

2023 Report to the Community



Table of Contents

Message from the Mayor..... 1

Message from the Chief Administrative Officer..... 2

Council..... 3

Critical Infrastructure..... 5

Affordability..... 7

Communication & Public Participation..... 9

Enhance Town Appearance..... 11

Attract Investment..... 13

Fire Department..... 15

Message from the Mayor

As I write this message to the community, we are already a couple of months into 2024. As Town Council, we look forward to working together again this year, along with Town Administration, to achieve our Strategic Plan Mission Statement: “To provide an attractive community, while maintaining sustainable growth and a high quality of living through forward-thinking and accessible governance.”

Reflecting on the past year gives me an opportunity to realize how much we have accomplished through the hard work of our Town Administration and Public Works Department. Projects have been completed, new projects have started, community events have been held, routine maintenance is on-going.

The completion of the raw water reservoirs was a very large accomplishment and we are happy to say that the project was completed on time and within the budget that was set. The grant money received from AMWWP (Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership) was an important contribution to the completion of this project. The increased capacity of the one reservoir is beneficial for the growth of our Town.

The 5th Ave Subdivision that was completed in 2023 has added an additional 11 lots of which 6 lots are sold. We look forward to seeing all of the lots sold and are preparing to discuss the possibility of a new subdivision phase in the future.

We are grateful for the dedication of the members of our Nobleford Fire Department who we can always count on to be available when they are needed. We especially think of how they were called to Northern Alberta (Yellowhead County) to help with the wildfires that raged this past summer. Thankfully, all of the members were spared from injury and were able to return home safely.

Town Council approved the purchase of the building known as “Rose Butte Apartments”, for a new town office. This location will be more feasible for Town residents to access, for their municipal needs, as well as, Town Council meetings. The building has wheelchair accessibility for those who need this service. We look forward to moving into the new building in the coming months, and welcoming FCSS as our neighbours.

The Town logo was given a face lift and flashing crosswalk signs were installed near Noble Central School for the safety of our children. Confirmation of grant money for upgrading the kitchen at the Community Complex was also received. We hope to see the completion of this upgrade in 2024. The pickleball courts were completed and a grand opening was held in August. The courts are a welcoming addition to our Town and we hope that they will provide much enjoyment for our residents.

Community events, such as Pizza with a Cop, Heritage Day and Christmas in the Park are some of the many functions that have taken place in 2023. The generosity of many local businesses is what make these events possible. Thank you to all who are willing to sponsor our Town events!

A Town resident survey was completed later in the year which is an excellent way for Town Council and Administration to get feedback from the Community. Communication from our residents is always welcomed and we look forward to hearing from you!

In conclusion of my message, on behalf of Town Council, we would like to wish you all the best for 2024 and we look forward to continue serving you.

Sincerely,
Joan Boeder, Mayor



Joan Boeder
Mayor

Message from the Chief Administrative Officer

In 2023, the Town decided to introduce an annual Report to the Community to provide residents with a summary of the previous year's accomplishments, events and relevant statistics. The inaugural report was very well received, and I am excited to contribute to this year's edition.

This past year was certainly a busy one for the Town of Nobleford. With two significant capital projects, multiple communication and public participation engagements, and everything in between, Council, Public Works and Administration were constantly engaged.

While it is difficult to summarize a year in several paragraphs, I have managed to share some of my personal favourite highlights from 2023 below:

- Completion of the Raw Water Reservoir Rehabilitation & Expansion Project;
- Completion of the 5th Avenue Subdivision Project;
- Zero increases to municipal property tax rates;
- Installation of flashing crosswalk signs;
- Pickleball court grand opening;
- Success of the outdoor ice rink/skate park; and
- Public engagement initiatives (Pizza and Pop with a Cop, surveys, budget releases, annual Report to the Community, etc.)

As I list all of my personal favourite highlights, I am reminded of how exciting and productive of a year 2023 was. Two highlights that stand out the most are the Raw Water Reservoir Rehabilitation & Expansion Project and the numerous public engagement initiatives.

The Raw Water Reservoir Rehabilitation & Expansion Project was one of the largest capital projects in the Town's history, with a total cost of nearly \$3.8 million. The project was completed on time, slightly under budget, and was funded 70% through grant funding. Not only does the rehabilitation of the north and south raw water reservoirs provide the Town with quality critical infrastructure for our water treatment and distribution system, but the expanded capacity provides further assurances in times of water insecurity and for future growth.

In addition, I am proud of the strides the Town has made in terms of communication and public engagement initiatives. 2023 saw a number of initiatives, including: multiple resident surveys, the inaugural Report to the Community, a Budget Release, Pickleball Court Grand Opening, Pizza and Pop with a Cop, among others. In late 2023, Council approved funding for a new Town mobile app that allows residents to make direct service requests to the Town. The "See Click Fix" app was launched in early 2024, and has been a success thus far. I urge residents to download and try out the new app!

It is important to remember that public engagement initiatives require commitment from both the Town and from residents. While we are satisfied with the success of our initiatives, it would be fantastic to see more involvement and participation from residents. We thank all of those that participate in these initiatives and events, and hope to see more people become engaged in 2024. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any feedback or recommendations on how we can increase participation and improve the ways in which we engage with the public.

As always, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Council and staff for their hard work and commitment to the Town. Though our team is small, the dedication and level of expertise is impressive, and I am very proud of everything that we have accomplished together.

Please be reminded that my door is always open, and that residents can feel free to contact me by email at cao@nobleford.ca or (403) 824-3555. I am always interested in hearing from residents, regardless of what the matter may be.

Best Regards,
Joseph Hutter, Chief Administrative Officer



Joseph Hutter, MPP, CLGM
Chief Administrative Officer

Council



From Left to Right: Deputy Mayor de Leeuw, Councillor Jensen, CAO Joe Hutter, Councillor Oudshoorn, Councillor Mans, Mayor Boeder

Mission

To provide an attractive community, while maintaining sustainable growth and a high quality of living through forward-thinking and accessible governance.

Vision

To foster opportunity by strategically investing and improving infrastructure to attract economic development that will allow our Town to prosper for generations to come.

Strategic Plan

A municipal strategic plan is a long-term planning document that provides a vision of what Council wishes to accomplish (strategic priorities) and how the vision will be achieved (strategic objectives). The strategic plan was officially adopted early 2022 and runs until 2025. When a new Council is formed, a new strategic plan will be made that will guide Council's decision-making for the term. Below you will find the strategic priorities Council has been focusing on.



#1 Critical Infrastructure

The Town will prioritize investing in and maintaining critical infrastructure.



#2 Affordability

The Town will maintain property tax rates at a level that is amongst the most competitive in the region, and will strive to provide sustainable recreational infrastructure.



#3 Communication & Public Participation

The Town will strive to improve its communication and involvement with residents.



#4 Enhance Town Appearance

The Town will reinvest in parks and beautify high traffic areas.



#5 Attract Investment

The Town will work to ensure that Nobleford remains an attractive place to do business. Incentives may be provided to developers/investors in the event that the project benefits Nobleford as a whole.



Critical Infrastructure

Strategic Objective: Water

The Town will consistently reinvest in water treatment and distribution to maintain high quality drinking water and prevent costly repairs.

Raw Water Reservoir Rehabilitation & Expansion Project

2023 Capital Project

In 2021, Public Works began identifying leaks at two of the Town's three raw water reservoirs, and as a result, the Raw Water Reservoir Rehabilitation and Expansion Project was included in the 2023 Capital Budget.

Why is this so important? The Town sources its raw water from the LNID canal south of Town and stores in it three reservoirs. The water from these reservoirs then undergoes the water treatment process and is then distributed throughout Town for consumption. Without these reservoirs, the Town's water source would be compromised.

The Town received a Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP) grant for up to \$2.34 million, making it one of the largest grants the Town has ever received. Combining the AMWWP funding with several other grants, the Town was able to finance 70% of the project through grant funding!

In addition to the rehabilitation, the Town expanded the capacity of the south reservoir by approximately 25%. The expansion will help to alleviate raw water capacity pressures in the future.

Ultimately, the project was completed on time, and about \$10,000 under budget!



The reservoir expansion has provided Nobleford with an additional (approximate) 35,000 Cu M of water storage.



Bulk Water Fill Station System

Council moved to proceed with purchasing a new bulk water fill station system that allows for debit, credit, and pre-loaded key fob payment. The system, partially funded by Lethbridge County, is expected to be up and running in March of 2024.

Approximately 4,200 cubic meters of water was consumed via the Bulk Water Fill Station in 2023.



Strategic Objective: Sewer

The Town will continue to reinvest in sewer lines and wastewater treatment, and will be cognizant about road surface conditions when replacing lines.

Sewer Line Flushing

The Town once again performed extensive sewer main flushing and root cutting to ensure the integrity of the Town's sewer system.



Strategic Objective: Roads/ Sidewalks

The Town has committed to improving sidewalks by establishing a policy to formalize inspection, repair, and new replacement. In addition, the Town will explore new options to secure funding to improve, maintain and expand its road networks.

Strategic Objective: Connectivity

The Town will strive to improve cell phone connectivity within the Town of Nobleford.

Kipp-12 Street Road Repair 2023 Capital Project

In the 2023 Capital Budget, the Kipp-12 Street Road Repair was identified as a key project. Due to scheduling constraints, the repair was unable to take place during the 2023 year. The repair will be discussed during capital budget deliberations in March and April of 2024.

Sidewalk Trip Hazard Repair

Hunt Street and Glen Street received sidewalk repairs in 2023 to reduce trip hazards. The Town will continue their sidewalk repair program in 2024.



The Town maintains 24.3 km of roadway and 14.0 km of sidewalks for residents

Complex Cellular Booster

A cellular booster was installed at the Community Complex to improve cell phone connectivity within the building. This improvement has proven beneficial in ensuring that users have sufficient cellphone service while in the building.

Telus Leasing Land

The Town has been in discussions with both Telus and Rogers to have a cell tower installed within Town in an effort to provide residents with improved service.

Telus and the Town have entered into an agreement for Telus to lease a section of land within the Public Works shop yard for a future cell tower.



Almost 4.2 tons of garbage is collected from Nobleford residents every week. That's about 220 tons of garbage a year!

Strategic Objective: Garbage

The Town will consider alternative ways to manage the collection and disposal of residential and commercial waste.



Affordability

Strategic Objective:

Residential and non-residential mill rates will continue to be amongst the most competitive in Southern Alberta.

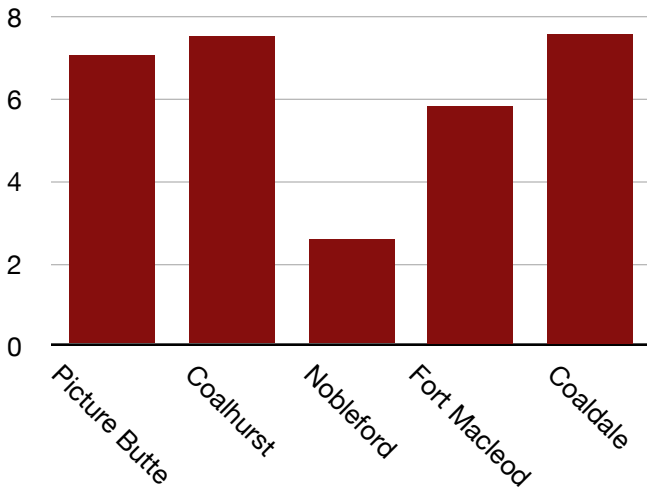
Strategic Objective:

All requests for recreational infrastructure will be analyzed on the basis of feasibility and short and long-term affordability.

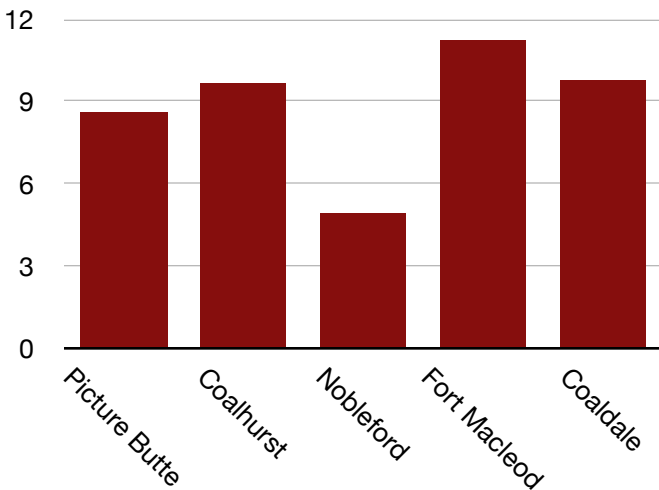
2023 Mill Rate

The Town of Nobleford was able to maintain one of the Province's lowest residential mill rates (Property Tax rate) for yet another year. Residential rates remained the same as the 2022 rate to ensure residents continue to receive a low tax rate alongside quality services.

2023 Residential Mill Rate



2023 Non-Residential Mill Rate



Community Complex Table Replacement

The Community Complex was outfitted with new tables to replace the tables that had outlived their useable lifespan. Users now have access to clean, functional tables for use in their functions and events.

Outdoor Skating Rink

In early 2023, hundreds of people enjoyed the use of the outdoor rink. When weather was conducive to skating, it was common to see ten or more individuals on the rink at one time. The multi-purpose aspect of the skating rink acting as a skatepark in the warmer months provides residents with year-round recreational opportunities, free of charge!

E-Tax Notices & E-Receipting

With E-Billing introduced in 2022, the Town expanded this service by introducing E-Tax Notices and E-Receipts to property owners in Nobleford. These services have proved to be useful in allowing residents to keep better records of their Town payments, and eliminating possible billing errors.

The Town was able to save approximately \$1,000 on postage throughout 2023 due to E-Billing subscribers.

The Community Complex hosted 37 private events in 2023.



Strategic Objective:

Public service staffing levels will be maintained at reasonable levels, and improvements to technology, cross-training, and education will be implemented to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Digitized Town Files

Administration undertook the extensive project of digitizing the Town's property files. Digitizing property files has resulted in a more modern, sustainable and efficient work environment.



Approximately 10,000 documents were digitized throughout 2023 as part of this initiative.

Water Treatment AEP

The Public Works Leadhand successfully completed the Level 1 Operator Certificate. This will allow more staff to operate the Water Treatment Plant, reducing the burden on the Public Works Foreman.

Contracted Street Sweeping

The Town contracted street sweeping to a private company in 2023 to help alleviate the time restraints and pressure placed on the Public Works department. The initiative was beneficial in providing Public Works additional time to focus their efforts on other critical tasks they face during their peak season.

Commissioner of Oaths

The Finance Clerk successfully obtained Commissioner of Oaths certification, allowing for in house commissioning of certain documents. Nobleford is now able to provide this service at no cost for residents, provided the documents are eligible.

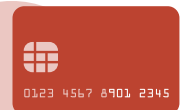
Administrative Training

Administration attended various web training sessions to become more efficient on their processes and increase accuracy. Administration also attended various conferences to collaborate with professionals from various municipalities to ensure Nobleford is implementing the best practices in the field and exploring ways in which current services and procedures can be improved.

Nobleford Gets Interac

The Town office received its first ever Interac debit machine, providing a more convenient method of payment for residents to use. The debit terminal has proved incredibly useful and a preferred payment method for many residents.

In 2023, the Town collected almost \$66,000 through sole use of the new debit machine!





Communication and Public Participation

Strategic Objective:

Communicating clearly, positively, consistently, and respectfully with the public is a priority for the Town of Nobleford.

Report to the Community

In early 2023, the Town released the first ever Report to the Community. This report is meant to update residents on Town activities throughout the year and bring attention to the achievements Council has made in alignment of their Strategic Plan. Documents such as these provide residents with the ability to stay informed on Town matters in a concise and easy to read format.

Budget Release

The Town published yet another Budget Release in 2023. The Budget Release introduces the annual operating and capital budgets to tax payers, explaining where revenue comes from and how funds are being allocated. The Town hopes to continue this initiative to ensure open channels of communication with residents regarding Council's financial accountability to the tax payer.

Permanent Town Sign

After running a 1-year trial period with a rented Town sign, Council invested in the purchase of the Town's own sign. The purchase of a permanent sign allows messages to be changed frequently throughout the year, keeping residents informed via traditional methods of communication. As well, the purchase of a Town sign has eliminated the monthly rental cost, therefore saving the Town money.

Resident Input Survey

In the Strategic Plan, Council declared that they sought to implement an annual survey to gain feedback on resident satisfaction. Continuing the effort that began in 2022, residents were asked for a second year in a row to provide their input on various services provided by the Town and any recommendations they may have.

Responses increased slightly in 2023, showing a stronger interest in public participation. Council strives to provide residents with opportunities to provide input that may help ensure their decision making reflects the population they serve.

RCMP/Council Public Engagement

Together, Council and the RCMP hosted two public engagement events to reduce barriers and address questions residents may have. The first event, occurring in May, was Coffee with a Cop. This initial event had a good rate of attendance. While adults enjoyed many cups of coffee, children indulged in donuts and explored a real police cruiser.

With the success of the first event, Pizza & Pop with a Cop was hosted to encourage all age demographics to attend. This event was even more successful than initially planned. The Community Complex was filled with residents who happily consumed almost 30 pizzas. Meanwhile, the RCMP introduced residents to a special member of the K-9 unit, who showed everyone his best tricks! Council and the RCMP seek to continue this initiative to reduce barriers by interacting with community members.

Bylaw & Policy Review Committee

The Bylaw & Policy Review Committee reviewed 10 bylaws throughout 2023 and made recommendations to Council. At the end of the year, Council began working on a Community Standards Bylaw based on the recommendations which the committee provided.



Pickleball Court Grant Opening 2023 Capital Project

The Pickleball courts received the final touches in 2023 with the pickle pave application finally set. The Town hosted a grand opening of the pickleball court with numerous volunteers which helped to make the event as successful as it was.

The event kicked off with the ribbon cutting ceremony, officially opening the courts for public use. The Lethbridge Pickleball Club provided the audience with live demonstrations, and took time to teach individuals how to play the sport. FortisAlberta was a key contributor, bringing a grill, volunteers, and tons of smokies and burgers to provide everyone with a free barbecue lunch! While the barbecue lunch proceeded, FCSS set out outdoor games from their new NeighborGOOD Trailer. The grand opening concluded with a raffle draw for two special prizes.

The Town was more than pleased with the community's ability to come together to celebrate such a milestone. The Town would like to thank all those who volunteered and made it such a fun and successful afternoon.

For those who missed the demonstrations at the grand opening, AgroPlus generously donated signs explaining how to play and the rules of the courts. You can spot those signs inside the pickle ball court. This spring, windscreens, graciously donated by WestPeak Construction, will be installed to help minimize the effects of wind. For those wishing to try the sport, the Town has pickleball paddles and balls available to sign-out at no cost.

Council Highlights

Council Highlights were consistently published throughout the year, keeping residents informed on Council activity. The highlights are a method of providing up-to-date information on the decisions made by their elected officials in a simplified version. By condensing the proceedings of Council Meetings, more barriers are removed for constituents to be aware and better understand their municipal government.





Enhance Town Appearance

Strategic Objective:

Enhance Nobleford's appeal to families by reinvesting in existing parks and recreational infrastructure.

Solar Powered Crosswalk Signal Lights

After receiving a number of concerns from residents regarding pedestrian safety on Highway Avenue, the Town committed to the purchase of two sets of solar powered crosswalk signal lights to increase driver awareness. After conducting a pedestrian count at different intersections, the Town made the decision to install the signs along Highway Avenue at the intersections of Glen Street and Hunt Street.

Pedestrians of all ages have done an amazing job at adapting to the use of these lights to alert drivers of their crossing. These lights were made possible through a Save Energy Grant for \$5,000 from FortisAlberta. Through the use of solar powered technology, the lights are self-sustaining in all climates and provide reliable operation year round with no electrical consumption through traditional channels.

Door Replacements

The doors at the soccer field and spray park washrooms received upgrades this year to improve security measures.



The Town of Nobleford maintains almost 13 acres of green space throughout the Town for the enjoyment of all residents.

Did you know the Town logo only cost \$300 to have it designed by a local business?



Strategic Objective:

Beautify the Town of Nobleford to foster community pride.

New Town Logo

After working with a local business to design options for a new Town logo, Administration provided Council with four proposed logos. In an effort to involve the community, a Town Logo Survey was released, and the Town ultimately decided on the logo below to use for years to come.

Updating the Town logo was a strategic move to improve the Town's visual identity by providing it with a new and more recognizable identity. Community pride was also a central focus of this change as the Town logo now gives residents something to connect with and feel proud of while maintaining its historic roots. To read more about what the logo represents, please visit

www.nobleford.ca/p/visual-identity



Town of
NOBLEFORD
EST 1918



Dog Waste Receptacles

Two dog waste receptacles outfitted with free collection bags were installed for residents to use. The implementation of such receptacles has helped to encourage responsible pet ownership. Nobleford is committed to ensuring the upkeep of our beautiful Town.

Councillor Parades

Over the summer, Councillors took part in various municipalities' celebratory events, representing the Town of Nobleford. Nobleford won the 2nd place prize at the Barons Family Fun Day Parade and 3rd in the Carmangay Agricultural Society Parade.

Flower Boxes

The flower box initiative continued into its second year with an additional large planter being placed in Centennial Park for further enjoyment. The Town challenged residents to try and identify the fruit bearing plant within the large planters. Those who guessed strawberries were correct!

New Town Office Project Initiated 2023 Capital Project

Recognizing improvements that could be made to the Town office and Council Chambers, the Town explored options for a new office that would be large enough to accommodate the growing community's needs and provide accessibility solutions. A cost-effective opportunity arose to purchase a current building within Town. The Town purchased the old Rose Butte Apartments and gained possession in September.

Once the Town gained possession, everyone got straight to work planning the renovation to retrofit the building into a new Town office. A bid was tendered for the office renovation and demolition began in late 2023. The renovation is expected to continue into the first half of 2024. The new office will feature Council Chambers, extended office space, an FCSS room, a rentable meeting room, and a welcoming reception to provide residents with the best possible service.





Attract Investment

Strategic Objective:

The Town will ensure that Nobleford remains an attractive place to do business. Incentives will be provided to developers/investors in the event that the project benefits Nobleford as a whole.

Business Directory Updated

The Nobleford Business Directory was the fourth most viewed page on the Town’s website in 2023. Businesses located and operating in Nobleford provided the Town with updated contact information. The Business Directory is incredibly useful for finding local businesses. We would like to encourage residents to keep utilizing the Business Directory to support small businesses and help our local economy thrive.



The Town of Nobleford issued 86 business licenses in 2023.

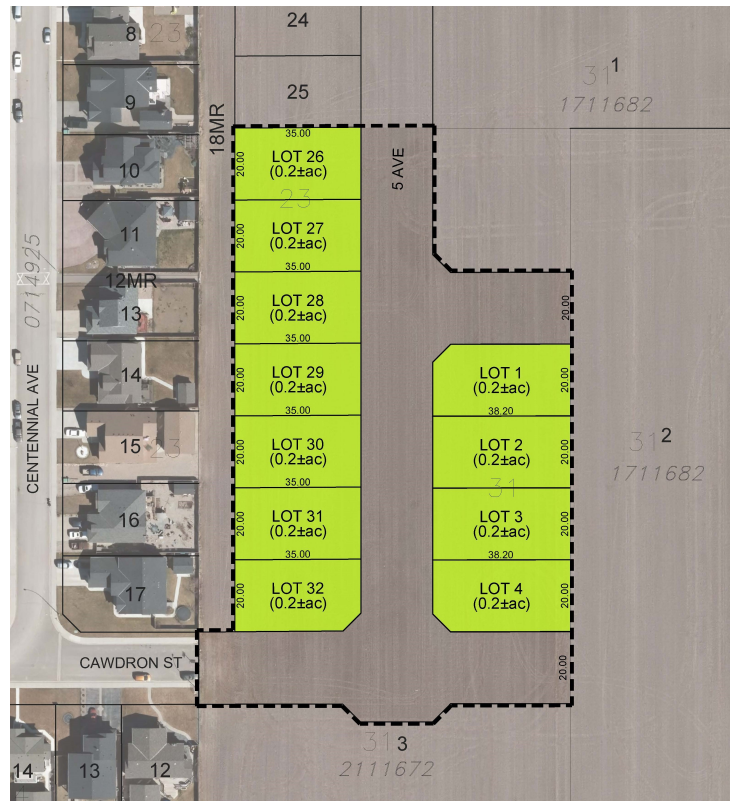
Reciprocal Business Licensing

Council approved the proposed Memorandum of Understanding for Reciprocal Business Licensing. This agreement allows business license holders in Nobleford, Raymond, Picture Butte, Coalhurst, Stirling, Magrath, and Barons to conduct business within these municipalities under one business license. This program is meant to promote local business initiatives and support our neighbouring community’s economies.

5 Avenue Subdivision 2023 Capital Project

The 5 Avenue Subdivision began in early 2023 and saw the development of 11 residential lots. The subdivision process has been smooth with strong interest in lots. Lots were made available for presale in August, at the end of 2023, a total of 6 lots were sold. In 2024, residents will continue to see houses being constructed on the properties and are encouraged to provide their new neighbours with a warm welcome.

The costs associated with the project include engineering, construction supervision, paving, sidewalks, curb and gutter, and the installation of utility services. The residential subdivision was paid for through reserve accounts, meaning that there was no additional cost to tax payers. The sale of the lots ensures the Town is able to replenish the subdivision reserve account without burdening residents.





Other Council Initiatives

Regionalized Emergency Management

In 2022, Council committed to joining a Regionalized Emergency Management program with Coaldale, Lethbridge County, Coalhurst, Picture Butte and Barons. Throughout 2023, the partners have been hard at work building the program to best suit the needs of all municipalities involved and compiled resources and materials needed. Near the end of 2023, meetings began with those involved to discuss the current plans in place for emergency situations. In 2024, the Town expects to see stronger plans be put in place with the collaborative help of the municipalities involved to ensure Nobleford has extensive planning in place incase we are ever faced with such emergency situations.

Community Events

Every year, the Town see various events occur that involve community members, although these are not Town provided functions, Councillors have become increasingly involved in the planning of various events to ensure they take place, in light of the lack of available volunteers.

Heritage Day had yet another great turn-out with a free pancake breakfast, candy parade, bouncy castles, BBQ lunch, car show, farmers market, and so much more!

The Remembrance Day ceremony was hosted in Centennial Park to commemorate and provide respect and appreciation to those those who fought for our freedoms.

Christmas in the Park was full of carols, hot chocolate, hay rides, cozy fires and the tree lighting ceremony. FCSS hosted a Little Santa event at the Community Complex during this time to extend the festivities.

ORRSC Orthophotography Project

Council decided to proceed with the Orthophotography Project provided by the Oldman River Regional Services Commission. The Orthophotography Project provided the Town of Nobleford with updated satellite imaging which is used daily through the GIS services site.



Nobleford & District Emergency Services

Message From the Fire Chief

With 2023 in the rear-view mirror, I want to express gratitude and appreciation for all the sacrifices and accomplishments our department members tackled over a remarkably busy year. Being a volunteer firefighter can be a tough but rewarding experience, being on call and on the ready at moment's notice to drop everything to go help someone in need.

Our members have immense pride in serving our community, which includes the Town of Nobleford, Village of Barons, Hamlet of Monarch, and surrounding Lethbridge County area. Below is a summary of what we have been up to in 2023.

Crews have been working hard on the regular training nights every Monday, with the odd weekend with additional online training. Continual training and certification on the NFPA standards (National Fire Protection Association), help us gather the skills and knowledge to support our response services we thrive to provide. Last year, we has numerous training sessions in partnership with Lethbridge County which has not only helped to improve our skill set, but has strengthened our inter agency operations.

Overall, our responses have seen an increase every year, and 2023 was no exception. We have experienced a significant increase in residential structural fires in our region and assisting mutual aid in other mutual aid zones for structure fires. Wildland fires in our zone were also keeping us busy with large field/tractor fires in numerous locations. We have also seen an increase with medical first response call outs, and multiple motor vehicle collisions. I want to express my appreciation to all the businesses and families for letting our members leave and respond and take time away from everyone. Thank you!

We were also fortunate enough to be able to answer the call from the Provincial Operations Center to aid in assistance for the Yellowhead County wildfires, we had 3 shift rotations where our crews and Wildland Unit saw all different types of hazards, assisting in firefighting operations.

Over the last few years, our members of the Nobleford Firefighter Society have been working steadily on fundraising for funds to put forward in the development of our training grounds. The location is on the northeast location of town limits and has started to come close to being finished. 2023 has been a large step in designing, organizing, and building the facility to give our firefighters the training they need. Overall, we have had assistance from family, friends, contractors, and business to make this all happen. Once it is completed, we plan to have an open house to highlight the facility and educate on what/how we train to NFPA levels. I want to thank the Nobleford Firefighter Society for all of this, this is 100% funded by all the fundraising events they put on over the years, and in addition, thank you to all who have come out to support us on these fundraising events.

We look forward to 2024 in providing service when needed, and to help educate on fire prevention tactics for around your homes and business. If you ever wonder what it is like to be part of a Fire Department, come down on Monday nights or send an application through our website portal at noblefordfiredept.ca.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief
Nobleford & District Emergency Services



Yellowhead County Fire Assistance

In 2023, much of Yellowhead County was encompassed in flames, which caused major devastation to the area and individuals around it. Due to the extensive wildfires, the County requested assistance from various fire departments throughout Alberta to help protect lives and property within the area. Nobleford and District Emergency Services was able to provide assistance during such unfortunate times. Several firefighters took time away from their work and families to volunteer their time and risk their lives to help suppress the flames and prevent further damage. In addition to manpower, the department was able to provide equipment to help fight the fires.



Members provided Yellowhead County with 728 volunteer hours to help fight the wildfires.

New Equipment

The department purchased new safety equipment to ensure the safety of members is being held to the utmost importance, as well as improved equipment which helps fires to be fought. New equipment in 2023 included helmets, grain rescue equipment (donated by G3), fire gear extractor and a gear drying rack (purchased by the Nobleford Fire Society).



There are currently 19 volunteer firefighters within the department.



Grain Rescue Course

A grain rescue course took place in mid 2023. The course was a collaborative event that allowed various fire departments the opportunity to train together in this special course. The grain rescue was successful with great attendance. Grain rescue proves to be a critical skill to possess in Southern Alberta as a result of our agricultural industry and the majority of fire responses being located within Lethbridge County.

Firefighter Compensation Increase

Although the Nobleford & District Emergency Services department is made up of volunteers, the Town of Nobleford deems it incredibly beneficial to compensate volunteers for the time they take out of their day to provide back to the community. In 2023, firefighter compensation increased by \$3.00 for every hour, and a tiered bi-annual stipend was provided to all members. Council continues to research methods to provide incentives that will help to recruit and retain members.



Did you know Emergency Service members are eligible for a \$1000 tax credit from the Government of Canada?

