

BOUNDLESS UPDATES

FORT FRANCES



WELCOME
BIENVENUE
BOOZHOO

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Mill site redevelopment plans

PUBLIC NOTICE



Wessuc Inc. has been retained by the Town of Fort Frances to conduct

**Sewer Main Cleaning and
Televising**

on specific streets within the town.

**Wessuc will commence
Wednesday, May 1st, 2024
and complete by
Tuesday, May 14th, 2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ice out of the 52 rink
April 29, 2024

Ice out of the IFK rink
May 10, 2024

RECRUITING

- Water Distribution/Wastewater Collection Operator
- Mechanic
- Volunteer Firefighter
- Casual: Lifeguard/Receptionist/Instructor
- Post-Secondary: Parks, Public Works, Water

fortfrances.ca/employment

WATER, SEWER, TAX E-BILLING

To sign up, email ebilling@FortFrances.ca, provide account number, name & address

BIDS, TENDERS, EOIs

Expression of Interest for **scheduled air service** for Fort Frances & Dryden airports.

Closing **April 18, 2024 at 3:00pm.**

FortFrances.BidsAndTenders.ca

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Held at the Civic Centre & Microsoft Teams:

REGULAR COUNCILS

April 22 at 5:30pm

May 13 at 5:30pm

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COUNCIL MEETING BRIEFS

APRIL 8, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING



Reminder of By-Law 16-06

Non-essential use of Water By-Law takes effect May 15th to September 15th

Those at ODD NUMBERED addresses may use non-essential use of water on odd numbered calendar days, and those at EVEN NUMBERED addresses may use non-essential use of water on even numbered calendar days.

The restrictions imposed above are not in **effect on the 31st day of any month.**

DEFINITIONS

Non-essential use of water shall include watering of lawns and gardens, filling of swimming pools, washing of vehicles (other than commercially-operated car washes) and any other use of water which is not essential to public health and safety, personal hygiene, or to sustain a commercial activity at the municipal address where water is used.

Where a person has made application in writing to the By-Law Enforcement Department of the Corporation for exemption from the provisions the By-Law Enforcement Department may at its discretion, and having considered the merits of the circumstances surrounding the request, give in writing an exemption from the provisions.

Any person who fails to comply with the restrictions of this by-law or fails to comply with a directive given under Section 9 is guilty of an offence, and upon the conviction thereof, is liable to a maximum fine of \$300.00 (three hundred dollars).

In addition to the above penalty upon the violation of any terms of this by-law, the Corporation may discontinue water service to the property of the person in this contravention. There is a fee for having water turned off/on.

BY-LAWS

- 21-24 - Establish tax ratios for prescribed property classes
- 22-24 - Adopt estimates of all sums required for all municipal purposes during 2024
- 23-24 - Authorize the levy and collection of taxes for all municipal purposes during 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

- City of Cambridge, Catch and Release motion
- Township of Archipelago, Volunteer Firefighters and Search and Rescue Volunteer motion
- Motion waiving rental fees for FFHS Chem Free Grad
- Agreement under the Community Safety and Policing Act
- Agreement with NGL Group Limited for Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre Strategic Plan and Cultural Master Plan
- NOHFC agreement for funding of Hallett and Owandem
- Wastewater Treatment Plant 2023 annual report

DEPUTATIONS/DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- Deputation: Friends of Fort Frances, F. Laverdure
- Presentation: 2024 Budget, D. Galusha, Treasurer

OTHER ITEMS

- Correspondence: Review of Ontario Works and ODSP financial assistance rates
- Mayor and Council report on meetings and events attended. Mentioned his upcoming notice of motion regarding American fishing guides and anglers.
- External Communications Policy moving to by-law
- Receiving of General, Water, & Sewer financial statements
- Facility Rental Policy draft brought forward
- Former mill site rezoning approval
- Splash Zone Rainy Lake inflatable waterpark project approved in principle

IN CAMERA

- Update on the JTJ Litigation
This in-camera item is in accordance with the Municipal Act: 239. (e) & (f)

GRANTS & ROADS ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

This section will be dedicated to addressing some of those concerns expressed surrounding grants and funding department projects.

THE TOWN RECEIVED A GRANT - WHY CAN'T IT BE USED ON ROADS?

Grants like the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, FedNor, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund have prescribed usage, such as promoting economic development or supporting community initiatives. The recent grants to Sunny Cove, Hallett and Owandem, and the Museum align with these purposes making them eligible, while road projects are not. To ensure future eligibility, we need clear reporting demonstrating that the money was used for its intended purposes and not diverted to other areas.

WHY DOES THE TOWN NOT APPLY FOR GRANTS FOR ROADS?

We do! Our Operations & Facilities team works hard in applying for these grants so these projects are not entirely paid for by taxpayers. We shared this information quite recently on our March 15th newsletter, but are happy to highlight it again in case you missed it:

COMPLETED WORK

- **2022 King's Highway** reconstruction, grants covered **90%** of the project
- **2022/23 Mowat Avenue** reconstruction, grants covered **98%** of the project
- **2023 Sinclair Avenue** reconstruction, grants covered **59%** of the project

UPCOMING/PLANNED WORK

- **2024 First Street East** reconstruction, grants set to cover approximately **96.4%** of the project
- **2024 Third Street West** reconstruction, grants set to cover approximately **66%** of the project
- **2024 parts of 5th Street West and 6th Street** resurfacing, the Town is **applying for grants** to help fund this project

WHY DOES THE TOWN PRIORITIZE FUNDING FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS OVER ROADS?

Efforts to maintain roads and infrastructure are ongoing, and these projects require careful planning to manage resources effectively. Rapid solutions would impose hefty financial burdens, not in line with residents' preferences.

The Town's budget allocations aims to address diverse needs beyond only roads. While roads and infrastructure are crucial for safety, longevity, and connectivity, it's essential to recognize that a vibrant town encompasses more than just its thoroughfares.

From recreational facilities to cultural landmarks to municipal staples such as libraries, museums, parks, each plays a vital role in community well-being and in attracting residents, businesses, and tourists. This is exemplified in our strategic plan, which gathered resident input through multiple available opportunities to do so in 2023 (such as public sessions, surveys). We must consider the entire community's needs holistically and do our best to utilize available funds from taxes, revenue, funding, and grants efficiently.

We work hard to apply for all funding opportunities available to us to assist in operational expenditures as well as capital and asset management planning. The Town has been very successful in receiving grants in the recent past, but is not successful in every application.

WHY IS THE PUBLIC NOT PART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS IN SETTING PRIORITIES?

You're welcome to attend every budget meeting to voice your comments, ideas, questions, or concerns, or submit correspondence for Council consideration. This is your opportunity to directly influence how we prioritize departments and projects, including roads. Unfortunately we often receive public input and ideas too late or through non-Town channels. Watch our website and socials this fall for public 2025 Budget Deliberations.

SPOTLIGHT

RECOGNITION

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT STAFF

Put into motion April 8th, 2024: "That at this time, the staff of the Wastewater Treatment Plant should be acknowledged for their effort and hard work to ensure safe and compliant operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Please keep up the good work".

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION

In recognition of the diligent efforts of Council and Administration in crafting the 2024 budget, Mayor Hallikas described this year as one of the most challenging in memory. Despite facing tough, unpopular decisions, including a significant tax increase, they showed courage and dedication. The Treasurer's comprehensive budget presentation on April 8th shed light on the reasons behind certain increases. Their willingness to make difficult choices, coupled with efforts to minimize the burden on taxpayers by reducing their own budgets, is worth acknowledging.

SEEKING AIR SERVICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE



Expression of Interest: Scheduled Air Service at Dryden Regional and Fort Frances Municipal airports

The City of Dryden and the Town of Fort Frances have issued an Expression of Interest to solicit proposals from reputable air service carriers who can provide safe, affordable, and reliable air service at Dryden Regional Airport ("YHD") and Fort Frances Municipal Airport ("YAG"). Eligible air carriers are invited to submit proposals to operate passenger services at YHD, YAG, or both.

Proposal Due Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 15:00 CDT Find more details at www.FortFrances.ca

PROJECT UPDATES

SUMMER ICE SECURE YOUR HOURS ASAP



We need your help! If we want to secure July ice for the community, 290 hours in total must be sold by Monday, April 15th. Contact Melissa at (807) 274-4561 x1701 or mbelluz@fortfrances.ca

The in-floor plumbing works have been completed!
M Builds is proceeding with reinforcement and compaction in preparation for the concrete pool deck.

POOL UPDATE WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS!



EVENTS FROM THE TOWN



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BARBECUE

Are you a volunteer? Please come see us during National Volunteer Week on **April 19th between 11:30 to 1:30pm at the Memorial Sports Centre** and let us thank you in person! Plus, members of Council and Town Employees will be serving you a **free barbecue lunch**. **While quantities last. Thanks to the Kiwanis Club for lending us their barbecue and propane so we can make this event happen.

STANDARD FIRST AID COURSE

Memorial Sports Centre is pleased to announce the return of the Lifesaving Society **Standard First Aid Course**.

The first class will be held **April 20th & 21st**. Register online at fortfrances.ca/sportscentre

COFFEE, TEA & HISTORY

Thursday April 18th, \$4 Admission

Dive into the past with Coffee, Tea, & History. Held at the **Fort Frances Museum**.

April's theme will be **Ukrainian Easter Surprises!**

Featuring: exquisite eggs (pysanky), beautiful embroidery, embellished dolls, and more!

Drop in between 10am-11:30 to get an exclusive viewing of these artifacts. After, socialize with a warm drink & tasty treat.

For updates visit: facebook.com/FortFrancesMuseum

SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION

The **Memorial Sports Centre Summer Program** registration opens on **April 15th at 10:00am**.

Register online by going to our website fortfrances.ca/sportscentre and scroll down to 'JOIN TODAY'.

For more information, give Ria a call at (807) 274-4561 x1720. Programs are also listed in the Spring Recreator which can also be found at the link above.

OUR PLANET IS BEE-UTIFUL PD PROGRAM

Friday, April 19th, \$4/child - In partnership with the NWHU.

This will be held at the **Fort Frances Museum**.

Registration is required, under 7 to be accompanied by an adult.

Make Bee Hotels, learn about pollinators, and plant a flower. Stick around for an optional Safe Spring Cleanup.

COMMUNITY TIES & TAPESTRIES: FIBRE ARTISTS OF THE RAINY RIVER VALLEY

Update: Exhibition opening is **Friday, April 26th, 2024 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm**.

The exhibit will run April 26th to June 28th, 2024. At the **Fort Frances Museum**.

SCIENCE NORTH EXHIBIT IS EXTENDED

EXTENDED – LAST DAYS! Come celebrate the ever-evolving world of Indigenous Ingenuity with our travelling exhibition, presented by Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North. The exhibition will be at the **Fort Frances Museum only until April 23!**

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have demonstrated tremendous ingenuity; inspired and guided by place, spirit, and nature. The world we know today is influenced by their scientific knowledge. Ongoing contributions of Indigenous innovations, knowledges, and worldviews are integral to the mosaic of humanity.

This exhibition presents a clever and novel mix of science and culture. It celebrates the diversity, interconnectedness and resourceful ways of knowing and being, that Indigenous knowledge and innovations provide in the global community.

Admission is by donation, and it's fun for the whole family! Visit **Monday through Friday from 11:00am to 4:00pm**, with the last entry at 3:00pm.

For more information or to book school groups, visit sciencenorth.ca

In Addition...

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY

Wednesday, April 24th is Administrative Professionals' Day!

Throughout the corporation, we have many incredible administrative professionals who work hard for the Town and for its residents. Thanks for all that you do throughout the year!

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

The presentation regarding the plans for redevelopment of the former mill site!

Find it on our YouTube: [youtube.com/@FortFrancesON](https://www.youtube.com/@FortFrancesON)

Alternatively you may request a copy of the presentation slideshow from the Clerks Office at (807) 274-5323

RECRUITING FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT OPP DETACHMENT BOARD

Recruiting one Fort Frances resident. More info at [FortFrances.ca](https://www.fortfrances.ca)

The following seats can be applied to at:

fortfrances.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication/

FORT FRANCES MUNICIPAL NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORP

Recruiting one Fort Frances resident.

MUSEUM AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seeking one Fort Frances High School Youth Representative.

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seeking one Fort Frances High School Youth Representative.

REMINDERS OF SUMP PUMPS

Per By-Law 06-16 - **Regulation of the Sewer System in the Town of Fort Frances** - Section 8.2 (b) **“Weeping Tile Sump Pumps may only be discharged to the sanitary sewer between October 15th and March 31st.** As of April 1st, no weeping tile sump pump is permitted to be discharged to the sanitary sewer system.”

Please ensure that your sump pumps are pumping outside to the surface, ditch, or storm sewer system, and not to the sewer system.

WATCH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

APRIL 26TH!

THANK YOU
MERCI
MIIGWECH