



# Magrath

*The Garden City*

## 2024 Annual Report



# Message from Our Mayor Byrne Cook



Dear Magrath Residents,

As we report on another productive year, I'm proud to reflect on the many accomplishments we've achieved together. Each year brings new challenges and opportunities, and once again, our community has stepped up to move Magrath forward. It is my continued honor to serve as mayor, and I thank you for the trust and support you've shown our Town Council and Town Staff.

This year, we took bold steps to advance our sustainability goals with the successful construction of a new solar array. This project not only demonstrates our commitment to environmental responsibility but also helps reduce our long-term energy costs—an investment that will benefit Magrath for years to come. We also improved our operational capacity with the completion of a new vehicle storage building. This modern facility provides organized, weather-protected space for essential town vehicles and equipment, allowing our public works team to operate more efficiently in all seasons.

Another important focus this year was enhancing infrastructure. We completed sidewalk installations along Centre Street, 1st Avenue North, and Heritage Road—spanning three full blocks—to improve walkability and safety for residents of all ages with more of this to come in the future.

These projects build on the progress of recent years and reflect our continued commitment to thoughtful, forward-looking investment in Magrath's future. You don't have to look far to see our successes as our Town, in 2024, 11 new home building permits were issued with new families deciding that Magrath is the place for them.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to supporting a growing and vibrant community—where families can thrive, businesses can grow, and our shared environment is protected for generations to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being a part of this journey. It's been our Council's privilege to serve you, and we look forward to what will be accomplished together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Mayor

# Project Highlights



## **Solar Array**

The Town of Magrath recently added a solar array. This addition will help lower the operating costs of the town by stabilizing expenses, and generating revenue from excess power. This will help to manage the funding required for our facilities while promoting sustainability and long-term financial resilience.



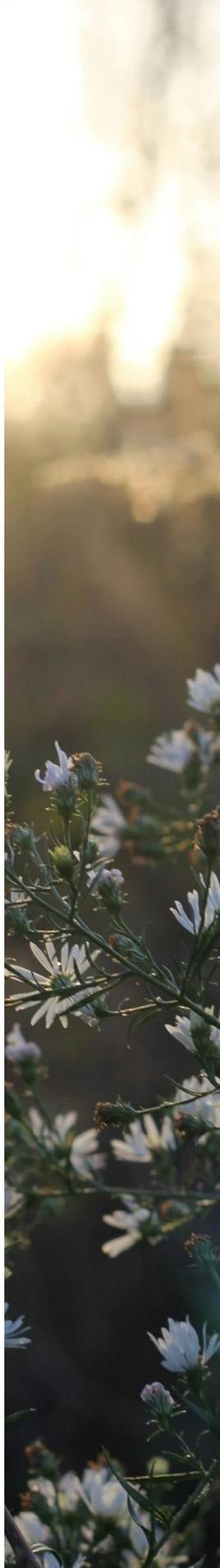
## **Shop Vehicle Storage**

The Town of Magrath completed the shop vehicle storage. This secure, indoor storage extends vehicle lifespan by shielding them from weather damage, vandalism, and theft. It also ensures efficient operations by providing a centralized space for maintenance, repairs, and quick deployment. Investing in proper vehicle storage reduces long-term costs, and improves equipment reliability, ensuring our staff have the tools needed to maintain our critical infrastructure effectively.



## **Centre St & 1 Ave North Sidewalk & Drainage**

The Town of Magrath completed two blocks of new sidewalks and storm sewer drainage! These upgrades enhance safety, improve accessibility, and strengthen our infrastructure. Sidewalks connect residents to businesses, schools, and parks, while storm drainage prevents flooding and protects roads.



# Project Highlights



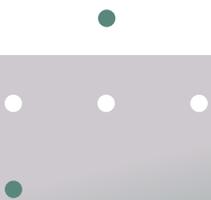
## Heritage Road

The Town of Magrath finished prepping the foundation in 2024, setting the stage for smooth, durable paving in 2025. This essential step improves drainage, strengthens roadways, and ensures a longer-lasting surface for years to come



## Land

Investing in the future! The Town of Magrath has secured land for future development, ensuring growth and new opportunities for our community. This investment ensures the foundation for future housing, infrastructure, and amenities to support a thriving, sustainable town. Stay tuned as future projects arise.



# Progress Measures

Strategic Level	Services	Objective	Strategy	2024 Progress Measures	2025 Outcome
<b>COUNCIL SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES</b>					
Growth	Seniors Housing	To ensure sustainable amounts of intermediate seniors housing are locally available.	Encourage and cultivate private development.	Engage local contractors and investors for potential collaborations.	Council secured land for future residential growth and developed a du-plex housing site plan with seniors in mind. However, during build investigations and discussions with seniors currently on waiting lists it was discovered that the cost per unit most likely exceeded the amount most seniors could afford. The Town will continue to watch for grants or look for partnerships that could see a seniors housing project advance to construction.
Safety and Governance	Community Health Services	To increase health services in Magrath.	Advocate for greater usage of the old hospital.	Promote the return of a clinic or other specialized medical services within the building.	Council has advocated strongly for a partnership between the local doctors and AHS for greater collaboration and use of the site. AHS has faced significant restructuring and staff reassignments which has made collaborating difficult. Council continues to advocate with our provincial representatives and local doctors with the continued desire to see the building site utilized better.
Infrastructure	Community Infrastructure	Improved deep service infrastructure.	Investigate possible locations for wastewater infrastructure sites and costs.  Investigate sustainable energy options for town facilities.	Bring to the community the potential of a deep services improvement project for discussion.  Look at projects that deliver energy cost consistency and long-term price stability.	The project and borrowing bylaw for the construction of a lift station able to service the Magrath's West side was approved by Council. Construction is expected in 2025.  Council approved the construction of a 96 kWp solar array and green lit a grant application for a further 74kWp project for 2025.
Identity and Brand	Promote Local Identity	Recognition of the 125th Magrath Days.	Engage Magrath Days organizers and event hosts to work on ways to distinguish this year's event from past events.	Events that promote both the past and future of Magrath.	Council requested that staff organizers look for ways to make the 125th Magrath days unique. Council participated in the 125th Magrath days with increased events.
Recreation and Community	Community Resource	Clear Community Resource Sharing with Westwind School Division.  Develop Local Society Coordinating Committee.	Prepare a Joint Use and Planning Agreement for review with Westwind School Division.  Engage local service organizations through meetings with board members to engage on the broader topic of volunteerism.	Sign Joint Use Agreement for review with the school.  Promote Local group events and functions.  Develop a centralized volunteerism message.	Council through the Mayor has participated in several meetings with other municipal officials and school administration to prepare an agreement to be signed in 2025.  While developing and building the LSCC into a cohesive group has not been achieved, Council has worked with existing organizations like the Magrath Recreation Committee to promote greater participation and volunteerism in the community.

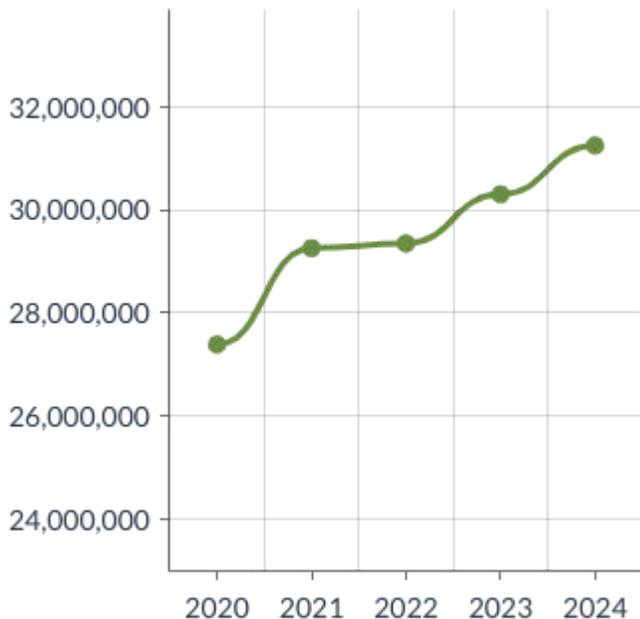
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**ADMINISTRATION SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

Growth	Administration	Increase development in the Town of Magrath.	Fast development and safety code permit processing.  Develop and sell attractive residentially zoned lots.	Monitor our service contractor for safety codes permits, to ensure they are processing permits within the contracted time frame.	After experiencing service delays due to an ownership transfer within our contractor the Town is pleased to report that safety code inspections are back to within contracted service response levels.  The Town's sales of its developed lots have been a very successful endeavor for the Town and has welcomed many new residents to our community.
Identity and Brand	Administration	Create brand recognition.	Publish the town's logo more.	Social media posts to include town branding.  Produce branded items to provide at town events and ceremonies.	Magrath's social media posts where possible now contain our local branding ensuring logo recognition.  The Town created several items throughout the year for giveaways and targeted advertising including a set of very popular stickers during Magrath Days.
	All Departments	Maintain the organization's identity as friendly and approachable.	Promote within staff a service centered approach to help guide residents to resolve an issue.	Empower staff through policy to provide accurate and timely information to help residents with questions.	A policy was passed through Council enabling senior staff to create appropriate service procedures and administrative policy to meet Council's bylaws and facility service expectations.
Recreation and Community	Operations	Maintain a high level of operational service.	Ensure facility operations are not adversely impacted from preventable issues.	Replace the Olympia Ice Resurfer's batteries.	The batteries were replaced, and operations were not impacted.
		Enhance accessibility to municipal buildings for people with disabilities.	Assign an annual budget for building accessibility renovations.	Maintain multiple staff trained and able to work arena and pool assignments.  Utilize the available funding to create greater accessibility.	New parks and recreation staff have all been trained to operate the arena.  This year a ramp was built in front of the community center.
Safety and Governance	Operations	Ensure building safety standards and correct deficiencies.	Review annual inspections for building concerns.	Make repairs and improvements as deemed appropriate.	The fire suppression system at the arena was upgraded to meet fire safety code compliance.
	Administration	Find ways to continuously improve governance structures.	Use Policy tools to inform and assist council in establishing policy best practices.	Create policy that provides role clarity and clean governance procedures.	Council's policy to establish both Council level and administrative policy is to work well to empower staff.
Utility Infrastructure	Operations	Maintain municipal utilities.  Provincial directive to reduce water usage during a drought year.	Upgrade for efficiency where practical.  Develop a policy and plan for water shortages.	Install SCADA to remaining lift station for remote monitoring.  Have council pass a policy and measure water consumption.	A SCADA system was installed in the only remaining lift station without one allowing staff to now be able to remotely view all system operations.  Council passed the water shortage policy that outlined various procedures with targeted water reductions when necessary to be called into action for drought or an emergency water shortage.
	Administration	Predictable costs with electric utilities for town facilities.	Use renewable power generation for the Town's buildings	Through a phased approach, use contractors to create sensible electricity generation for town facilities where sensible.	Phase one of the project was built and phase two was to apply for a grant.

# Financial Performance

## 2020-2024 Accumulated Surplus



The Town's audited financial statements from previous years are available on our website. The graph on the left illustrates the Town's five-year growth in accumulated surplus. This surplus represents the difference between the Town's total assets and its liabilities. It's important to note that this surplus is not the same as the cash in a bank account.

Assets include the value of buildings, vehicles, infrastructure (like pipelines), receivables, and any cash on hand as of December 31, 2024. Liabilities, on the other hand, include accounts payable, long-term debt, and deferred revenues. A positive trend in surplus indicates the Town is financially stable and thriving, reflecting a community that is both healthy and growing.

## Responsible and Well Managed Debt

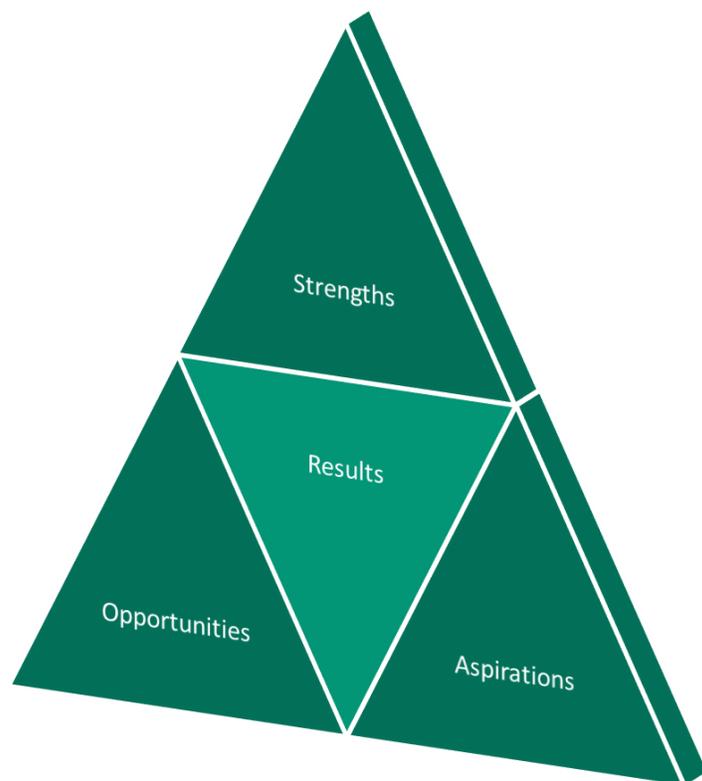
In 2024, the Town effectively reduced its long-term debt from \$901,271 to \$730,584 ensuring a balance well below the legislated debt limit \$8,272,470 for the town. To facilitate the ongoing installation of subdivisions, and utility facilities and services, aimed at bolstering residential lot availability in Magrath, the Town may consider borrowing in 2025 if needed.



# 2021- 2025 Council Term Progress



The Magrath Town Council set forth a comprehensive vision for sustainable growth in 2021-2025 to be achieved during the council term. As we reflect in the final year, We believe that many significant and positive community achievements have been made in meeting our strategic plan's objectives, and build a more vibrant and resilient community. The following is a summary of how these goals have been achieved.



# Goals Achieved this term

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## **Increase Recreational Opportunities and Options**

Projects Completed:

- Multicourt – New multi-sport court offering basketball, tennis, and more.
- Picnic Area at the Pool – New picnic area added next to the pool
- Field Announcer Stand - Provided a dedicated space for announcing and showcasing our talented local athletes.

## **Improve Local Deep Utility Service Infrastructure**

Projects Completed:

- Sewer Lagoon Desludging - restoration of treatment capacity and prevent issues.
- Sewer Lift Station Maintenance - All 3 lift stations had SCADA systems added to help monitor and control equipment.
- Potable Water to Campground – Potable water services extended to the campground.

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## **Enhance Economic Development and Tourism**

Projects Completed:

- Campground Expansion – Increased space for visitors to boost tourism.
- WR Baker Place (Phase 2) Residential Lots – Development of new residential lots.
- Land Purchases for Future Development – Acquiring land for upcoming residential projects.
- Magrath Community Centre - Transformation of the former curling club into a vibrant hub for social gatherings and events.

## **Sustainably Increase the Town's Population**

Projects Completed:

- 21 residential lots created and sold
- 13.43 acres of land purchased for Future Development

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## **Champion Renewable Energy Sources**

Projects Completed:

- 96.3 kWp Solar array

## **Infrastructure Improvements**

Projects Completed:

- Shop Vehicle Storage – New storage facilities for town maintenance vehicles.
- Paving of 7 Blocks – Road paving to improve local infrastructure.
- 8 Blocks of sidewalk which includes the Centre Street Sidewalk & Stormwater Drainage

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