



Fort Smith Town Council commemorated late Mayor Harry Sudom at a meeting on January 18, 2022.

COVID UPDATE

THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH remains under Emergency Health Orders. Regular programming at the Community Recreation Centre and Mary Kaeser Library are resuming. Proof of vaccination to access town facilities, and the requirement to wear a mask remain in place. These are the conditions the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer set to allow the

Town to serve a higher number of community members. Amid rising numbers of COVID cases in the community following an outbreak of Omicron, Mayor and council requested that the border checkpoint near town be reinstated due to traffic heading north on the winter road. However, the territorial government's COVID secretariat decided this was unnecessary.

REDESIGN OF CONIBEAR PARK

THANKS TO FUNDING from the territorial Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, the Town of Fort Smith hired Edmonton landscape design firm the IBI Group to create a plan to make Conibear Park a gathering place for the community once again. During a second round of consultations in early February, the consultants gathered feedback about preliminary designs for Conibear Park's layout, signage and amenities such as benches and picnic tables.

THE PLANS INTEGRATE accessibility for people with mobility impairments and include such features as a stage for events, storage space, expanded parking and interpretive panels about the region's Indigenous and post-settlement history. The same style of signage and furniture in the park will also be used throughout the town for a cohesive look that reflects Fort Smith's uniqueness: the presence and role of the Slave River. The final design is expected to be completed by March 31. The community will be consulted on the content for the interpretive signs.

CONTACT THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH AT:
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WWW.FORTSMITH.CA

INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH is working with Edmonton consulting firm IBI Group to develop an *Integrated Transportation Master Plan (ITMP)* that identifies Fort Smith's transportation needs for the next 20 years. This includes the needs of people who walk, drive, cycle, snowmobile, as well as commercial and industrial drivers.

THE PLAN maps the current transportation infrastructure; looks at where transportation can be safer and work better for people; looks at lighting, signage, paving, sidewalks, trails and speeds; recommends improvements and changes to make transportation better – along with anticipated costs. Initial community consultations were completed, and a second round will be held in March. A final *Integrated Transportation Master Plan* is expected in April.

ENERGY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

THE FORT SMITH ENERGY PLAN helps determine community priorities around energy to increase efficiency, reduce emissions and drive economic development. It identifies how the community uses energy, and looks at projects and partnership opportunities to use energy more efficiently. The Town is currently updating the last plan, which was developed in 2010 as part of an integrated community sustainability plan. That plan led to establishing the Sustainable Development Advisory Board to assist in decision-making, and switching several corporate facilities from oil heating to either biomass or a district energy system. The Town met their greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, dropping from 30,000 tonnes in 2008 to 17,000 tonnes in 2018. This marks a 57% decrease over the period of a decade.

A NEW COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN, which will set new goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become more carbon neutral, is expected in March. That plan will integrate feedback received during an online survey in November and focus groups in February.

HOW TO REACH YOUR MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Fred Daniels
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Councillor Louise Beaulieu
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**Town of Fort Smith Facebook page
for notices about community events**
<https://www.facebook.com/fortsmithnwt>

**Town of Fort Smith Facebook page
to keep tabs on Council's activities**
<https://www.facebook.com/FortSmithGov/>

Watch Council meetings
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx-W4uMkOB1dmN4rIDExVVsw>

WATER AND SEWER FEE CHANGES

A DISCOUNT that residents received if they paid their water bill for the entire year in one lump sum by the end of February has been discontinued. The discount was intended to help people who had difficulty paying their water bill, but the Town found that it wasn't benefiting the people who needed the assistance.

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE covering the costs of offering water and sewer services, the Town is making changes to the *Consolidated Rates and Fees Bylaw*. Rates will increase, particularly for residents who live outside municipal boundaries.

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/