



Magrath Annual Report

2023



Mayor's Message

Dear Residents of Magrath,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I present to you the Town's Annual Report for 2023. The report outlines the achievements and progress that has been made this past year within the municipality.

A significant milestone to highlight has been the ongoing transformation of the old curling rink into the Magrath Community Centre. This project is giving new life to a cherished piece of our town's history and provides an additional location for community gatherings, events, and recreation. The Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association has made it their home Monday evenings for target practice. We look forward to other groups and interests as they adapt to this unique opportunity as well.

Additionally, as part of the transformation the town was able to secure a lease agreement with A-1 Pizza to operate within the facility, marking the arrival of Magrath's first-ever franchise restaurant. This exciting addition not only enhances local dining options but signals that new opportunities for economic growth and job creation are interested in coming to Magrath.

I am proud to also highlight the remarkable success of residential and non-residential lot sales in Magrath. The strong demand for housing in our community speaks volumes about the desirability of Magrath as a place to live, work, and raise a family. In 2023 the town received applications for 13 single family homes and 1 multi-family development. The Town also had 2 new businesses open on the industrial lots along with a third business purchasing land in late 2023 which we expect we will see a construction application for in the coming year.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, let us also look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to build upon our successes and work towards realizing the full potential of the town.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to making Magrath a wonderful place to call home.

Sincerely,
Byrne Cook,
Mayor of Magrath

2023 Project Highlights



Purchase of a small garbage truck

Magrath recently acquired a used small garbage truck, from the City of Grande Prairie, marking a practical investment in its municipal services. This addition to the town's fleet reflects Magrath's commitment to efficient waste management while being mindful of budgetary considerations.



Mini Hoe Purchase

Magrath replaced its ageing equipment with trade in and purchase of a new mini excavator. This acquisition underscores the town's commitment to efficient maintenance and development of public spaces. The mini excavator's versatility promises to expedite various projects, from utility repairs to landscaping endeavors, enabling Magrath to address community needs promptly and effectively while optimizing resources wisely.



Shop Vehicle Storage

The Town of Magrath began constructing a vehicle storage building to shield its equipment and vehicles from weather damage. The town faces fluctuating weather conditions and wants to ensure the longevity and functionality of its assets. This initiative reflects their commitment to efficient resource management and enhancing operational capabilities.

2023 Project Highlights

Continued



Magrath Community Centre

Experience the transformation of the former curling club into a dynamic multi-use center. This versatile facility served as a vibrant hub for social gatherings and community events, enriching the lives of residents young and old. With the removal of the ice lanes, we created rental space for activities like archery and exercise classes. Additionally, the lounge was revamped into a rentable party or meeting room. Al Pizza is also operating out of the facility.



3rd St East - 3 blocks of Paving

As part of the servicing of Block 74 and Block 91 residential lots, the Town of Magrath expanded its infrastructure to include curbs, sidewalks, and paved streets in the vicinity of 3rd St East.



New Fire Truck

Paid for by the Town of Magrath, Cardston County and the Fire Departments financial reserves, A new F550 pumper truck has arrived at the Magrath and District Fire Hall replacing another vehicle that had reached the end of its regulatory life. Expected to serve residents in the area for years to come, it stands ready to respond to calls for help.

2023 Project Highlights

Continued



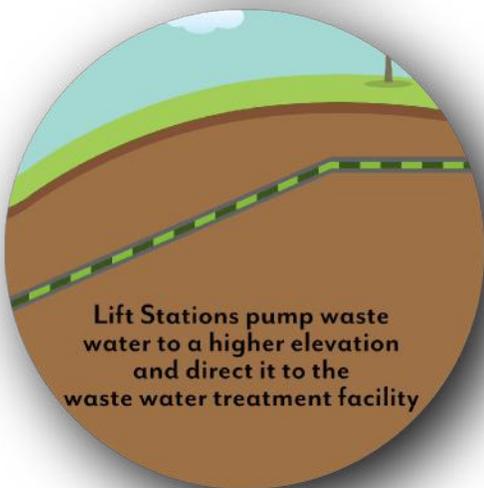
Field Announcer Stand

The Town of Magrath proudly erected an announcer stand to bolster and enrich the experience for our local leagues, providing them with a dedicated space for announcing and showcasing our talented local athletes.



2nd Ave North Paving

A repavement project on 2nd Ave North between 1st St and Centre Street marked a significant improvement in the community. Long overdue, this endeavor addressed the prevalent drainage issue that created extreme potholes and rough pavement. The new pavement will ensure safer and smoother travels for residents and visitors.



Phase 2 - Lift Station Upgrades

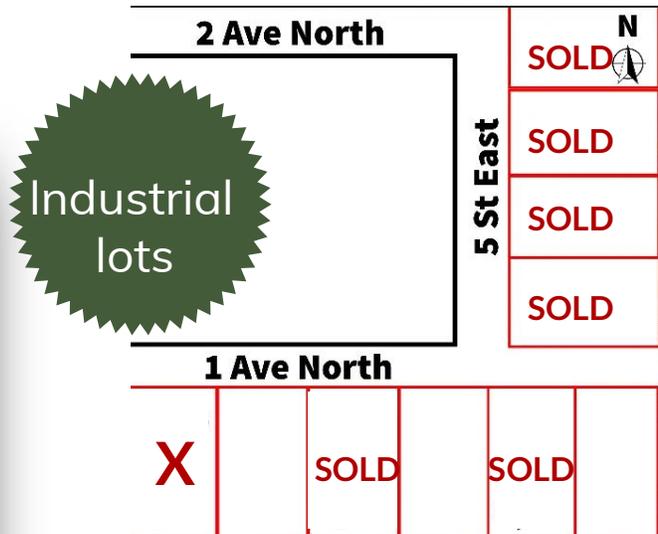
The Town has upgraded the technology at the hospital Lift Station. A SCADA system now monitors and sends alarms to our crew about our lift station if required and has remote operation capabilities

Our Little Town is Thriving

Magrath saw a boost in its development, with significant activity in both residential and commercial areas. The sale of eight residential lots in 2023 reflects a growing demand for housing, backed by eleven new home build applications and requests for two single-family residences to be moved in. This surge underscores Magrath's appeal as a residential hotspot.

On the non-residential front, the sale of six industrial lots has led to two new businesses setting up shop and a third on the way. This surge injects energy into our economy, introducing new services and job opportunities. This combined growth showcases Magrath as an attractive destination for living, working, and investing, setting a solid path for sustained development.

Using some of the proceeds from these land sales the Town was also able to improve its debt position by paying off two loans that were taken out in the late 1990's. This early repayment was a full three years ahead of schedule.



Progress Measures - Council Objectives

Services	Objective	Strategy	2023 Progress Measures	2024 Outcome
Seniors Housing	To ensure sustainable amounts of intermediate seniors housing are locally available.	<p>Encourage and cultivate private development.</p> <p>Participate in funding a housing needs assessment for the region.</p> <p>Advocate for local control of existing community infrastructure.</p>	<p>Contact Aspen Point Group or others regarding possible developments in Magrath that could be geared toward seniors.</p> <p>Funding the Chinook Foundation as proposed for the assessment.</p> <p>Look at existing infrastructure for efficiencies to ensure housing locally is maximized.</p>	<p>Discussed with local investors and gathered information to lay the groundwork for future private development.</p> <p>Funded the Chinook Foundation to produce a housing assessment for seniors.</p> <p>Council reviewed the limitations of current water and wastewater infrastructure.</p>
Community Health Services	To increase health services in Magrath	<p>Advocate for greater usage of the old hospital.</p> <p>Increase emergency supports.</p>	<p>Promote the return of a clinic or other specialized medical services into the building.</p> <p>Funding for a medical first responder program for local volunteer firefighters to support our community through AHS's transitions.</p>	<p>On going multi-party local and provincial representative discussions are taking place to enhance the Community Health Center.</p> <p>Increased local funding supports the Magrath Fire Department to be able enter into a Medical First Responder agreement with AHS.</p>
Community Safety	A safe community	Engage with the community to develop a common understanding of the community's safety concerns.	Use MagrathMatters.com to survey residents about safety concerns.	<p>A survey was conducted with residents through the Magrath Matters platform and the results showed residents wanted to have more streetlights. 16 new Street lights were installed by Fortis at various locations around the community at the request of the Town.</p> <p>Council receives quarterly RCMP reports from the local detachment. These consistently show a low overall crime rate.</p>
Provincial Education	To meet legislative compliance requirements	Create a Joint Use and Planning Agreement with Westwind School Division	Meet and agree to a Joint Use and Planning Agreement with Westwind School Division	The Provincial Government extended the deadline for agreements by two years. Agreement planning continues to be ongoing. The Town will continue to make this a priority for the Community in future years
Provincial Municipal Funding	To advocate for municipal infrastructure needs	Raise concern with provincial officials' about the need for greater funding for municipal infrastructure	Raise the issue as a concern with candidates running for Local MLA in the 2023 Provincial Election and follow up with the MLA after the election	Magrath's Council supported the Alberta Municipalities Association advocacy on the issue by working locally with the MLA about infrastructure funding.

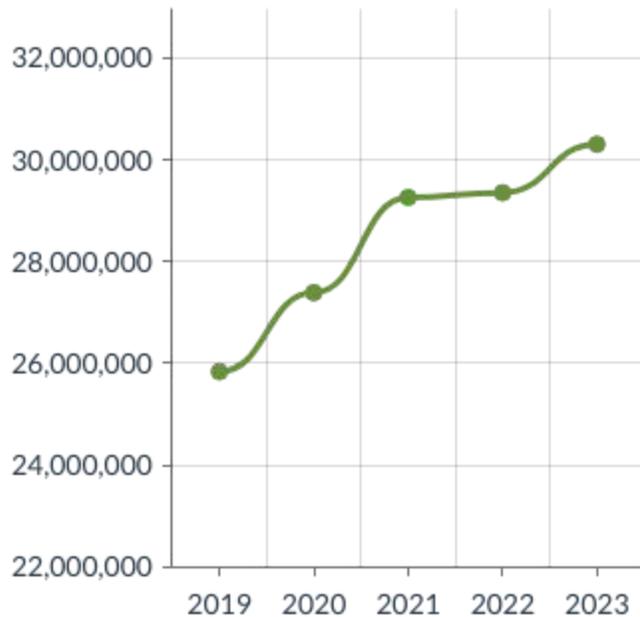
Progress Measures - Administrative

Services	Objective	Strategy	2023 Progress Measures	2024 Outcome
Administration and Planning	Clean Financial Audit	Maintain a high fiduciary responsibility, with regular filing and proper records management.	A clean 2023 Auditors report.	Achieved
	Trust between the Town Administration and residents	Increase administrative transparency and provide the public with easier access to information.	<p>Post Newsletters to the website and social media not just water bills.</p> <p>Develop the website calendar to contain Community Events as well.</p> <p>Develop a centralized location that has the business hours and contact information for all local resources that might be considered public, even if not directly affiliated with the municipality.</p>	<p>Newsletters are now available on the Website.</p> <p>There was initial success with the community calendar idea but it has suffered from a lack of early notice to post community events. The Town did advertise through social media for various local group events</p> <p>A Quick directory was developed for the website for information about local municipal services and other government and contracted providers.</p>
	Continuously Improve the Town's Administration	Make sensible changes that improve the efficiency of the town's services.	Develop succession planning for all departments	An administrative policy has been developed to manage key service positions within the organization to develop others to ensure business continuity on an interim basis.
Economic Development	Support community growth	Promote Local groups and business	<p>Develop methods to highlight local businesses throughout the year.</p> <p>Grow the Local Society Coordinating Committee to promote local service clubs and events in the community.</p>	<p>Some effort went in to trying to develop a system of highlighting local businesses through our social media but more attention to this is needed.</p> <p>The Town started to promote local service groups through its website for recognition. This endeavor could be expanded on with more groups in future years.</p>
Infrastructure & Public Works	Maintain safe transportation roadways	Maintain and expand road roadways throughout the in the Town. Patch, grade, pave and oil roadways as possible	<p>Improve curb on 1st Ave N across from the Multi court for drainage and road width.</p> <p>Replace asphalt section of 2nd Ave North in front of Garden Pl. cul-de-sac.</p> <p>Pave 3rd St E as part of Block 91 subdivision and Local Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Perform road maintenance as required for pothole patching, and sidewalk tripping hazards.</p>	<p>This project was delayed for a year due to a gas line which will need to be relocated.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed Annually</p>

Services	Objective	Strategy	2023 Progress Measures	2024 Outcome
Water Distribution System	Maintain safe and efficient water systems	Plan out, monitor and replace distribution lines to meet the needs of the community.	Perform water line checks and maintenance to target water system leaks.	Town crews were able to find and repair leaks resulting in a reduction of 42,231 cubic meters of water loss annually.
Tourism	Create a desirable Town atmosphere	Ensure visitors can find local places of interest	Participate in regional tourism and advertising initiatives	The Town advertised in the Cardston County Tourism magazine and looked to join a regional partnership that is still under development.
	Support tourism locally and regionally	Support development in this sector to the benefit of the town.	Support better wayfinding for visitors to the town	Administration has been using the digital sign to advertise more local happenings. The addition of conventional wayfinding signs however has not been done.
		Build awareness of Magrath and its amenities	Create online advertising campaigns that highlight Magrath amenities	A regional partnership is in early stages of development
Parks and Recreation	Enhance Recreation in the Town	Better utilization of the campground.	Remove aging campground infrastructure and replace as possible with new developments	One of the Camp Kitchens was taken down for safety. The area will be redesigned for camping enjoyment.
	Maintain fleet equipment	Replace aging equipment.	Review and purchase assets as identified in fleet planning	The Town was able to replace several of its fleet assets on schedule.
Fire and Emergency Preparedness	Fire Risk Management	Reduce fire risks through planning.	Fund and contribute to Fire Department equipment as identified through planning.	The Magrath Fire Dept is funded through property taxes for the Town of Magrath and Cardston County with both municipalities currently contributing to operations funding.
	Emergency Risk Management	Review and maintain the emergency plan procedures to respond to a major event	Participate as a regional partner of the Cardston County Regional Emergency Management Agency	The CCREMA has been engaged in capacity building and preparing towards a practice exercise in October of 2024

Financial Performance

2019-2023 Accumulated Surplus



The Town's audited financial statements for prior years are available on our website. The graph on the left represents the Town's five-year accumulated surplus growth. The surplus represents all of the town's assets minus its liabilities and is important to understand that it is not money in a bank account. Assets include the value of all buildings, vehicles, pipelines, other major assets with cash values, receivables, and any cash held on December 31st 2023, subtracted from any liabilities. Liabilities include accounts payable, long-term debt, and deferred revenues. A positive surplus trajectory is representative of a healthy & growing community.

Responsible and Well Managed Debt

In 2023, the Town effectively reduced its long-term debt from \$1,156,789 to \$901,271 ensuring a balance well below the legislated allowed debt limit for the Town of \$8,463,162. To facilitate the ongoing installation of services in subdivisions aimed at bolstering residential lot availability in Magrath, the Town may consider borrowing in 2024 if needed. The proceeds from past lot sales have allowed the Town to pay off two loans that were taken out in the 90's, three years early.

