

○ ACTIVE

○ PROGRESSIVE

○ SUSTAINABLE

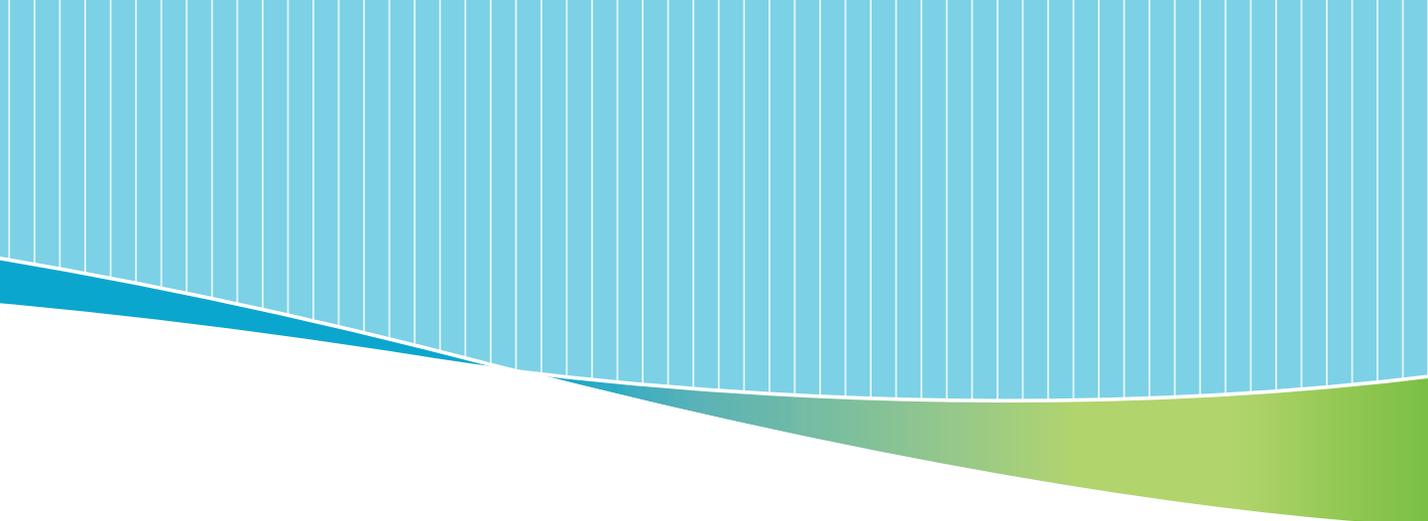
*Town of Blackfalds*

# *Report to the Community*



**BLACKFALDS**  
ALBERTA





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## Message from your Mayor and Council

The Town of Blackfalds is a great place to live and to do business. Blackfalds continues to be one of Canada's fastest growing communities, with 2014 being a record breaking year for development in both residential homes and commercial investment.

People are choosing Blackfalds because of its opportunity and quality of life; enjoying the lifestyle of a smaller urban center that has terrific recreational amenities, a great selection of housing options, and an ideal Central Alberta location.

This Report to the Community is intended to raise community awareness of the actions and activities undertaken in 2014 in order to advance strategic priorities and to also provide relevant and helpful information pertaining to the costs of service delivery, municipal finances, infrastructure programs, and both the achievements of and challenges in the community.

New services and amenities that were introduced in 2014 include the automated waste and recycling cart system, the BOLT regional public transit, a new playground in Pine Crescent Park, and of course, the Abbey Centre – a centerpiece for community gathering and recreation and leisure activities.

Economic development is being advanced and new businesses are providing the community with increased opportunities, products, and services.

The announcements of the new K-6 public school and the K-9 Catholic school were very encouraging and we can look forward to seeing construction begin on the public school this spring.

We anticipate that our efforts to improve local transportation systems will result in the placement of a roundabout

*"It has been very exciting for Blackfalds to be a part of the BOLT public transit initiative. I am extremely proud of the collaborative work that has been done with the cities of Lacombe and Red Deer to bring about this much needed service that has provided benefit to all of the residents in our communities."*

**MAYOR MELODIE STOL**



at the intersection of Hwy 2A and Hwy 597 and roadway resurfacing along Hwy 597 between the QE II Highway and Hwy 2A and we continue to work with our regional and provincial partners to bring about the implementation of a regional wastewater line. Community spirit and community pride are abundant in Blackfalds and they are apparent through the outstanding participation in the community events and the volunteer undertakings.

The Council members and I appreciate the opportunity to serve the community and look forward to working with you to continue to build for the future and to celebrate many more community successes!

**Melodie Stol, Mayor**  
Town of Blackfalds





## Message from the CAO **Myron Thompson**

On behalf of Administration, I am very pleased to present the Town of Blackfalds 2014 Report to the Community.

2014 was a milestone year of community achievements. Some of the most notable being the opening of the Abbey Centre, the launch the Bolt regional public transit service, the roll-out of the automated solid waste and recycling carts, the updating of the Town's transportation networks, and the addition of new parks and playgrounds.

These additional amenities, programs, and services are contributing to the increased levels of service desired by the residents and providing excellent quality of life in Blackfalds.

The 2014 municipal census indicated continued growth for the community with an annual increase in population of approximately 8% and a total population of 7,858, making it clear that Blackfalds is the community of choice for many.

Municipal sustainability remains an integral component of the day to day activities of the Town. Both Council and Administration regularly review and update the Town's strategic direction through Municipal Sustainability Planning (MSP), which addresses the five pillars of community sustainability; Governance, Culture, Social, Economy, and Environment.

The 2014 MSP review process included increased community engagement and public input and it is the intention to continue this trend with other important civic initiatives as well.

*“ Positive working relationships with external partners isn’t always the norm... but we have a very good relationship with our neighbouring municipalities and developers, which has contributed to beneficial growth for the community.”*

CAO MYRON THOMPSON

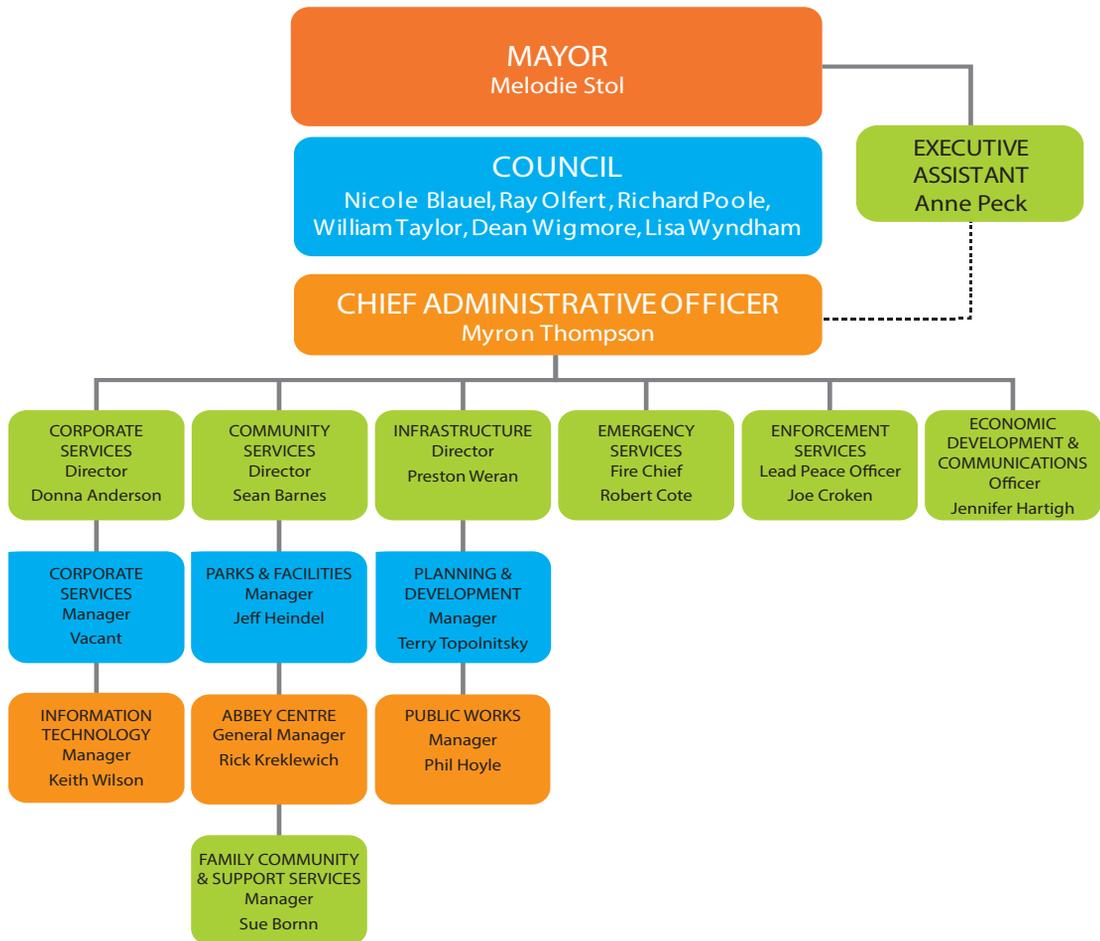


The Town of Blackfalds also continuously seeks ways to more effectively connect with and share information with residents and the business community and we were pleased to be able to initiate the “Talk of the Town” pages and the Mayor’s column, as well as facilitate the Council Briefs into the newly established community newspaper, the Blackfalds LIFE. I hope you enjoy and find value in reviewing this Report to the Community.

On behalf of myself and the Town staff, I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving you in 2014.

**Myron Thompson, CAO**  
Town of Blackfalds





*“Something small can restore our faith in humanity, even a simple smile and hello. If every person did one nice thing, that act would spread across our community and create a happy environment.”*

**BREANNE COULTER, RESIDENT**



## Community Profile

The Town of Blackfalds is one of Canada's youngest and fastest growing communities; with a population of 7,858 in 2014 and an annual growth rate of 8%, the Town is quickly approaching City status.

Ideally situated in Central Alberta, midway between Alberta's two largest urban centres Blackfalds retains the feel and security of a small town while also being a short drive from the city amenities of post-secondary education, regional scale shopping outlets, and entertainment.

Outstanding recreational opportunities, a robust and diversified economy, and affordable land and housing, are among the factors contributing to our thriving, successful, and dynamic community.

### Vision

Blackfalds is an active family community full of pride, commitment and opportunities reflecting an economically sustainable, self-sufficient, and safe living environment, with a balanced range of municipal services provided through innovation and proactive community partnerships."

### Mission

To provide excellence in the area of municipal service to make available the highest possible quality of life to the residents of Blackfalds.



## 2014 Municipal Sustainability Plan Review

The Town's sustainability strategy contributes to the long term viability of the community. Town Council and Administration purposefully plan for future changes and growth through the development of and ongoing review of guiding documents like the "Municipal Sustainability Plan" (MSP).

The MSP reflects a variety of community requirements, including: the need for governance, social, cultural, and economic wellbeing, and environmental protection. It also provides direction for municipal strategies on the development of infrastructure and service levels.

As a comprehensive review of the MSP is consistently undertaken in the first year following a municipal election, the undertaking of this review was an important initiative in 2014. Significant resources were allocated to engage the public and gather input to inform the MSP.

Informational displays were set up at public venues and community events including

the Blackfalds Days Pancake Breakfast, the Abbey Centre foyer, and the lobbies of the Civic Centre and the Blackfalds Public Library. A table at the Blackfalds Farmers Market also provided great opportunity to connect with those live, work, or attend school in Town and to garner feedback on the draft MSP. Additional detail on the MSP and opportunity for the public to provide input was also available on the Town website and social media channels.

All public feedback was compiled and incorporated into the final Municipal Sustainability Plan, which was adopted by Council in August 2014.

The involvement of Blackfalds' citizens strengthened the MSP and will result in superior future decision-making on important community matters. Another planned public consultation process will take place in 2018, but Council also welcomes all resident input on sustainable development on an ongoing basis.

*“A sustainable approach and intentional planning is being applied to community growth.”*

JENNIFER HARTIGH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



## Public Engagement

Significant emphasis was placed on increased communication and public engagement in 2014. To meet the established objectives, marketing and communications staff resources were added.

Online improvements in communications included the bolstering of the Town's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter with the aim of not only sharing important municipal information, but of also providing an improved avenue for two-way communication and an increased ability to be responsive to questions and comments from members of the community.

A re-design of the Town's website also began in the fall of 2014. The goal is to provide a superior user experience through improved search functions and a more intuitive layout that will make it much easier for residents and visitors to find the information being sought. The much anticipated launch of the new site is schedule for late spring of 2015.

Additional avenues to share municipal information came about via the electronic message board on Highway 2A and the establishment of a Blackfalds newspaper - the LIFE, in which the Town regularly contributes a column from the Mayor on topics of current relevance and also the "Talk of the Town"; the monthly municipal news.

Opportunities to meet face to face with the public to discuss current issues and concerns have been sought out and both Council and staff have found immense value in the increased public engagement at Open Houses for the 2015 budget and transportation initiatives and the Town presence at the Farmer's Market and regional Trade shows.

Plans for Council to further engage with residents at upcoming community events are underway and will be advertised to the public.



## Blackfalds Public Library

### Library Use

Visitors	32,461
Number of Computer Users	2,587
Number of WiFi Users	1,636
Number of Exams Written	24
Questions Answered	By Phone: 3,750 In Person: 3,250 By Email: 900
Total Questions Answered	7,900 - 21 questions every day!

### Circulation

Adult Print	11,965
Juvenile Print	24,545
Adult Non-Print	8,726
Juvenile Non-Print	249
Magazines   Newspapers	2,253
Electronic Items	1,342
Interlibrary Loan Items	Total Borrowed: 12,729 Total Loaned: 25,078
Total Items Circulated	64,839

### Collections & Resources

Print Collection	Items Added in 2014: 2,791 Items Deleted in 2014: 1,337 Total Print Items: 22,550
Non-Print Collection	Audio Books: 527 Music: 589 DVDs: 2,583 Other: 42
Total Non-Print Items	3,741
Total Physical Collection	26,359

### Total Card Holders: 1,742



*“It was important to create the new memorial, to not ever forget the people that not only served, but also the people that died in that service, who allow us to have our freedom today.”*

JUDY CARLETON, BLACKFALDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT



## Blackfalds Historical Society

The largest project that the Blackfalds Historical Society has ever undertaken was brought to fruition in 2014. The planning and completion of the Blackfalds Veterans Memorial that is located at the Abbey Centre culminated in an unveiling ceremony on May 23, 2014 as part of the Grand Opening celebrations for the facility. In conjunction with the completion of the monument, the *Blackfalds Veterans Memorial* history book was also published.

The Blackfalds Historical Society also received a very significant donation from descendants of the Gregson family. The Gregson's were amongst the very first settlers to the Blackfalds area and imparted a legacy of natural science and entrepreneurship to the region. A permanent display has been established in the Blackfalds Public Library to showcase the donated items and to share information and stories about these interesting and eccentric pioneers from Blackfalds' past.

Additionally, good fortune resulted in the location of an unusual Blackfalds artifact; a 100-year old Loyal Orange Lodge (LOL) regalia ribbon. The LOL was formed in Blackfalds in 1913 and ran until at least 1920. The two-sided ribbon shown here was worn by members for both special occasions and parades as well as for funerals and other sombre occasions, when the reverse, black side was displayed.

The LOL stood for democratic government, protestant faith, public schools, upholding the monarchy, supremacy of law, a united Canada, and working together for the betterment of family, community and country.





## Safe Living

### RCMP

2014 was a busy year that included substantial consultation with the communities that the Blackfalds Detachment polices in order to develop upcoming policing priorities.

Two additional positions were staffed; one funded by the province and the second by the Town of Blackfalds.

Property related crimes rose in 2014, with a large increase in stolen vehicles being evidenced. A collaboration between the Blackfalds, Innisfail, & Sylvan Lake RCMP and the Red Deer General Investigation Section, was formed to combat the rise in these crimes and is proving to be very effective in bringing those preying on the citizens of Blackfalds, to justice. Armed robberies; a very uncommon occurrence in Blackfalds also increased. Several youth were apprehended for those crimes and it is worth noting that Air Soft weapons were used in a number of those offenses.

The Town of Blackfalds has an active Police Advisory Committee, comprised of both Council representatives and community members. This committee also provides input that guides policing priorities.

In 2015-16 the priorities for the RCMP in Blackfalds have been established to be: Property Crime, Substance & Alcohol Abuse, and a continued focus on communication with the community.

Means for addressing these priorities include the Priority Crimes Task Force and ongoing work with the municipality to re-write the Firearms Bylaw to address the use, possession and handling of all weapons in Town.

2014 also saw an increase in community members working with the RCMP; together we are making our homes and community safe. A growing awareness of and participation in programs like Neighborhood Watch and Rural Crime Watch was evidenced.

Continued presence in the schools and patrols on Segways & mountain bikes will allow the public to meet and get to know the police officers who patrol their streets. Residents are encouraged to report suspicious activities and to get to know their neighbours. We look forward to working together to make our community a safe one to live and raise our children.

*“We thank the community for the important role they play in working with the police to keep our communities safe... your information may turn out to be a critical piece of information the police need in order to make an arrest.”*

**SERGEANT WHITNEY BENOIT**



## Fire | Rescue

The Blackfalds Fire Department attained a full roster of 30 members in 2014 and has a waiting list of individuals interested in joining.

The Department expended considerable focus on training activities to fully develop member competencies and skills and to ensure the most effective use of the Fire | Rescue equipment. One of the training highlights was that the Department Officers completed the Incident Command Program, which is quickly becoming the standard for Fire Departments across the continent for response protocol, situation assessment, tactical priorities, and terminology and communication. This training allows Blackfalds Fire | Rescue to work more effectively with other regional emergency response teams.

2014 also saw a 166% increase from 2013 in incidents involving alarm calls and medical assists.

## Peace Officers

An additional peace officer position was added in 2014 with the aim of strengthening the municipal enforcement capacity.

The two full-time Peace Officers are stationed at the Protective Services Building and work closely with the RCMP Detachment in efforts to enforce provincial traffic laws in Town.

They also focused considerable efforts on communications and increasing public awareness on recent changes to municipal bylaws, particularly relating to the collection of solid waste and recycling, as well as the removal of snow and control of ice.

A seasonal Peace Officer position that focuses on the parks and pathways in the community provided public education and the enforcement of related bylaws along the trails systems, in the Town green spaces, and at the outdoor sporting facilities.



## Strong Families & Community

### Increased Capacity

Following the recommendations of the 2012 Social Needs Assessment, the staffing complement of Family & Community Services (FCSS) was expanded.

An administrative position and the Youth Programmer position, which were part-time previously, were both made full-time. Also with the dissolution of Neighbourhood Place, the provincially funded Community Initiatives Administrator position, which is responsible for building and maintaining community capacity and relationships, came under the umbrella of FCSS.

The partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters was strengthened and a new alliance with Alberta Health Services Children's Mental Health Support was formed. Both of these agencies are now affiliated with FCSS and are able to have a greater presence in the community as they are being housed in the FCSS building.

The 2012 Social Needs Assessment also informed the development of an Annual

FCSS Strategic Plan for 2014-15, which was adopted in July of 2014. This plan outlines the goals, initiatives, and tactics that will be the priorities for the upcoming year.

### Programming & Subsidies

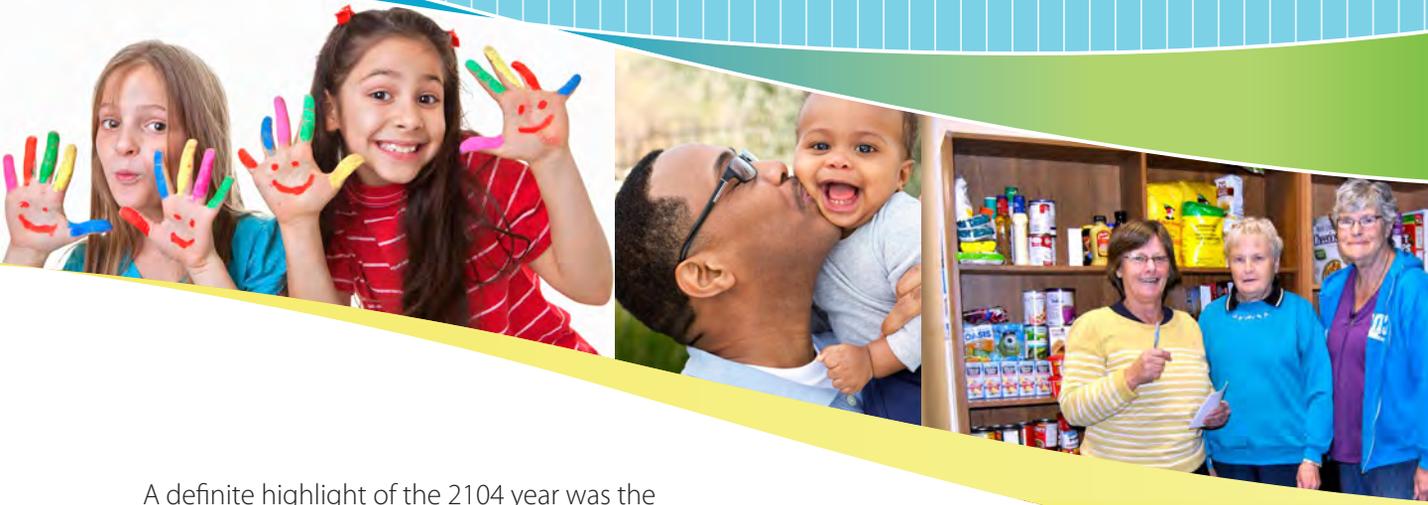
The increased FCSS capacity allowed for additional programs and subsidies to be made available to residents in Blackfalds. A series of free Kidproof courses, which cover a variety of safety and prevention topics for children in grades 3 - 8, were very well received by the community.

The Tools for Schools program was enhanced in 2014, with 15 youth receiving assistance with required school supplies for the classroom and also back packs and running shoes.

The new Programs Admission & Sports Subsidy was launched as well and 22 individuals and families benefited from financial assistance for municipally operated program costs or admission fees that contributed to their personal growth and community involvement.

*“In Blackfalds, it’s such a small community and you get to know people that you want to help. I love to help people the best I can.”*

**JEANETTE EDWARDS, FOOD BANK COORDINATOR  
CAROL SIMPSON, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT**



A definite highlight of the 2104 year was the implementation of the Christmas Bureau, a new and exciting partnership between Blackfalds FCSS, the Blackfalds Firefighters Association, the Blackfalds Food Bank Society, the Blackfalds Senior Citizens Cheemo Club, and numerous other community supporters.

In total, 148 individuals in need were assisted and received warm clothing; food and edible treats; and gifts of hobby items, board games, gift certificates, pajamas, toys, and books. All of this was made possible by the generous donations of our caring community members, who cannot be thanked enough!

### **Volunteer Recognition**

Knowing how much volunteers in Blackfalds contribute to the wellbeing of our community, additional emphasis was placed on acknowledging their contributions.

A new award, the Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award, was brought into being. This award recognizes the extraordinary dedication and commitment of dynamic

and engaged volunteers who exemplify leadership through their actions. This award was suitably named after the very first deserving recipient in 2014, Carol Simpson.

Youth also make significant contributions to our community and receive just recognition through the Leaders of Tomorrow and Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Awards. The 2014 Leaders of Tomorrow award recipients were Mitchell Cripps, Madison Hrushka, and Chace Levis. Andrew Tiffin was recognized with the 2014 Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award.





## Parks & Trails

### Trans Canada Trail

In the summer of 2014 this trail connecting Blackfalds to Red Deer and Lacombe was completed. This was made possible through a partnership between the Town of Blackfalds and the County of Lacombe.



Residents and area visitors came out in droves to walk or cycle and enjoy the spectacular scenery and wildlife abundant in the adjacent rivers, lakes, ponds, aspen groves, and canola fields.

The only indoor section of the Trans Canada Trail in all of the country is that which runs through the Abbey Centre on the second floor. It is free to access for all trail users.

To celebrate the achievement of this milestone, a grand opening ceremony attended by many community members as well as regional and national dignitaries was held on September 19th.

### New Playgrounds

Two fun new outdoor play centres were built and ready for Blackfalds youth and their families to enjoy over the summer months.

The Pebble Pushers playground with its dinosaur theme was a great addition to the park area at the Abbey Centre on the west side of Town and over on the east side, Pine Crescent Park also saw a colourful and unique play structure be put in place for local area residents and their guests to enjoy.

Planning to meet the recreational needs of our rapidly growing community and so budget allocations for a new playground in McKay Ranch and a required upgrade to the play structure in Tayles Park occurred.

Renderings of the proposed play centres are shown here.



*“As the Town grows, recreation is a corner stone of what our community wants. We’ve always had a large youth population, so making sure that family friendly activities are available locally is very important.”*

**SEAN BARNES, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**



### **Amphitheatre**

Construction on the Blackfalds District Agricultural Society Outdoor Amphitheatre commenced in the summer of 2014.

This venue is strategically placed into the natural rolling landscape of the grounds at the Abbey Centre and incorporates scenic and unique river rock seating into the hillside. The final touches of the amphitheatre, including a the covered stage will be put into place in 2015.

This facility is one that will certainly provide cultural enhancement for the community and we look forward to showcasing a variety of family performances in the summer season!



### **All-Star Park**

With the Town purchasing the land between All-Star Park and the Iron Ridge Junior campus in 2014, the opportunity to re- envision the potential for recreation and leisure in that area was made possible. The Town drafted a request for proposals for the detailed design of All-Star Park, including features such as an enhanced camping area and RV transfer station, a new skateboard park, and other proposed amenities.

The final detailed design will be influenced by the public feedback that is attained during the 2015 Parks and Facilities Needs Assessment and is anticipated to be prepared later in the year.





## Abbey Centre

### Opening

This recreational gem of the community opened its doors on March 31, 2014 and was immediately embraced by residents with close to 6,000 visits to the facility being tracked in the first month of operation.

Town staff worked hard to launch a multitude of new programs and services and to develop policies and procedures that would ensure the safety and satisfaction of Abbey members and users, all the while planning for the Grand Opening ceremonies to come.



On May 22nd a Gala Dinner was held to honor all those whose dedication and support made the Abbey a reality for the community. The dedication of the Veteran's Memorial, an official ribbon cutting ceremony, free facility usage and

the premiere opening of the McKay Ranch Outdoor Aquatic Centre took place on the following day and the grand finale to the celebrations on May 24th was the Serena Ryder concert and fireworks display. It was truly a momentous and memorable time for Blackfalds!

### Award Winning

It didn't take long for the Abbey Centre to start being recognized as a unique and vibrant community amenity. In the fall of 2014 the Abbey won three provincial and regional awards for the impact that the facility was having on the social, economic, and recreational well-being of the Town and its residents. Additionally, the field house gymnasium was selected as the host site for the 2019 Canada Winter Games. It was truly an honour to be the recipient of such prestigious awards and accolades.



*“The Abbey Centre is a great venue for the Alberta Indoor Rowing Championships. It’s central for the rowing clubs in Alberta and close to the QE II Hwy.”*

ANDY NOKES, CENTRAL ALBERTA ROWING PRESIDENT



## Abbey Statistics

- Guest Services checked in over 68,000 visitors in 2014
- Guest tracking in July showed that over half of the users came from outside of Blackfalds; the facility is a great tourism draw benefiting all Town business
- 241 area youth completed swimming lessons in 2014
- 15 field house gymnasium events and tournaments were hosted in the first nine months of operation
- The Abbey Concession served 412 guests on it’s busiest day of operation
- On average, 250 - 300 people per day enjoyed the aquatic centre in the 2014 summer months
- Close to 2,000 guests enjoyed the activities & events at the Abbey on Family Day 2015
- 231 children participated in the 2014 summer day camp programming



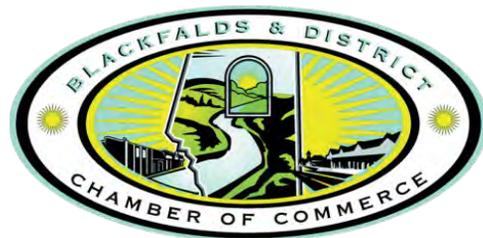


## Booming Business

Blackfalds was a great place to do business in 2014! Not only was it a record building permit year for the community, with approximately 9.5 million in commercial development and 6.2 million in industrial development, but the Town was pleased to welcome a diverse group of new unique small businesses that are now providing high quality goods and services to residents.

Community members can now be pampered at Nurture Salon & Spa, enjoy fresh soup & sandwiches from Highway Angels, get inked at Skin Pollution Tattoo Studio, catch air at Rider's Rush, treat themselves to flowers and jewelery at the Floral Boutique, take advantage of the kid-friendly programs and environment at Horizon Childcare, and catch up on all the latest news and happenings in town in the Blackfalds LIFE. While there are too many new businesses to list them all, they are offering amenities and goods that are enriching the community and we couldn't be happier that they have chosen to call Blackfalds home!

Longer term businesses are also thriving and growing - Main Street Hardware undertook an expansion, Castle Guard Storage enlarged its compound, and new locations and owners were in the works for The Fifth Element & Spa & Sandstone Pharmacies.



The Blackfalds & District Chamber of Commerce had a successful year as well, bringing more members into the fold and hosting a number of new initiatives. The popular Passport to Christmas program that encourages community members to support local businesses was bigger and better than ever with almost \$5,000 in prizes being awarded to shoppers.

The Chamber also started hosting informal Meet & Greet receptions, which proved to be a great means for local entrepreneurs to learn from guest speakers and to network with their colleagues.

*“We want to grow with the Town and I think this is a great opportunity to do that. We can provide, with growth, more services, more jobs for people who are looking.”*

**ALVIN MELTON, NEW OWNER OF GRANDEN AUTO**



Lastly, the Chamber, in collaboration with the Economic Development & Tourism Board enhanced the Annual Business of the Year Awards ceremony by putting on a highly valued celebration of the 2014 award winners and their associates and patrons. Congratulations to the Peaceful Patch Quilt Shoppe, The Blackfalds Farmer’s Market, and Alpen Dental, as well as all the other deserving nominees.



Local producers and home based business made the Blackfalds Farmer’s Market the place to be on Thursday evenings last summer and also contributed to the resounding success of the seasonal Markets and the community Trade Shows. The Market provided residents and visitors with a place to do their shopping, have dinner, and enjoy family fun!





## Infrastructure & Properties

### Solid Waste Management

An important initiative that was put in place in 2014 was the Town of Blackfalds Solid Waste Management Plan and the ensuing roll out of the new waste and recycling carts.

The carts and the new means for collection was piloted in a designated area of Town in the spring and then systematically moved into additional areas on a weekly basis throughout the summer months.

While the transition to the new system posed some challenges initially, the results of the Waste & Recycling survey that was undertaken a couple months later indicated that 89% of the residents who responded felt that the carts were a good size for their household and 88% found the usage instructions to be clear and easy to follow.

The community feedback was very valuable and was used to further refine the collection process, resulting in even more positive feedback by the end of the year.

### Improved Snow Removal

After the long months of cold and heavy snowfall in 2013-14, it was decided that an increase in the service levels for snow removal needed to be put in place by fall 2014.

The new snow removal policy that was brought forward called for limited windrows along roadways in most areas of Town and more blowing and hauling away of the snow instead. A revised priority removal route map was put into effect as well to address the growth in the community and the addition of the transit system.

A number of benefits to the newly implemented snow removal process were evidenced during the winter season of 2014 - 15 including:

- higher resident satisfaction
- improved roadway conditions
- increased parking along roadways
- better drainage of stormwater during spring melt

*“... the carts have really improved the overall appearance of the community on garbage days. It seems like pick up happens much more quickly and it's great that I don't have to worry about crows opening up and scattering my garbage anymore!”*

**SURVEY RESPONDENT**



- superior placement availability for waste & recycling carts
- an earlier start to spring street sweeping

In addition to the extra staff resources required to provide the improved snow removal service, the Town also purchased a tandem truck with a snow blade and a bobcat, both of which were used for clearing snow from roadways and public parking areas in the winter months and will also be for other public works projects throughout the year.

### **Downtown Revitalization**

More progress was made on projects in the downtown area in 2014. The public parking lot at Broadway Ave. and Wilson St. was paved and another new paved public parking was put in on Indiana St.

An electronic message board was installed at the corner of Hwy 2A and Park St. along with landscaping features to make this entrance to the downtown area more welcoming and visually appealing.

New street lighting that aligns with the municipality's architectural guidelines was put in along Park St. and Broadway Ave. and new pedestrian crossing lights were activated at the intersection of Broadway Ave. and Park St.

These features, along with the work that had been completed in previous years are all contributing to making the Blackfalds' downtown district a safer and more walkable community space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

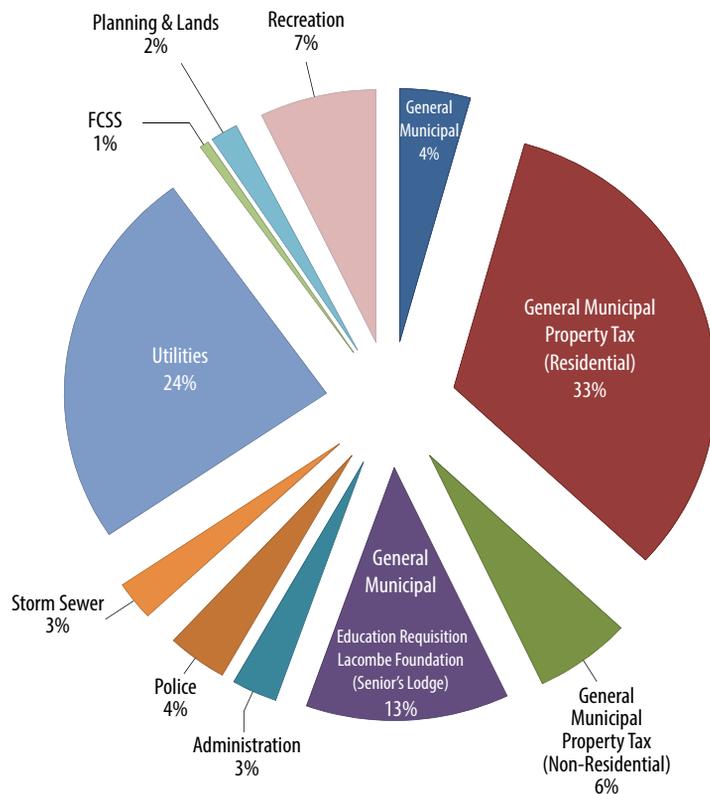




## 2014 Budget

General Municipal	871,700.00
Property Tax (Residential)	6,516,000.00
Property Tax (Non Residential)	1,193,400.00
Requisitions:- Education & -Lacombe Foundation	2,505,700.00
Administrative	560,900.00
Police	739,000.00
Fire Dept.	57,600.00
Bylaw	79,600.00
Streets	57,300.00
Transit	33,300.00
Storm Sewer	500,000.00
Utilities	4,893,800.00
Environmental	1,200.00
FCSS	113,300.00
Cemetery	3,600.00
Planning & Lands	338,800.00
Land & Buildings	38,100.00
Economic Development	54,500.00
Recreation	1,439,600.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>19,997,400.00</b>

### 2014 Proposed Budget - Revenue



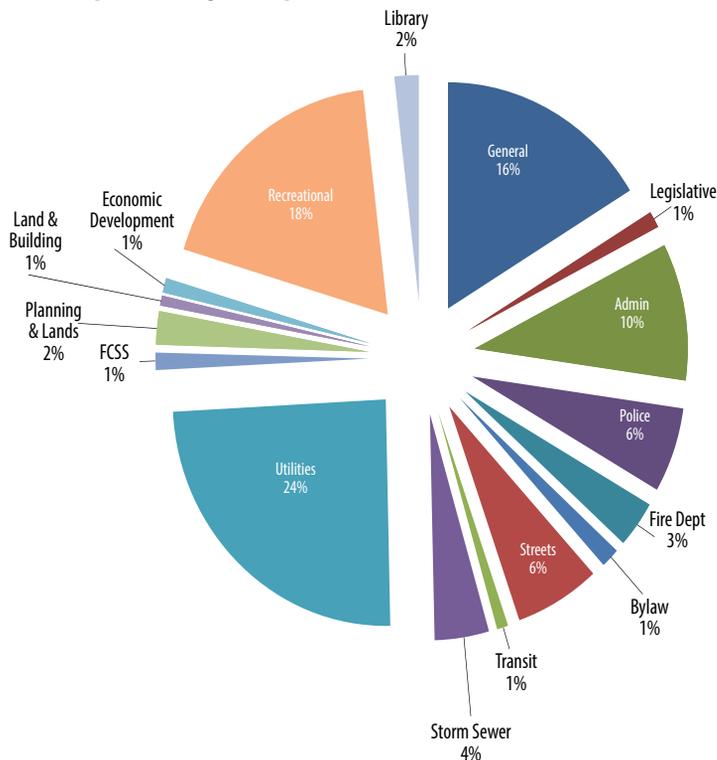
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*“This year’s budget process, which included a public open house, was a wonderful first step. Council looks forward to increased public engagement next year and further improving the process.”*

DEPUTY MAYOR RICHARD POOLE



### 2014 Proposed Budget - Expenses



General	3,251,800.00
Legislative	235,900.00
Administration	1,965,100.00
Police	1,214,900.00
Fire Dept.	673,200.00
Disaster Services	17,500.00
Bylaw	282,300.00
Streets	1,293,600.00
Transit	1,293,600.00
Storm Sewer	825,800.00
Utilities	4,893,800.00
Environment	10,200.00
FCSS	249,000.00
Cemetery	16,000.00
Planning & Lands	478,000.00
Land & Buildings	142,700.00
Economic Development	209,400.00
Recreation	3,696,600.00
Library	370,600.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>19,997,400.00</b>

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## Regional Collaboration

### BOLT Transit

The regional public transit system came into being in 2014 with the launch of the service commencing on August 25th and a community celebration at Pine Crescent Park to commemorate the event on the following day.

This service, which connect Blackfalds to its partner cities, Red Deer and Lacombe, makes trips through the community six times a day Monday through Saturday. Full details on the transit schedules, fares, and maps as well as an online kiosk for ticket and pass purchases can be found at [www.bolttransit.com](http://www.bolttransit.com).

A community the size of Blackfalds is truly fortunate to have access to such a valuable community amenity. Students, senior, employees and employers are all reaping the benefits of this accessible, affordable, and environmentally affordable choice for transportation.

It is indeed rare for municipalities outside of the larger urban areas to have access to transit and as such the unique collaboration between Lacombe, Red Deer, and Blackfalds that made BOLT Regional Transit possible

was recognized by the Economic Developers Association of Alberta with the provincial Award of Excellence for Community Economic Development in a large region.

### Regional Wastewater Line

Significant progress in moving forward with this initiative, which will bring sewer water back to the Red Deer treatment plant was made as the municipalities of Lacombe, Blackfalds, and the County of Lacombe formed a funding agreement for the development of a detailed design and land acquisition plan that will be required to proceed with this sustainable and fiscally responsible means for treating wastewater.

### Transportation

The combined efforts of Alberta Transportation and the Town of Blackfalds led to work commencing on widening Hwy. 2A and the installation of crossing lights at the Cottonwood Drive intersection. Significant progress was also made on finalizing a Transportation Master Plan outlining the future road network of the community, including the roundabout that will be constructed in 2015.

*“ The regional treatment of wastewater in Central Alberta is the most sustainable and financially responsible path forward for member communities.”*

**PRESTON WERAN, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE & PROPERTY SERVICES**



## Looking Ahead

Long range planning is key for a municipality that is experiencing consistent, rapid growth, as Blackfalds has been.

A number of important planning documents were initiated in 2014 with the intent of serving as road maps for the future of the municipality and to assist Council with effective decision making.

As part of the 2015 budget process that commenced in the fall of 2014, 10-year plans for the municipality's core operations including capital infrastructure and fleet and equipment replacement were adopted.

Also under development are long range plans to determine required staffing in the future, to establish goals and strategies for economic development, and to assess the future requirements for parks and facilities.

Both the Facilities & Parks Needs Assessment Master Plan and the Economic Development Strategic Business Plan will include significant public consultation components. Residents and local businesses will be asked to provide their input through a variety of interviews, focus groups, and surveys starting in the spring of 2015.

It is anticipated that the data gathering and analysis for these important planning initiatives will be completed in the third quarter of 2015. This data will then be used to set a course for meeting the long term needs and priorities of the community through means that are fiscally responsible and sustainable.

# Town of Blackfalds Contact List

DIAL 911 for EMERGENCIES

## MUNICIPAL TOWN OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS **8:30am - 4:30pm**  
Monday - Friday

Main Line **403.885.4677**

Fax **403.885.4610**

Council | Office of CAO **403.885.6248**

Economic Development  
& Communication **403.885.6246**

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Building Permits |  
Licenses **403.885.6236**

Development Permits **403.885.6237**

## PUBLIC WORKS

On-Call | Emergencies **403.340.9593**

Water - Sewer - Roads

Waste Transfer Site **403.885.5200**

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Police Assist (Complaints) **403.885.3333**

RCMP Administration **403.885.3300**

RCMP Fax **403.885.4720**

Bylaw | Animal Control **403.885.0020**

Fire Hall **403.885.4144**

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

After Hours On-Call **403.357.9888**

Facility Rentals **403.885.0122**

Family & Community  
Support Services **403.600.9066**

Marketing & Events **403.885.4677**

Parks & Facilities **403.885.6244**

## ABBAY CENTRE

Main Line **403.885.4039**

General Manager **403.885.4029**

Recreation Coordinator **403.885.0157**

Fitness/Aquatics  
Coordinator **403.885.0183**

Children's Services  
Programmer **403.885.0162**

Box 220, 5018 Waghorn St  
BLACKFALDS, AB T0M 0J0

**403.885.4677** [WWW.BLACKFALDS.COM](http://WWW.BLACKFALDS.COM)



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