

OUR Devon News

TOWN OF
Devon
ALBERTA

FALL 2023

Important Dates

- **Sept. 4** – Labour Day Office Closure
- **Sept. 6** – State of the Town Address
- **Sept. 6** – Community Awareness Night
- **Sept. 16 & 17** – Treasure Hunt
- **Sept. 19 & 20** – Fall Large Item Pick Up
- **Sept. 30** – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- **Oct. 9-14** – Fall Mental Health Week
- **Oct. 9** – Thanksgiving Office Closure
- **Oct. 28** – Halloween Haunt
- **Nov. 11** – Remembrance Day
- **Nov. 13** – Remembrance Day Office Closure
- **Nov. 25** – Christmas in the Park
- **Dec. 3** – UN Persons with Disabilities Awareness Day
- **Dec. 7** – Seniors Tea and Jingles
- **Dec. 7 & 14** – The Singing Bus
- **Dec. 25** – Christmas Day!
- **Dec 26 -Jan. 2** – Christmas Office Closure

* Events are subject to change learn more at devon.ca/events

Sept.
12 & 25

Oct.
10 & 23

Nov.
13 & 27

Dec.
11

Upcoming Council Meetings

Council Meetings occur 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 the public is welcome to attend.

*Note, there is only one Council Meeting in December

Message from Mayor & Council



Mayor
Jeff
Craddock

Hello Devon and thank you for reading our Fall 2023 Devon News Newsletter!

We have had a jam-packed summer with our Summer Shack Program, Day Camps, Canada Day Celebration, Summer Solstice Gathering Ceremony, 25th Anniversary of the Community Centre, Devon Pride - Out by the River, Devon Days, and our second Downtown Market all taking place over the last few months and run by our amazing Community Services department.

Administration has put in a lot of work developing new plans over the past few months to help prepare Devon for the future including:

- The **“Bringing Vision to Life” Strategic Priorities Update**, which provides a thorough overview of the work completed as of June 2023, towards achieving Council’s top priorities of Community & Public Engagement, Facility Development, Development of a Growth Plan and Business Outreach and Economic Development.
- The **Growing and Prospering Together Master Plan**, which combines infrastructure planning, demographic changes, economic development & investment, and land use planning into a future vision while tying into Council’s strategic focus and commitment to encouraging growth in Devon.

- A **Climate Adaptation Plan** which will provide practical steps to mitigate climate impacts in our community.

Together, these plans lay out a path to attracting future investment into Devon while showcasing some of the great work going on to achieve the priorities laid out by Council for the community.

We will also be quite busy in September hosting our first Fall State of the Town Address, followed by Community Awareness Night on Sept. 6, 2023. Following the State of the Town Address, we will also be sharing our Year in Review video with the community highlighting some of the great work done by the Town over the past year.

This year’s Community Awareness Night will feature a new level of service as we will also have Town Council on site for cookies and conversations along with Town staff from all of department ready to engage with the public and exchange information to ensure we are doing our part for our community.

Thank you again everyone, here is to another great fall here in our Devon!



Arena Twinning Project Update

You've probably noticed, but....

Construction is **OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY** on the second sheet of ice at the Dale Fisher Arena!

On April 28, 2023, we hosted a shovel ceremony to celebrate the official beginning of construction on this long-awaited expansion to our local arena.

Construction is well underway and we expect it be **completed by mid-2024** and the new expanded facility to be ready to go with two full sheets of ice for the 2024 season in the fall.

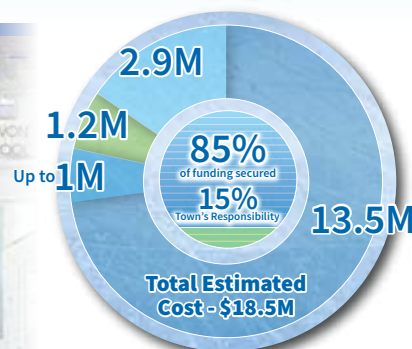
Coming in 2024



New Arena Amenities

New additions to look forward to in the expanded facility include:

- A second full sheet of ice
- New dressing rooms
- A unified energy efficient ice plant
- Additional parking to the west of the arena



Arena Funding

This project was possible thanks to several key contributors including:

- Grant Funding - \$13.5M (ICIP \$7.3M, MSI \$6.13M)
- Cost Sharing - Up to \$1M Parkland County
- Town Reserves - \$1.2M
- Debentured Costs (30 Yrs) - \$2.9M



Bringing Vision to Life: Strategic Priorities Update

During the June 26, 2023, Council meeting, Council received an update on their strategic priorities through a presentation of the *Bringing Vision to Life – Strategic Priorities Update* document.

In Oct. 2021, Council had initially identified 4 immediate priorities to be addressed by Administration that included: Public Engagement, Growth Strategy, Recreation Facility and Business Outreach.

Upon review of these priorities, Administration has expanded on them to now include:

- Public & Community Engagement
- Development of the Growing & Prospering Together Master Plan
- Facility Development – Arena, Esso Building, Public Facing Facility Master Plan, Multi-Purpose Fields, & Esso Lands
- Business Outreach & Economic Development
- Implementing an Integrated Corporate Planning & Fiscal Management Cycle

The *Bringing Vision to Life* document outlines the work Administration has completed to advance Council's strategic priorities as well as next steps and/or future plans to continue to move them forward.

Learn more about Council's strategic priorities at devon.ca/council-priorities



Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results

As part of Council's priority of Public & Community Engagement, the Town of Devon contracted Leger, a Canadian marketing company, to undertake its first official Citizen Satisfaction Survey to better understand its residents' perspectives on the Town's programs and services.

**The survey ran from late April to mid-June
with 246 households participating.**

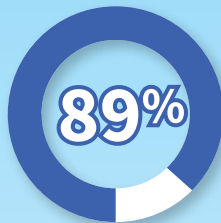
The information collected through this survey was presented to Council at their Aug. 21 Council Meeting and will help guide future important decisions relating to long-term planning, priority setting, budgeting, communications, and other strategies prepared by the Town.

The survey was broken down into 10 key finding areas:



1. Quality of Life

89% of survey respondents feel they have a good/very good quality of life in Devon, and this has stayed consistent over the past 3 years.



2. Programs and Services

Residents in Devon are generally satisfied with the quality of programs and services. The public believes there is an opportunity to improve the quality of some services including planning, utilities, and municipal enforcement.

3. Perceptions of Town and Community

Residents' perceptions of living in Devon are quite positive. Areas of interest for the community include improving the local economy and a plan for the future of the Town, something Council is well aware of and working towards.

4. Local Events

Residents are very satisfied with events held by the Town as well as the river valley, Lions Campground, Voyageur Park, and Devon's nature trails.

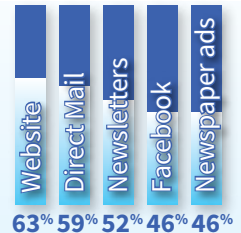
5. Key Issues and Improvements

Residents believe the greatest issues in the community are addressing crime, attracting new business, development and providing more recreational opportunities.

6. Information and Communications

Most residents feel the Town does a good job sharing information with the community. Information the community is most interested in include: addressing crime, Town development and growth, Town programs and events and important decisions made by Council.

Top 5 ways residents prefer to receive info



7. Town of Devon Website

The majority (87%) of residents have visited the Town's website and find it quite useful.



In 2020, the Town put in the effort to overhaul its website and make it more user friendly, and it is great to see this effort is appreciated by the community.

8. Residents Engagement

Many residents are engaged with just under half of survey respondents having attended a public engagement event and over one third directly providing input to a member of Council or the Town within the last 3 years.

9. Council and Staff



Citizens generally understand the role that elected officials and Town employees have. Overall, there are very positive perceptions in the community of Town employees and the majority of respondents are satisfied with their interactions with the Town.

10. Value for Tax Dollars

While the majority of residents believe they receive good value for their property tax dollars in Devon, there is a small group that feel neutral or that they are not receiving the value for their services. The Town will continue to do its part to share how property tax dollars are spent and to educate the public on how property taxes are administered with the education requisition to build this understanding in the community.

**To see the full Citizen Satisfaction Survey
Results presentation shared with Council,
go to devon.ca/CSS**



Growing and Prospering Together Master Plan

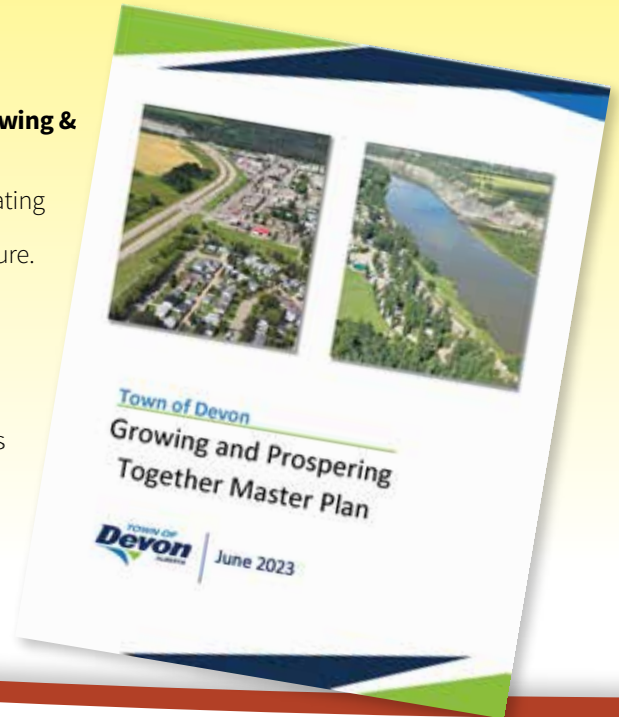
After months of engagement with key community groups, Council approved the **Growing & Prospering Together Master Plan** at their June 26, 2023, Council Meeting.

This new Growth Plan ties into Council's strategic priority and commitment to facilitating growth in Devon by incorporating infrastructure planning, demographic changes, economic development & investment, and land use planning into a vision for the future.

Several *key performance indicators (KPIs)* are also included throughout the plan to measure its success and provide benchmarks for future growth including:

- The advancement of a plan for economic growth
- Development of the Devonian Business Park
- Balancing growth with the preservation of the river valley and other open spaces

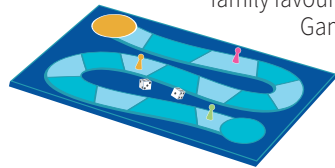
**Learn more about the
Growing & Prospering Together Master Plan
at devon.ca/growth-plan**



What's happening this fall

GAMES NIGHTS

Gather your friends and families to enjoy an evening out for a drop-in games night! Check out the huge variety of board games to play from old family favourites to new puzzles and cooperative games. Games nights are free to attend and are held at the Devon Community Centre on various evenings throughout the fall.



Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
7 & 9	12 & 24	9 & 28	14

HALLOWEEN HAUNT

Time to dust off those spooky costumes! The 2023 Halloween Haunt will feature a haunted house and games/activities at the Community Centre on **Sat, Oct. 28th starting at 6 p.m.** Tickets will be on sale in September!



Learn more at devon.ca/halloween

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

A full Christmas in the Park event will be back this year on **Sat, Nov. 25th** at the Lions Campground. The celebration will include visits with Santa & The Grinch, a maple taffy station, chili, hot dogs, park light up, and more.

Information about the event will be available closer to the day of the event.

Learn more at devon.ca/CITP



SENIORS TEA & JINGLES

Looking for a festive evening full of tea, laughter and music?

Join us at the Devon Community Centre on **Thurs, Dec 7th from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.** for our yearly Seniors Tea & Jingles!



CONTACT US



1 Columbia Avenue West,
Devon, AB T9G 1A1



780-987-8300



facebook.com/TownofDevon

Follow us @TownofDevon

@TownofDevon



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



devon.ca



Sign up to receive our newsletter via
email at devon.ca/newsletter

This newsletter is printed on sustainably sourced paper.