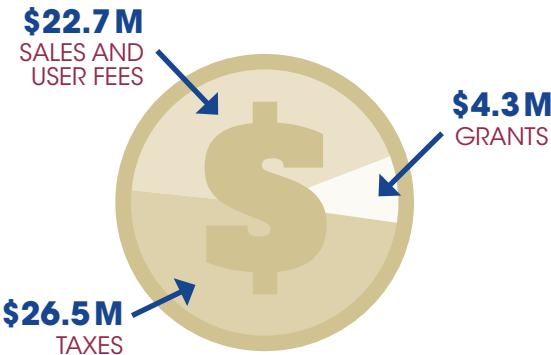
This app is part of a larger mass emergency alert notification system to help residents stay safe and informed during crisis events such as floods or tornadoes. Residents subscribe and can choose methods for receiving notifications, including phone, email, text message, and/or the mobile app.

 **150%**
SCAN SUBSCRIPTIONS

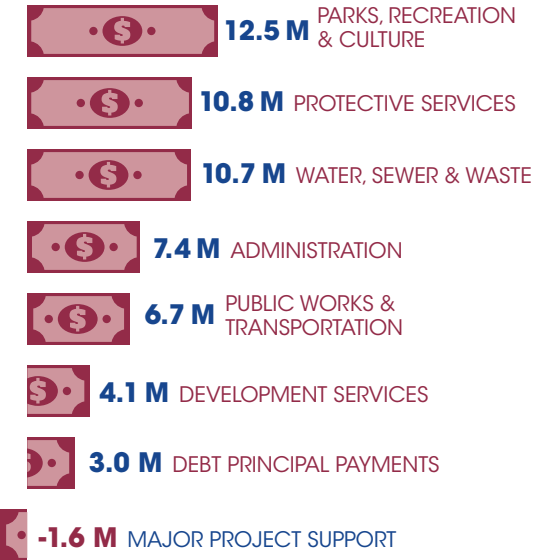




**WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM
2016 BUDGET \$53.5M**



**WHERE THE MONEY WENT
2016 BUDGET \$53.3M**



Financial Management

Okotoks' tax rates are lower than almost all municipalities in Alberta between the populations of 10,000 and 100,000 as confirmed in the annual financial indicator graphs prepared by Municipal Affairs (both residential and non-residential).

Requisitions

Property taxes levied by the Town include amounts collected on behalf of other organizations and represent approximately 34% of the total property tax bill:

- Alberta School Foundation Fund
- Okotoks Public Library Board
- Foothills Foundation

Council Boards & Committees

Dedicated community members generously volunteer their time to provide input to Council on a large variety of topics concerning our community. Visit okotoks.ca/committee.



Rate Supported Services

The following services are not supported through taxes:

- Water and sewer services
- Stormwater utility
- Weekly garbage and recycling collection
- Yard waste collection program



**FOOTHILLS
CENTENNIAL
CENTRE**



**OUTDOOR
SKATING RINKS &
TOBOGGAN HILLS**



**WILDLIFE RESERVE
& BIRD SANCTUARY**



2700
SEAT BASEBALL STADIUM

5 **TENNIS
COURTS**



325
**HECTARES OF
NATURALIZED
AREAS**



**WATER
SPRAY PARK**

WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR TAX DOLLARS

1500

SEAT PASON CENTENNIAL ARENA
MULTI-USE, YEAR-ROUND ICE,
WITH WALKING TRACK

170

**HECTARES OF
PUBLIC PARKS
& OPEN SPACES**

**YEAR-ROUND STREET CLEANING
AND WINTER SNOW REMOVAL
ON PRIORITY ROADS**



**OFF LEASH
DOG PARK**



PLAYING FIELDS
BALL DIAMOND, SOCCER,
FOOTBALL AND RUGBY



99
PARKS

1 BMX
TRACK COMPETITION FACILITY

49
PLAYGROUNDS

**CRESCENT POINT
REGIONAL FIELD HOUSE**



85 KM

**OF PATHWAYS
INCLUDING 25 KM
OF SIDEWALKS**



**1 SPORT
COURT**



24
HOUR

**POLICE AND
FIRE SERVICES**

RECREATION CENTRE

150 KM



OF ROADWAYS



CEMETERY

**3 CULTURAL
FACILITIES**

ART GALLERY,
OKOTOKS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
ROTARY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

WITH 2 ARENAS, 6 CURLING SHEETS, 6-LANE COMPETITIVE SWIMMING POOL, FAMILY
LEISURE POOL, 40-PERSON HOT TUB, FITNESS AREA, GYMNASIUM AND YOUTH CENTRE

A GROWING OKOTOKS

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

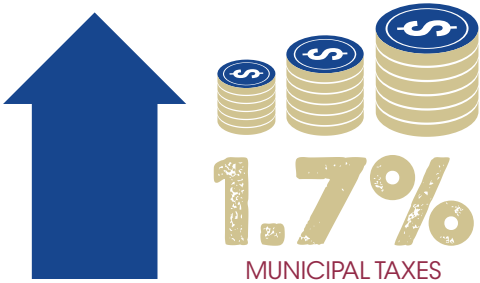
The Town of Okotoks is excited about 2017 and the many projects and initiatives that are upcoming this year. We continuously strive for new ways to improve our processes and services to help keep Okotoks an inviting and progressive community.

2017 Budget

The Town experienced 1.4% new assessment growth, creating additional revenue that allowed the Town to establish a lower tax rate while maintaining service levels for our growing population. Maintaining service levels includes covering inflationary pressures in new facility operating costs, utilities and protective services. Water and sewer services increased 4% to ensure continued cost recovery and for future utility infrastructure enhancements and upgrades.

**Highlights of the
\$45.1 Million Capital Budget:**

- Water and wastewater improvements including a regional water pipeline
- Phase 2 of the Veterans Way pedestrian corridor (formerly Centre Avenue)
- Cimarron Boulevard/drive signals
- Equipment and fleet replacements
- Additional lands for the cemetery
- Inclusive playground



**2017 OKOTOKS
OPERATING BUDGET**





A TYPICAL HOME
WILL PAY

\$38

MORE IN 2017



WHICH WORKS OUT TO

\$3.17

PER MONTH

Highlights of the Operating Budget:

- Operation of Champion Park in conjunction with the MD of Foothills
- Expansion of the Water Spray Park that will double the number of water features and include on-site public washrooms
- Preparing for the public opening of an expanded Pason Centennial Arena in January 2018
- Maintaining support for those in need, including increased grants to community non-profit agencies, adult and youth community development initiatives and continued provision of accessible transportation through the Town's subsidized taxi program
- Major operating projects total \$1.6 million for lifecycle maintenance and infrastructure replacements

2017 Initiatives

- Continue Calgary-Okotoks water pipeline process towards completion
- Support construction on the K-9 school on the Okotoks Community Campus lands
- Complete the Veterans Way pedestrian corridor project
- Process Water Recovery project for the Water Treatment Plant
- Further the community branding initiative
- Continue construction on the Pason Centennial Arena expansion project
- Implement more traffic calming solutions in the Cimarron neighbourhood
- Maintain the Water and Energy Conservation Rebate Program
- Work with United Communities on the development of the D'Arcy lands

A SUCCESSFUL OKOTOKS MAINTAINING ORGANIZATION EXCELLENCE

*The Town of Okotoks will be recognized
as a leader in public service.*

Growing Rural Tourism Champion Award

The Town won this award in recognition of our collaboration with rural tourism partners and for providing promotional and training opportunities. This award is presented in partnership with Travel Alberta, Alberta Culture and Tourism, Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies, and Tourism Camrose.

**Economic Developers Alberta
Award of Excellence**

The Town of Okotoks Visitor and Activities Guide won awards in two categories: the Business and Investment Attraction award and the Alex Metcalfe award, which recognizes the 'best of the best' for business investment and attraction projects.

Hermes & Marcom Awards

The Town was awarded Gold in both of these international creative competitions for marketing and communications for our 2015 Community Report.





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