

NOVEMBER 2022



Head librarian Samantha Stokell encourages everyone in Fort Smith to visit the new Mary Kaeser Library.

LIBRARY OPENS IN NEW HOME

MARY KAESER LIBRARY is now open with extended hours in its new accessible space on the second floor of the Community and Recreation Centre. The new library features free Wi-Fi, six computers for public use, another computer dedicated to children's literacy, a printer that allows users to connect to it from their phone, and a 3D printer that community members can use to print their own designs.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO BOOKS, DVDs, Blu-Rays, audiobooks, video games, magazines, newspapers and access to digital resources such as e-books, audiobooks, and tools to learn languages. Freddy the Turtle, the library's most longstanding employee, is happy in his new home.

FOLLOW FORT SMITH'S Mary Kaeser Library on its new Facebook page for up-to-date information about the library and upcoming programming such as Storytime for children aged 0-5, Friday afternoon craft and STEM activities, and some fun adult programming, too! The library can be reached at its new phone number: 872-0362.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday and Wednesday 10:00AM–7:00PM
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Noon–7:00PM
Saturday 10:00AM–4:00PM
Sunday Noon–4:00PM

EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND TOWN

NOVEMBER 30 Shop Local Bingo ends:
<https://www.fortsmith.ca/smallbusinessweek>

DECEMBER 9–11 Cookie Crawl Scavenger Hunt. Purchase Christmas tins at Town Hall and the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre. Visit local businesses to collect cookies made by local bakers.

CONTACT THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH AT:
(867) 872-8400 or by email: townoffortsmith@fortsmith.ca

WWW.FORTSMITH.CA

COMMUNITY HOUSING STUDY

THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH has teamed up with Housing NWT to assess the community's housing needs and develop a housing plan that establishes priorities and goals for developing housing in Fort Smith. This project, which runs until June 2023, builds upon a paper the Sustainable Development Advisory Committee produced several years ago identifying the need for one- and two- bedroom housing, and rental housing particularly for young professionals who are not ready to purchase a home. The project will include a research phase, community consultations and the

development of strategies to address Fort Smith's housing needs.

THE FORT SMITH HOUSING Strategy Advisory Board is being set up to bring together representatives from Salt River First Nation, Smith's Landing First Nation, the Fort Smith Métis Council, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Aurora College, the Fort Smith Seniors Society and the Chamber of Commerce. The first meeting is planned for December 14.

COUNCIL DISCUSSING TOWN BUDGET

TOWN COUNCIL will be hosting a community meeting on November 17 from 7-9pm in the Community and Recreation Centre gym. This Town Hall style meeting will allow Council to provide residents an update on the budget process and fiscal issues facing the Town. Every year Council is required to review and approve a balanced operation and maintenance budget and a capital plan.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS

TOWN COUNCIL is developing a plan to improve how it communicates with residents. The Town currently uses social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, distribution of a Town newsletter through mail drops and accompanying the residents receiving October e-billing, bulletin boards around town, and the occasional radio spot. Council meetings are aired on YouTube.

THE TOWN'S communications committee completed an online survey to assess the effectiveness of each communication channel. The plan will be completed in early 2023.

IMPROVEMENTS TO MANAGING TRASH

THE TOWN is looking into environmentally and fiscally responsible ways to better manage the community's trash. This includes reducing weekly garbage collection, and buying a new truck that has an automated arm and bins that reduce the number of staff required for collection.

OTHER MODERN WASTE management strategies the Town is looking into implementing:

- Finding places that can recycle appliances so they don't take up space at the dump,
- Decreasing the volume of trash by, for example, crushing things;
- Looking at composting at the landfill. The resulting dirt can be used to cover trash to keep it from blowing around, reducing the need for the Town to buy cover.
- Setting up space where residents can put items they want to get rid of but other people can use.

LIGHT UP THE PARK

THE TOWN is working with the territorial Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to light up Queen Elizabeth Territorial Park from December 5 to 31. Local businesses, organizations and families are invited to decorate one of 27

campsites. The event was highly popular when it began in 2020, and is making a comeback.

Contact: 867-445-8444 to register for a site or for more information.

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE WITH THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH

WEBSITE www.fortsmith.ca

TWITTER twitter.com/TownofFortSmith

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/fortsmithnwt/

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/FortSmithRecreation/

INSTAGRAM www.instagram.com/fortsmithnwt/?hl=en

YOUTUBE www.youtube.com/channel/UCxW4uMkOB1dmN4rIDExVVsw/featured

Fort Smith's Mayor and Council have created a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Here's how you can connect with your elected officials:

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/FortSmithGov/

TWITTER twitter.com/fortsmithgov

INSTAGRAM www.instagram.com/fortsmithgov/