

OUR Devon News

TOWN OF
Devon
ALBERTA

WINTER 2018



Important Dates

Feb. 6 – Winter Walk Day

Feb. 18 – Family Day/re:Fresh Air

Mar. 12 – State of the Town Address

1st Quarter Council Meetings

Council Meetings take place on the second and fourth Mondays of the month and start at 7 p.m. at the Town of Devon Office at 1 Columbia Ave. West, Devon.

All public is welcome to attend.



Message from Mayor & Council



Mayor
Ray Ralph

Happy New Year Devon! After a very successful year in 2018, we are excited for what 2019 will bring to our community.

Some of the highlights of what we accomplished in 2018 include:

- Passing the 2019 budget with zero increases to utility rates and one of the lowest municipal tax increases in all of Alberta at 1.35%
- The work being done to spur growth in our community by looking at options for developing the land west of HWY 60 across from Southport Common
- Continued work with our local law enforcement to ensure Devon is a safe place to call home
- Joining the Edmonton Regional Transit Services Commission to ensure Devon is

involved in all conversations about the future of transit in the Edmonton area

- The launch of our quarterly newsletter to better communicate with our residents
- Approval of a plan that will bring upgrades to our beautiful Voyageur Park starting in 2019 and continuing over the next few years.

These are just some of the examples of amazing work done over the past year and we hope to keep it rolling in 2019. Here is to another great year Devon!





2019 Operating Budget

After two days of deliberations, Devon Council approved the 2019 Operating Budget which includes a 1.35% municipal tax increase for 2019, one of the smallest increases in all of Alberta.

For a household with a median assessed value of \$316,500, the estimated impact of the 1.35% increase is about \$24.47 per year or \$2.04 per month on their property taxes.

A key area addressed by Council in the 2019 Operating Budget was Devon's Protective Services as an additional full-time RCMP Officer and two full-time daytime Firefighters to compliment the volunteer brigade were approved for 2019.

Municipal Tax Increases by Year

2010	3.08%
2011	3.28%
2012	3.54%
2013	3.96%
2014	3.27%
2015	4.79%
2016	3.75%
2017	1.81%
2018	1.59%
2019	1.35%



Planning & Development	\$0.02
Parks, Recreation & Culture	\$0.14
Elected Officials	\$0.05
Legislative Services	\$0.10
Corporate Services	\$0.13
Protective Services	\$0.16
Library	\$0.06
Infrastructure Management	\$0.22
Family & Community Support Services	\$0.10
Economic Development	\$0.02

2019 Utility Rates

In late November, Council passed Devon's 2019 utility rates with zero increase to wastewater, water, municipal solid waste and natural gas for 2019 and a small increase to bulk water.

Water Rate

- Basic monthly charge: \$13.46
- Commodity charge: \$1.55 per cubic metre

Sewer Rate

- Basic monthly charge: \$33.60
- Commodity charge: \$1.76 per cubic metre

Natural Gas Rate

- Basic monthly charge: \$35 per month
- Distribution charge: \$1.57 per GJ

Solid Waste & Recycling Rate

- Basic monthly charge for weekly pickup: \$30 per month

Bulk Water Rate

- Increase from \$4.50 to \$4.75 per cubic metre



Waste audit completed by Town

In 2018, the Town of Devon completed a waste audit that showed improvement in diverting organics and recyclables from the garbage stream since 2012, however the average black cart in Devon still contained almost half organics, recyclables and Recycling Depot items that could be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way.

It is important to divert food from the landfill as food waste takes up valuable landfill space, can take long to decompose when covered by other garbage and produces potent methane gas. Devon's organic waste is handled at a composting facility, preventing these environmental impacts as organic waste is turned into compost.

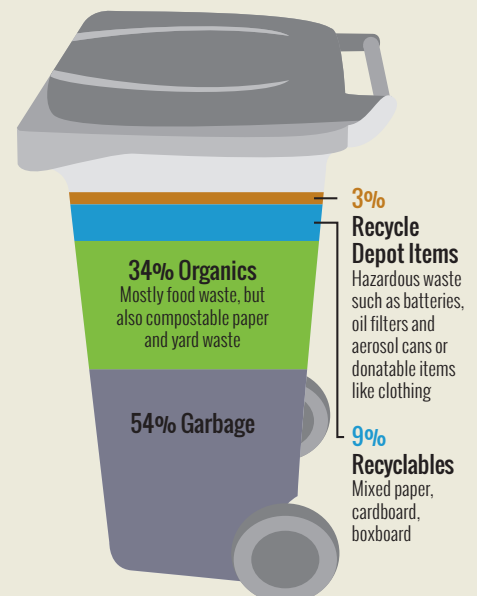
Areas identified for improvement in the Waste Audit Report include:

- Using your green (organics) cart year-round for food, soiled paper/cardboard and yard waste
- Using your blue recycling bag for clean paper, cardboard, tin and aluminum containers, #1 and #2 rigid plastics (yogurt containers, shampoo bottles, etc.)
- Using the Devon Recycling Depot to dispose of hazardous waste and electronics

Recycling is changing on a global level in 2019, but despite these changes, most items are still recyclable!

To view the entire Waste Audit Report, visit devon.ca/plans.

What's in your garbage?





West of HWY 60 Land Development Update

After months of community engagement and information sharing, the Town surveyed Devon residents in November to gauge their level of support for the development of the land west of Highway 60, including the proposed construction of a Recreation Facility that would act as an anchor retail outlet to spur commercial development in the area.

Survey Results

The survey received **709 responses** with some key takeaways from residents' perspective:

- 94% claimed they were familiar with the proposed initiative
- 58% stated they had reviewed the Open House Discussion Community Report document online
- 76% of respondents agree that the Town should do more to support economic growth and understand the increased borrowing would provide the means to do so
- 69% of respondents agree that the proposed facility would increase key recreation events and bring new user groups
- 72% state that at least one member of their household would use the proposed facility
- Less than 50% of respondents said they would use a field house
- The community is divided in terms of their overall support for the project

The survey results were presented to Council at their Dec. 10 Council Meeting and a full report of the results have been forwarded to Municipal Affairs to help them to determine if Devon is eligible for an extension of its borrowing capacity to fund the proposed development. We anticipate a decision will be received from Municipal Affairs in early 2019.

Next Steps

Council has not yet decided on whether they will pursue the construction of a Recreation Facility as the project is still in its preliminary stages.

At this time, Select Engineering has been contracted to determine next phase cost estimates for developing the land west of Highway 60 for resale.

Council still retains the final decision regarding the fate of the entire development, including the proposed Recreation Facility. There are many factors that contribute to this decision including the potential of being the recipient of grants from the provincial and federal governments and cost sharing agreements with municipal neighbours totaling potentially \$13.5 million dollars.

If Council chooses to proceed with the development of the land including the construction of a Recreation Facility, all necessary steps will be taken to ensure the project is viable for the future of Devon.

Learn more about the proposed development of the land across Highway 60 at devon.ca/westof60.



Town of Devon pursuing PACE Program

In 2018, the Government of Alberta introduced legislation so that municipalities can provide a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program to help Albertans make affordable energy efficiency upgrades to their private property with zero money down and the cost of the upgrade recovered from the property owner through their property taxes.

The Town of Devon is now in the process of pursuing the PACE Program to help Devon residents and business owners make energy efficiency upgrades to their home and/or business. PACE legislation is expected to come into force in early 2019.

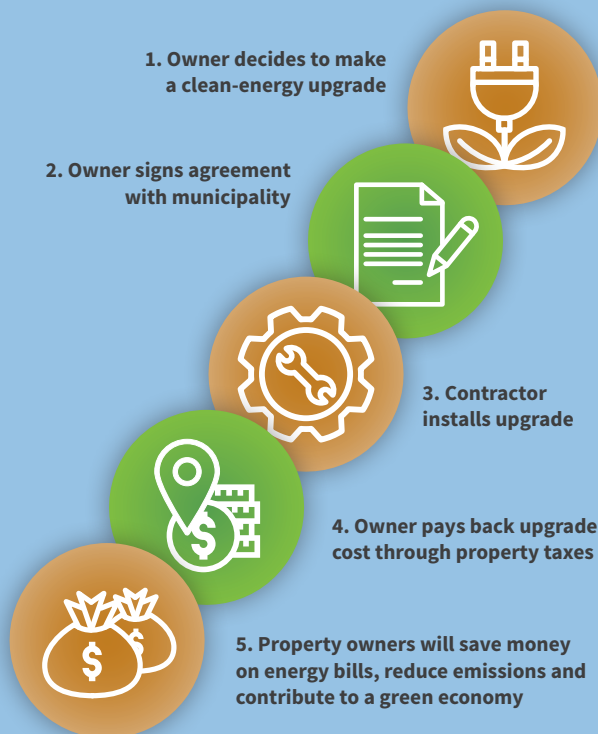
Eligible projects under the PACE Program include: solar power, upgraded insulation, windows and doors and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems. PACE improvements are available to residential, commercial and agriculture property.

How the PACE Program works

1. Owner decides to make a clean-energy upgrade
2. Owner signs agreement with municipality
3. Contractor installs upgrade
4. Owner pays back upgrade cost through property taxes
5. Property owners will save money on energy bills, reduce emissions and contribute to a green economy

Learn more about the PACE Program at alberta.ca/PACE.

Here's how PACE would work:



2019 Town of Devon Events

FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY
06
Winter Walk Day
11 am-1 pm

MONDAY
18
Family Day/
re-Fresh Air
1-3 pm



APRIL

FRIDAY
12
Volunteer Appreciation Night
6-10 pm

MAY
APR-MAY
29-3
Community Clean Up Week

JUNE

SATURDAY
01
Out by the River
11 am-1 pm

WEDNESDAY
05
Seniors Week Celebration • 2-4 pm
Devon Days Kick off BBQ • 5-7 pm



SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY
04
Community Awareness Night
1-3 pm

OCTOBER

SATURDAY
26
Halloween Dance
5-8 pm

FRIDAY
03
Community Clean Up Week Wrap Up BBQ
5-7 pm

JULY

MONDAY
01
Canada Day
12:30-3 pm

AUGUST

SATURDAY
10
EPCOR River Fest

WEDNESDAY
28
Movie in the Park
9 pm



NOVEMBER

SATURDAY
30
Christmas in the Park
4-8 pm

DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY
04
Seniors' Tea and Jingles
12:30 pm



Devon joins municipal neighbours to pursue regional transit



Earlier this fall, Devon became one of 13 communities to sign a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) to establish the Edmonton Regional Transit Services Commission that will look at developing an integrated transit service for the Edmonton region.

By working together, the overall goal of the commission is to build a transit system that provides more convenient and extensive service across the region while reducing the barriers that a single municipality faces to establish transit service for its residents.

The commission is anticipated to be officially formed in 2019 and regional transit service is currently anticipated to begin in 2021 for all participating municipalities.



Animal shelter services now available for lost/found pets

As of January 1, 2019, the Town of Devon has partnered with Country Kennels Bed and Biscuit to provide animal shelter services for lost and found animals in the Devon area. Country Kennels Bed and Biscuit is located 8km south of Leduc on the west side of RR 260.

Devon has struggled to secure a shelter for domestic animals in the past. All domestic animals from within the Town of Devon's limits that are taken into the custody of the Town's Community Peace Officers will be brought to the shelter to be taken care of.

Learn more about Country Kennels Bed and Biscuit at countrykennelsbnb.com.

CONTACT US



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Office Open Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(except holidays)



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