



**TOWN OF**  
**QOKOTOKS**  
**COMMUNITY REPORT**



**Introduction**

The Town of Okotoks is pleased to share with you the 2015 Community Report. This publication is a way to report to our residents the progress and achievements made towards the 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.



Photo by Erin Scott

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# MESSAGE FROM OKOTOKS COUNCIL

In reflecting upon the past eventful year, some of the major highlights included: the continuation of the annexation and Calgary/Okotoks pipeline processes, undertaking of the Community Sustainability Plan, launch of the Safe Communities Alert Network emergency notification system, announcement of a public transit pilot project and the purchase of land to accommodate a new community campus with K to 9 public school within Okotoks.

There were many other major projects and initiatives that positively impacted our community: completion of flood repair work, reducing the speed limit throughout Okotoks to 40 km/hour, and the introduction of the Idle-Free Bylaw. All designed to promote the health and safety of our town.

In 2015, we received some remarkable recognition such as a national award for our Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Programs, and a regional award for being the Alberta tourism municipality of the year. The Town also received some interesting recognition for a viral tourism campaign that we were then able to leverage into lots of positive attention.

Our community, with a population of 28,016, continues to be a popular place to live and visit. We host well-attended events such as the Spirit of Okotoks Parade and Children's Festival,

the Taste of Okotoks, and Light Up Okotoks. 2015 welcomed new events like Public Piano at the Plaza and Art on the Lawn at the Okotoks Art Gallery.

Okotoks Council and Administration are dedicated to managing growth in ways that retain our friendly, connected, sustainable and safe neighbourhoods as well as encouraging a robust business community. We thank you for your continued input and support.

Sincerely,  
*Mayor Bill Robertson*  
*on behalf of Okotoks Council*

POPULATION OF OKOTOKS  
**28,016** **2.4%**  
FROM  
2014





# 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 Update

With Okotoks experiencing rapid growth, projections indicate a population of over 80,000 in the next 50 to 60 years. This has led the Town to seek out a long-term, sustainable source of water—a Calgary/Okotoks pipeline, which has an estimated cost of \$35 million.

Due to limited current water supply, the Town needs to have this critical infrastructure operational as soon as possible (i.e. by 2018) to meet the immediate needs of our growing population, including schools and businesses, while allowing sufficient time for approvals, funding and construction.

### CRITICAL PIPELINE TIMELINE

<b>2015</b>	SEEK FUNDING APPROVAL
<b>2016</b>	RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION
<b>2016</b>	DETAILED ENGINEERING AND TENDER
<b>2016</b>	CONSTRUCTION START
<b>2018</b>	PIPELINE OPERATIONAL

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 are in agreement that the pipeline is the preferred solution, both in 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, continues to lobby the province for funding assistance, has completed the preliminary design for the pipeline, and is securing utility right of ways.

**15.5 KM**  
50,852.9 FT PIPELINE LENGTH TO FUTURE RESERVOIR

**\$35 M**  
ESTIMATED PIPELINE COST

	START (2018)	MEDIAN (2030)	HORIZON (2043)
PROJECTED POPULATION SERVED	32,417	47,675	64,205

### Water Management Strategies

Completing our long-term water solution is a multi-year process, there are a number of short-term strategies the Town continues to employ such as water license transfers. In 2015 the Town purchased two water licenses, which, for example, are enough to support construction of 80 to 100 new homes (or two phases in a typical development).

### Annexation Update

The Town is currently in negotiations with the MD of Foothills on a proposed annexation. A number of mediated sessions were held in 2015, and significant progress has been made. It is expected that the annexation process will be completed in the next one to two years. A successful annexation is intended to meet the Town's growth requirements for the next 60 years. This growth is necessary to strengthen the tax base, provide a variety of housing options and public lands to ensure that Okotoks remains sustainable in the long-term.

### New Neighbourhoods

Significant planning work occurred in 2015 for two new neighbourhoods; within the Northwest quadrant of Okotoks, on either side of Northridge Drive (Highway 2A) in the areas commonly known as the D'Arcy and Wedderburn Lands. Several public consultation meetings occurred with respect to preliminary concepts for these lands.

### Community Campus Land Acquisition

In 2015, the Town proactively purchased a 40-acre parcel (commonly known as Wedderburn Lands) on the Northeast boundary to accommodate additional education, recreation, and culture facilities. An immediate need for a K to 9 public school was identified soon after the land purchase. The Town is working with the Foothills School Division on design concepts, with construction anticipated to start in fall 2016. The Town is also working with Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division regarding its future requirements.

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS





# A THRIVING OKOTOKS

## FOSTERING ECONOMIC VITALITY

  
**\$16**  
 MILLION  
 INSTITUTIONAL,  
 COMMERCIAL AND  
 INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION  
 INVESTMENT

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

### Economic Development Strategic Plan

The new Council-approved plan, *Together: We Can 2016-2020*, highlights both challenges and opportunities facing the Town. It also identifies actions required to ensure we remain competitive:

- Attract and retain business investment
- Increase employment
- Grow the municipal tax base
- Improve government processes
- Enhance capacity for community development

### Physician Recruitment and Post-Secondary Education

One new doctor was welcomed to town and lease space was secured for a medical clinic to open in the Westmount commercial area in late-summer 2016.


The post-secondary education committee vision was undertaken advocating educational leadership by integrating arts, culture, environment and business. It also encourages partnerships with public/private stakeholders.

### Downtown Rebranding Initiative

The work with international tourism expert Roger Brooks continued with a branding initiative for downtown Okotoks. Projects included a series of stakeholder interviews, community questionnaire and the formation of a Brand Development Committee. Findings from this process will formulate the branding direction in 2016. The new brand will reflect community feedback, the Town's vision and future growth plans, as well as the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

 **900**  
 BRANDING INTERVIEWS AND  
 QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPANTS

The goal of the branding initiative is to strengthen Okotoks as an outstanding destination, stimulate economic development and provide new ways to enhance our reputation, making Okotoks a more desirable location for business, investment, new residents, and visitors.

 **I've been to 60 cities in Alberta - Whitecourt to Waterton, my two favourites are Canmore and Okotoks. Talk about stunning. Do you guys realize where you're living? Maybe you take it for granted, but as a visitor this place is just stunning!**

**- Roger Brooks**

**Branding Committee**

### Economic Impact of Community Events

Over 72,000 visitors spent time in Okotoks to participate in 15 Town-organized events in 2015. Visitors not only attended the events, but also took time to shop and dine around Okotoks, with 65% visiting downtown and the remainder visiting the greater Okotoks area.

### Workshops and Activities

A number of educational and tourism workshops were held to support local business growth and development, including sessions on business revitalization, entrepreneurship and customer engagement.

The *Downtown Action Plan* was created and several objectives have already been completed, including adding street furniture to the downtown plaza and adjusting plans to allow downtown businesses to install sidewalk patios and blade signage.

### New Businesses

Okotoks continued to see new business growth, which was up 2.8% in 2015. The number of businesses have grown 14% since 2011.

**OVER**  
**390**  
 JOBS CREATED

 **592**  
 STOREFRONTS  
 **660**  
 HOME BASED

  
**\$60**  
 MILLION  
 SPENT ON  
 RESIDENTIAL  
 CONSTRUCTION

**\$82**  
 MILLION  
 SPENT OVERALL ON  
 CONSTRUCTION  
 DEVELOPMENT  
 IN 2015

**~\$6**  
 MILLION  
 SPENT ON  
 MISCELLANEOUS  
 CONSTRUCTION  
 PROJECTS

### WATCH FOR IT IN 2016!



#### Cool Little Towns

The Town of Okotoks continued to act as regional lead for Cool Little Towns, a tourism partnership of Southern Alberta communities

to promote tourism attractions in the region. Watch for Cool Little Towns themed driving routes through member communities in 2016 – a great idea for a daytrip or weekend getaway!





# 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.*

### Recycling Centre Transitions to Eco Centre

This transition began in June 2015 and is expected to be complete by fall of 2016. The current Recycling Centre will evolve into a one-stop location for recycling items not included in the residential blue cart program and for safe disposal of excess and niche materials (household hazardous waste, CFL bulbs, electronics, etc). The Eco Centre will also provide community waste diversion education.

### Centre Avenue/Veteran's Way

Conceptual designs were completed for Centre Avenue (to be changed to Veteran's Way in 2016) to improve pedestrian and cycling connections for users and to enhance overall community connectivity between the pathway system and key destinations.

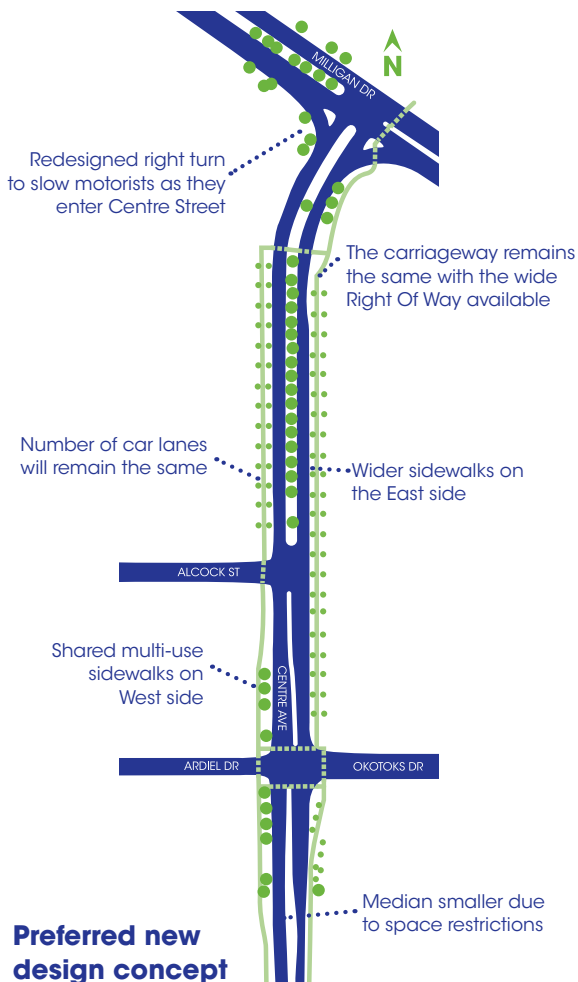
### Cimarron Traffic Calming

As a result of resident survey feedback, the speed limit on Cimarron Estates Road was reduced to 30 km/hour. Road painting and signage were also put in place to improve traffic volumes and pedestrian safety issues on Cimarron Boulevard.

### Improving Pedestrian Connections

Supporting the Active Transportation Plan, the following were installed: a pathway connection from St. Mary's School to Cimarron Park, a sidewalk on Stockton Avenue from North Railway Street to 32 Avenue, the completion of the Woodhaven pedestrian bridge and pathway in Sheep River Park, and the pathway reopening under the CPR bridge.

### CENTRE AVENUE/VETERAN'S WAY



### Maintaining Urban Forest and Wildlife Corridor

# 3500

TREE SEEDLINGS PLANTED DURING  
SHEEP RIVER VALLEY CLEANUP



A nest box program (birds and bats) was piloted at the off-leash dog park for biological insect control.

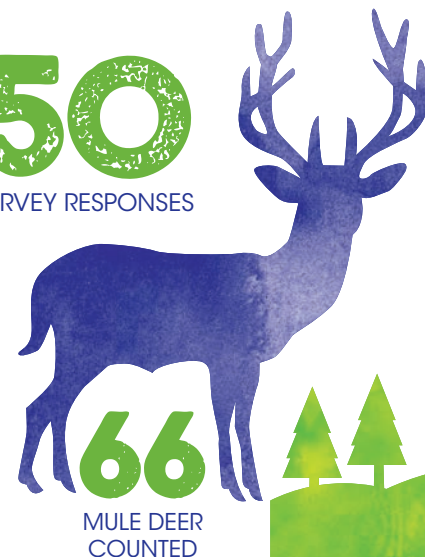
Parks undertook several initiatives to better understand citizen's attitudes towards urban deer, as well as conduct a deer count to establish a baseline deer population. Following these, a communications campaign helped highlight recommendations including reducing incidents of deer aggression as well as deer deterrent strategies for residential yards and gardens: phasing out fruit trees on public lands while encouraging the same of residents, and the enforcement of "no feeding" of deer.

# 1150

RESIDENT SURVEY RESPONSES



64  
VOLUNTEERS



66  
MULE DEER  
COUNTED

# 74%

WERE FOUND IN

- NON-RESIDENTIAL AREAS
- RIVER VALLEY
- NATURAL AREAS
- OUTSIDE OF TOWN



# 7277

TOTAL ACRES COVERED

4841 ACRES OF TOWN

2436 OUTSIDE OF BOUNDARY

### New Operations Centre Buildings

This \$17 million project began in June 2015 and includes over 58,000 square feet of space for housing the Transportation, Parks and Resource Recovery business centres and all their equipment. It also includes dedicated space for the new Eco Centre, which will replace the current Recycling Centre.

As part of the Operations Centre expansion, an Environment Education Centre will also be included in the building. The Centre will serve as an interpretive centre and classroom for the PhD students working on the Living Soil Filtration Project, as well as youth and general education for water conservation and other environmental stewardship matters.

### Other Infrastructure Projects Completed in 2015 Included:

- Erosion protection work along the Sheep River gravel bar and north bank near Highway 549 as part of flood mitigation
- Installation of armouring around Water Treatment Plant by EPCOR as part of the Town's flood protection program
- Elimination of groundwater seepage on Crystalridge Drive hill
- Installation of Well #13 to increase water supply capacity
- Odour Control facility installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant





# A SUSTAINABLE OKOTOKS

## PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

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

### Community Sustainability Plan

In 2015, the Town engaged with residents through a number of workshops, open houses and a questionnaire, to help build our new Community Sustainability Plan. Building on our community visioning process from 2014, the Sustainability Plan will focus on the gaps required to meet the Town's strategies, goals and targets for a sustainable future, helping us meet the new community vision.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Station

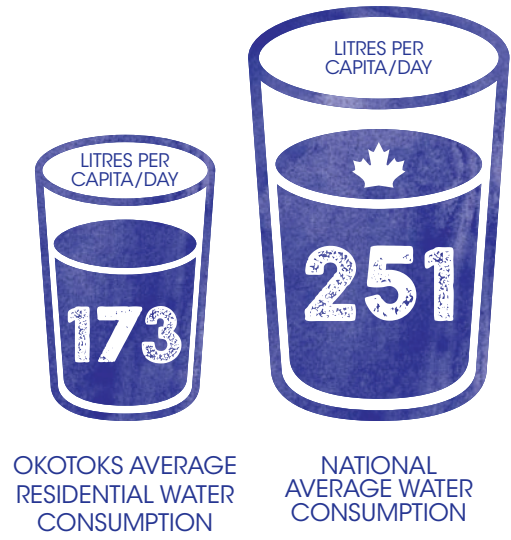
In 2015, the Town installed two electrical vehicle charging stations downtown, which were donated by Sun Country Highway as part of their Municipal Destination Program. The chargers are located on Elizabeth Street directly in front of the Okotoks Municipal Centre. One charger is exclusively for Tesla vehicles and the other is a universal charger.

### LEED® Gold Certified

Southridge Emergency Services building became LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certified, with energy and water conservation being the main focus. The building achieves 41% energy cost savings and 31% indoor water savings through initiatives such as triple-paned glass to prevent heat leaks, and a built-in rainwater harvesting system for washing emergency vehicles. The new Operations Centre is also pursuing the same certification, with focus on energy efficiency.

### Water Consumption

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



### Conservation Education Program

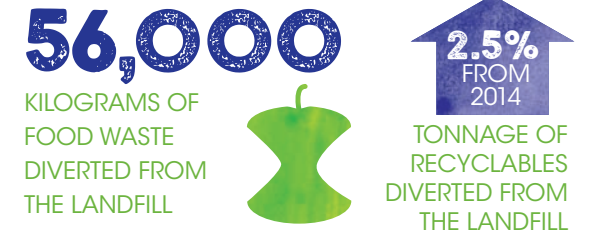
The main focus of the 2015 program was engaging residents in conversations about increasing waste diversion from the landfill and how to reduce household water and energy consumption.



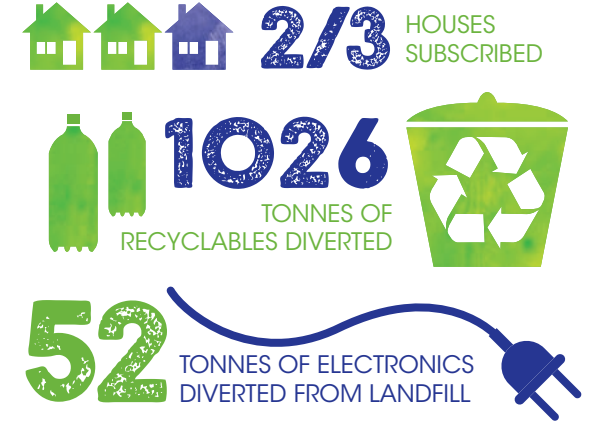
### Waste Diversion

Okotoks continues to be a leader in environmental sustainability. Residents are reducing the amount of total waste sent to the landfill by continuing to recycle more, whether that be through the curbside collection program, self-hauling to the Recycling Centre, composting, or utilizing the Town bins at the Walmart parking lot. The organic food waste pilot project, which promotes composting at home and drop-off at the Recycling Centre, has continued to explode in popularity since it was introduced in late 2014.

### ORGANIC FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING PILOT



### BLUE CART RECYCLING PROGRAM



## WATCH FOR IT IN 2016!

### LIVING SOIL FILTRATION (RIPARIAN) RESEARCH PROJECT

Okotoks partnered with industry leaders, including the University of Calgary and the Bow River Basin Council, to construct an innovative 'living soil' storm water management system and research project. This site will manage water run-off, utilizing native plants and permeable soils, while improving water quality and quantity. The program has gained national interest, and utilizes PhD students who will be researching and reporting on it in future.

### REGIONAL TRANSIT PILOT PROJECT

**on→it** Much of the foundational work has been put in place for a two-year public transit pilot project, called On-It Calgary Regional Transit Services. Service areas include Okotoks, Black Diamond, High River, and Turner Valley, with service between Calgary's Somerset Bridlewood LRT Station every morning and evening. Watch for it in our community in fall 2016!





# AVITAL 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.*

**SAFE COMMUNITIES)  
Alert Network**

**Resident Emergency  
Notification System**

A major project in 2015 was the launch of the Safe Communities Alert Network (SCAN). During a crisis or emergency, this mass notification system allows the Town to contact residents quickly and directly with official, reliable information and instructions. The Town of Okotoks has partnered with seven other neighbouring municipalities on this regional system. Since launching, the system was successfully used in July 2015 when Environment Canada issued a tornado warning. In the first six months of use 800 individuals have subscribed. Residents must voluntarily subscribe to the system to receive notifications. Register at [okotoks.ca/safe](http://okotoks.ca/safe).

**Speed Limit Reduction**

In October 2015, Council approved a reduction in speed limit through Okotoks to 40 km/hour on all streets, with the exception of the major routes of Northridge Drive, Southridge Drive, Milligan Drive, 32 Street and Big Rock Trail, as well as streets that are 30 km/hour.

**Fire Services**

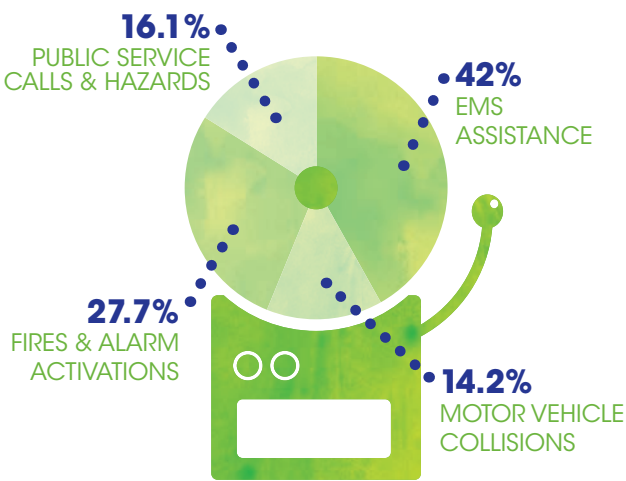
Okotoks Fire Services is comprised of 17 full-time firefighters, 28 community volunteer firefighters and two administrative staff who provide fire and rescue services to Okotoks and surrounding area.

Fire Services launched a home inspection program for residents in high risk sectors (e.g. seniors, people with disabilities or special needs). Firefighters inspected 68 homes in 2015 for fire hazards and properly installed smoke detectors in homes visited.

Fire Services were also out in the community providing training, inspections and safety information:

**832** BUSINESSES INSPECTED  
**+100** COMMUNITY FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION SESSIONS

**CALLS RESPONDED TO**



**5** NUMBER OF RCMP OFFICERS ADDED IN 2015/2016  
**28** NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY FIRE FIGHTERS

**1920** NUMBER OF CALLS PEACE OFFICERS RESPONDED TO  
**12%** FROM 2014

**1500** HOURS SERVICE FROM 5 MRU PRACTICUM STUDENTS  
**25%** FROM 2014

**4130** TICKETS ISSUED IN 2015  
**24%** FROM 2014

**2150** HOURS DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES

**Community Policing  
and Public Education**

The Okotoks RCMP Detachment provides 24-hour policing and consists of 22 officers and eight support staff, with three officers in the General Investigative Section. This section assists with major investigations and conducts proactive work on community issues, including drugs and prolific offenders. Two officers and two support staff were added in 2015 to keep up with our growing community.

Municipal Enforcement, comprised of six full-time and two casual officers, one manager and two administrative staff, and the RCMP work together on community policing lead initiatives such as Victim Services, Auxiliary Constable Program, Citizens on Patrol and the Observer Program and continue education on various public safety programs and issues.

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!



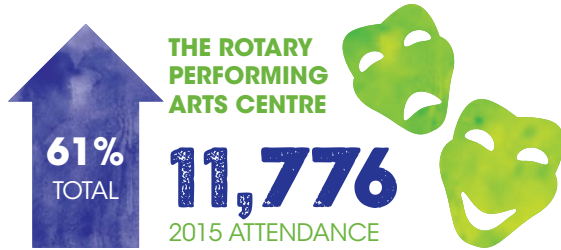
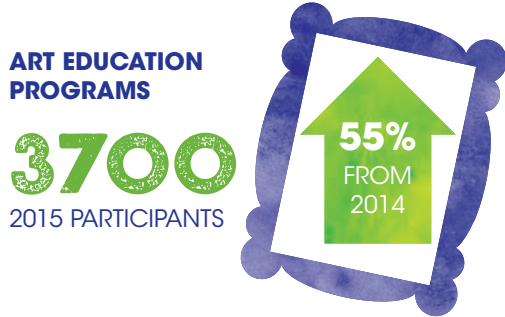


Culture and Heritage

The Town’s cultural offerings were more popular than ever in 2015 with attendance at the Okotoks Art Gallery, the Okotoks Museum and the Rotary Performing Arts Centre increasing significantly. The Museum celebrated its 15th birthday in 2015 and welcomed 6,755 visitors, setting records in attendance in January, April, July and December!

While the Art Gallery and Museum exhibits continued to see many visitors, the Culture and Heritage team also introduced two popular new cultural initiatives downtown during the summer months. Art on the Lawn featured eight art markets and open mic events held in July and August on the lawn of the Okotoks Art Gallery. Additionally, two pianos were placed in popular public spaces, including outdoors at the Okotoks Plaza and indoors at the Recreation Centre for public enjoyment. This program invites the public 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 2016!

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



Active Transportation Strategy

The new Active Transportation Strategy, which had significant public input, was presented to and endorsed by Council in August 2015. It includes a vision to create a culture for a healthy and active community. Going forward, Okotoks will plan and develop local capacity and support for multiple modes of sustainable, safe, accessible active transportation choices. These choices will connect people to neighbourhoods, open spaces, recreation, schools, and businesses.

Neighbourhood Connector Pilot Project

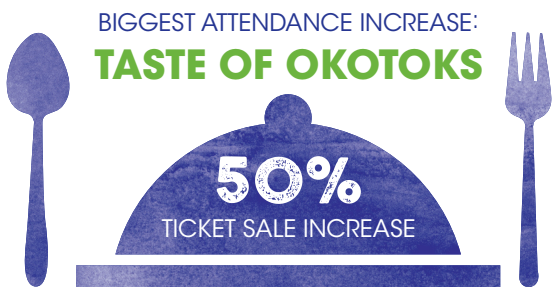
The Neighbourhood Connector pilot began in 2015 as a community focused and driven program that allows neighbours to get to know one another better and become active in their own communities.

To date, the pilot has included Cimarron Estates, Central Heights, Cimarron Meadows, Cimarron Vista, Crystal Shores, and Olde Towne. By the end of the program, over 50 block connectors were signed up and committed to the program. To learn more or to volunteer visit [okotoks.ca](http://okotoks.ca).

Community Events

2015 saw 15 Town-organized community events draw an estimated 72,000 residents and visitors from around the region to Okotoks. It generated economic activity and showcased Okotoks as a day trip and weekend destination.

A new skating party every Saturday in January and February downtown saw a total of 500 residents enjoy this favourite Canadian outdoor winter activity. This year the Remembrance Day Service was moved to Pason Centennial Arena to triple seating capacity and allow more residents to attend the service. Nearly all the seats were filled both in the stands and on the floor.



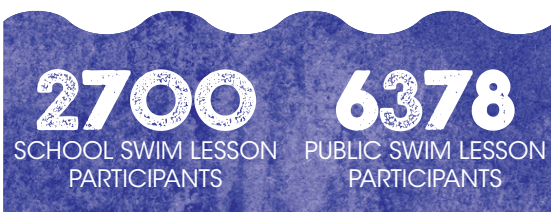


# Indoor and Outdoor Recreation/Community Programs

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



## RECREATION FACILITIES



In support of the Social Wellness Framework, a number of free, affordable and discount drop-in activities continued to be offered in 2015:



## Okotoks Family Resource Centre (OFRC)

In 2015, OFRC handled nearly 3,500 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 own social programs and services directly supported 1,926 residents in need, with an increase in all programs over 2014. Those include the Recreation Fee Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Volunteer Driver, Volunteer Income Tax, School Supply, and Holiday Helper programs, as well as the annual Teddy Bear Picnic.



## Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

In 2015, FCSS provided \$137,000 in grants to 12 social agencies to help fund local social service initiatives.

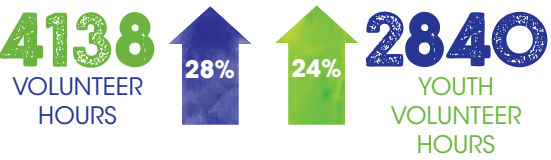


**If you need them, they are there.**

**– A satisfied customer**

## Volunteer Centre

Okotoks continues to be a generous, caring community with 149 youth and 149 adults registered as volunteers. 2015 was the 20th year for the Annual Leadership Awards. To celebrate the anniversary, previous recipients were invited to speak about their accomplishments and what winning this award meant to them.



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



**The Holiday Helpers program lifted the financial pressure of Christmas off my family immensely. I am so grateful for the help and allowing the process to leave those asking for help their dignity. Thanks so much!**

**– A thankful resident**

## Community Highlights Foothills Centennial Centre (FCC)

FCC hosts community/private events, fundraisers, concerts and more! In 2015, FCC held two annual, indoor markets that had approximately 8,000 people attend.



## OKOTOKS PUBLIC LIBRARY





# AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT OKOTOKS PROVIDING STRONG GOVERNANCE

*The Town of Okotoks will provide strong governance including fiscal responsibility, open communication and strong intergovernmental relationships.*

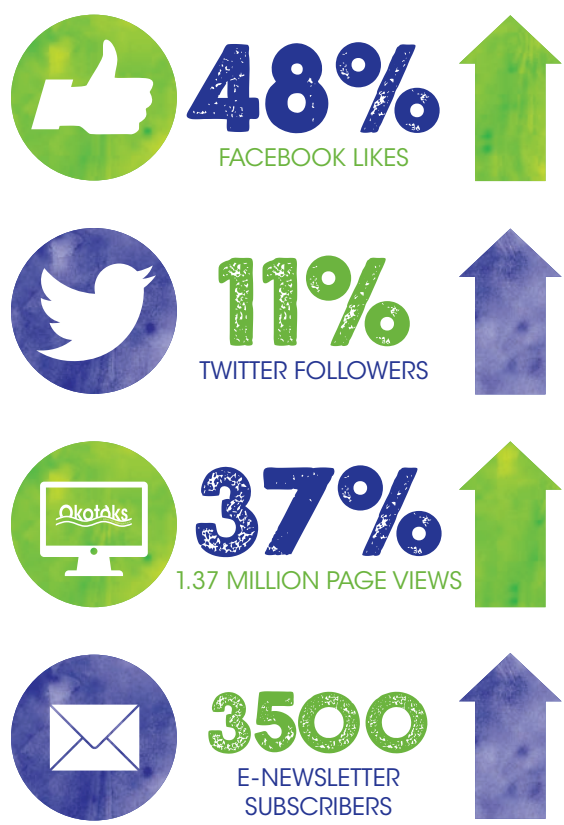
## Public Engagement and Communications

Nearly 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: Flood Planning, Active Transportation Plan, Community Sustainability Plan, Public Transit, Downtown Sidewalk Patios and Blade Signs, Centre Avenue design concepts, Cimarron Traffic Calming, and the ball diamond at Laudan Park (Mountainview).

Seven surveys were used to engage the public on a wide variety of topics, with nearly 2,500 residents participating. Topics included: deer management, community social wellness, tourism events, conservation and sustainability initiatives, and customer experience at the Recreation Centre, etc.

## Social Media

Use of social media continues to be on the rise with Town Facebook, Twitter and YouTube profiles garnering a steady following. Be part of the conversation. Visit us at [okotoks.ca](http://okotoks.ca).



## Mobile Apps

Three new Town mobile Apps were rolled out in 2015 to help residents stay connected, engaged and informed with more information at their fingertips. Residents can visit [okotoks.ca/townapps](http://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. Plus, the search feature shows residents where to recycle products that do not go in blue carts.



**2. Click 'n Fix:** This app gives residents the ability to report non-emergency issues on public land in real time and play an active role in improving our community. Report issues via smart phones (or the Town website), with location-based technology, and photo upload capabilities.



## 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 emergencies like floods or tornadoes. Residents subscribe and choose methods of receiving notifications: phone call, email, text message, and/or app notifications.







### Rate Supported Services

The following services are not supported through taxes:

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

### Requisitions

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

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

### Council Boards and Committees

2015 marked the start of all Board and Committee members being required to comply with and sign the Town of Okotoks Code of Conduct.

**17**

TOTAL BOARDS/  
COMMITTEES

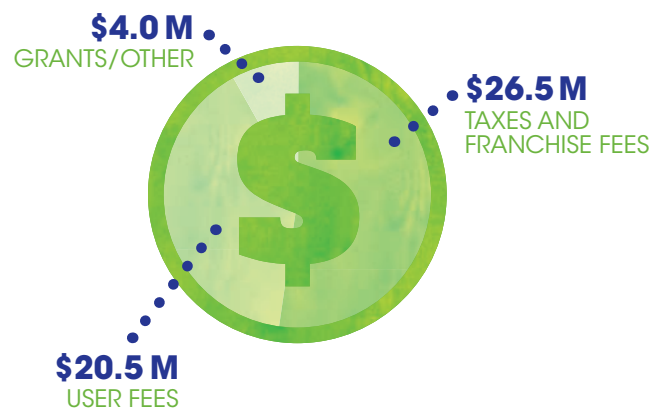
**66**

RESIDENTS ON  
BOARDS/COMMITTEES

### 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).

#### WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM 2015 BUDGET \$51M



#### WHERE THE MONEY WENT 2015 BUDGET \$51 M



## WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR TAX DOLLARS

**32**   
**PLAYING FIELDS**  
BALL DIAMOND, SOCCER,  
FOOTBALL/RUGBY

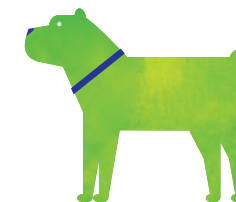
**96**  
**PARKS**



CEMETERY

**79 KM**  
OF PATHWAYS

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



**OFF LEASH  
DOG PARK**

**5** **TENNIS  
COURTS**



**CRESCENT POINT  
REGIONAL FIELD HOUSE**



**1 BMX**  
TRACK COMPETITION FACILITY



**210**  
HECTARES OF  
NATURALIZED  
AREAS

**FOOTHILLS  
CENTENNIAL  
CENTRE**

**1500**

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



**WILDLIFE RESERVE  
& BIRD SANCTUARY**



**8**  
OUTDOOR  
SKATING RINKS



**24  
HOUR**  
POLICE AND  
FIRE SERVICES



**OKOTOKS  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

**48**

PLAYGROUNDS

**150 KM**  
OF ROADWAYS



**1** **WATER  
SPRAY  
PARK**



**1** **SKATEBOARD PARK**



**3 CULTURAL  
FACILITIES**  
ART GALLERY,  
OKOTOKS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
ROTARY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

**RECREATION 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

**2700**  
SEAT BASEBALL STADIUM



# A GROWING OKOTOKS

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

*The Town of Okotoks is excited about 2016 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.*

**2016 Budget**

The Town experienced 3% new assessment growth, creating additional revenue that allowed the Town to establish a lower tax rate and maintain service levels for our growing population. Maintaining service levels includes covering extraordinary inflationary pressures in new facility operating costs, utilities and protective services. Water and sewer services increased 3.3% to ensure continued cost recovery and for future utility infrastructure enhancements and upgrades.



2016 OPERATING BUDGET



**Highlights of the Operating Budget:**

- enhanced policing services (three additional officers)
- water license acquisitions
- updating the *Cultural & Heritage Master Plan*

**Highlights of the \$14.8 million Capital Budget:**

- servicing of Education, Recreation and Cultural Campus site to enable construction
- Veteran’s Way Pedestrian Corridor (formerly Centre Avenue)
- Water Treatment Plant enhancements
- North Railway sanitary sewer expansion
- water infrastructure and leak detection upgrades
- road surface improvements
- lifecycle maintenance and energy saving initiatives for Town buildings
- Water Spray Park enhancements and expansion

- Roll out the On-It Regional Transit Pilot Project
- Further community branding initiative
- Present Community Sustainability Plan to Council
- Complete the new Operations Centre
- Implement Waste Management Plan to include a universal curbside recycling and organic waste collection program
- Complete Cimarron traffic calming study
- Launch MyHeat project, which is a web-based program that provides homeowners with information on their home’s energy efficiency
- Construction of the ball diamond and pedestrian bridge at Laudan Park (Mountainview)
- Co-host national Masters of Curling Championship with the Okotoks Curling Club
- The Town has submitted an application to the Province for an Alberta Community Partnership grant regarding a feasibility study on regional waste management options. The project will complement and/or enhance the Town’s existing garbage collection and disposal, universal recycling, organic waste and enhanced garbage collection programs, in addition to the establishment of a working model for a Regional Material Recover Facility

**2016 Initiatives**

- Continue Calgary/Okotoks water pipeline process
- Move the annexation process toward completion





# A SUCCESSFUL OKOTOKS MAINTAINING ORGANIZATION EXCELLENCE

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



**CFIB Entrepreneurial Ranking**

Okotoks was ranked the 4th most Entrepreneurial City in Canada, by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), for populations under 150,000! This means Okotoks is one of our country’s top places to start and grow a business. This year’s ranking gave Okotoks a significant jump up the list from last year’s 25th place showing.



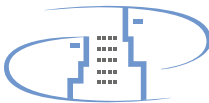
**FCM Sustainable Communities Award**

Okotoks won an award for excellence in municipal sustainable development, within the water category, for our Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Programs.



**Best Public Service Initiative Award**

The Town won the Best Public Service Initiative Award at the Laserfiche Empower Awards for its 2015 Laserfiche projects. This innovative software handles electronic document and records management.



**EDAC Marketing Excellence Award**

The Okotoks Visitor and Activities Guide was recognized across Canada as an outstanding marketing publication.



**LEED Gold Certified®**

Southridge Emergency Services building became LEED® Gold Certified, with energy and water conservation being the main focus. The building achieves 41% energy cost savings and 31% indoor water savings.



**Southwest Alberta Tourism Award**

Okotoks received the 2015 Southwest Alberta Service and Tourism award for “Municipality of the Year”, presented by the Chinook Country Tourist Association. The award is presented to a municipality that works together to develop, build, promote and enhance tourism in southwest Alberta.





**The Town of Okotoks, PO Box 20, Station Main, 5 Elizabeth Street, Okotoks, AB T1S 1K1  
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