



FORT FRANCES

Friday, July 12, 2024

BOUNDLESS UPDATES

WELCOME BIENVENUE BOOZHOO TAANISHI

The Town is Hiring:

- Mechanic
- Volunteer Firefighter
- Casual
Lifeguard/Reception/Instructor

JOB

FortFrances.ca/Employment

Sign up for E-Billing

For Water, Sewer, and Taxes, we have E-Billing available!

Send ebilling@fortfrances.ca your name, account #, address, and Finance will get you set up!



Car Show at the July 11th Mall Day on Scott Street. Thanks to the BIA for putting this event together! Vendors, businesses, food trucks, and activities flooded Scott St.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF MAYOR & COUNCIL

Meetings are held at 5:30pm Central

- Join:
- In-person at 320 Portage Ave
 - On Microsoft Teams (links in agendas)

Wish to bring a matter forward to Council? Check out

FortFrances.ca/TalkToCouncil

Submit your request no later than 12:00pm the Wednesday before that Council meeting to the Clerk's Office

- August 12, 2024
- September 9, 2024
- September 23, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- October 28, 2024
- November 12, 2024
- November 25, 2024

JULY 8TH COUNCIL RECAP

Regular Session

- Administration to report on possible Senior Centre parking changes, with recommendations for Council
- Bay City Contractors awarded tender for reconstruction of Scott St from Reid Ave to Mosher Ave
- Town of Fort Frances to support Municipality of Tweed motion calling on Ontario government to fund OPP for small rural municipalities
- Financial Statements for General and Water/Sewer received as information
- Capital program updates given
- Bay City Contractors awarded tender for reconstruction of Third St from Central Ave to York Ave
- By-Laws passed to enter into a 10-year Municipal Funding Agreement with AMO on the Canada Community-Building Fund, and an agreement with FedNor for the Hallett and Owandem project

In-Camera Reported Out

- Council delegated authority to Administration to finalize offer on 833 Portage Ave

WATCH THE MEETING AT:

[YouTube.com/@FortFrancesON](https://www.youtube.com/@FortFrancesON)

DID YOU KNOW:

The next election is being held October 26, 2026

- Register to Vote at RegisterToVoteON.ca
1 866 242 3025
- Consider running for Council
More information can be found at www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/municipal-elections



HIRING FOR: Casual Lifeguard/Reception/Instructor

FortFrances.ca/Employment

Renovations to the swimming pool are complete!

This was a very large project but well worth it with the upgrades including making it safer. **Swim programming starts July 15th!**



Memorial Sports Centre is piloting a **Summer Ice Project** this July and August 2024.

It was just announced that the target goal for hours of ice time sold was surpassed!

Congratulations to the MSC!!!

RECREATION



CULTURE



Help shape the future of arts and culture in Fort Frances.

Take this quick survey to answer a few questions which will be used to help craft the Museum Strategic Plan and the Cultural Master Plan.

<https://bit.ly/FortFrancesCulture>

Memorial Sports Centre and the Fort Frances Lakers bring you this July 13th:
Mark Menei Comedy Tour and live music by Dark Horse

Memorial Sports Centre Auditorium

Doors Open: 7pm

Mark Menei: 8-9:30pm

Dark Horse: 9:30pm-12:30am

Advanced tickets \$20, \$30 at door

Buy at FortFrances.ca/SportsCentre

This is a 19+ event



HIRING FOR: Volunteer Firefighters

FortFrances.ca/Employment



Fire Rescue Services had a demonstration from David Stark of XPertVR, a company at the forefront of developing and offering first responder VR scenarios. This is an important step towards offering fire training without exposures to PFAs or carcinogens, in times of inclement weather, or an easy

"go-to" anytime a department member wants to have additional scenario training. The pic is of Dave Stark and Firefighter Real DeGagne. Real is wearing a VR headset and is walking through a search and rescue evolution.

FIRE



Your Role as Stakeholders

The Town of Fort Frances acknowledges our taxpayers as our main stakeholders. 55.74% of the revenue we received for 2024 comes from our residential and commercial taxes. We ask you to engage with us to work together with us to improve the Town.

Participate in Budget Deliberations – Big Picture Changes

We invite the public every year to budget hearings, including offering you the choice of providing your input through presentations or correspondence. Let us know what you feel priorities should be, such as level of services, infrastructure, and community needs. Watch out for the 2025 Budget Deliberation schedule which will be distributed August/September.

What happens when we don't hear from residents at Budget Deliberations?

It's imperative to bring about change and increase resident satisfaction, we get this meaningful community engagement. Without this, Administration and Council will then keep things likely similar to status quo.

Resident Inquiries, Complaints, and Service Requests

It is every stakeholders right to discuss their level of satisfaction, including in a public capacity such as the local Rant and Raves. While we acknowledge the value in engaging with other local residents, we are encouraging you, as a stakeholder, to assume your role as such and first call us, email us, or use our Customer Complaints form for complaints and requests for service. Please give us the opportunity to address these.

Official Communication Channels

To be transparent with you, we don't monitor social media comments for guidance on services. We have four official, permanent mechanisms set up that are accessible for our residents. These mechanisms allow for proper documentation and tracking, and allows us to collect the information we require.

- Call us at (807) 274-5323
- Come to one of our public sites in person
- Email town@fortfrances.ca
- Complete our short Customer Complaint Form: www.fortfrances.ca/customer-complaint-form

Understanding Service Delays or Gaps

And you may be wondering why there are delays or gaps of services around the Town. Sometimes we're honestly just not aware (another reason we rely on stakeholders). Sometimes it's because we're short in personnel, such as this summer we're very short on groundskeeping staff. Sometimes we need to outsource and we aren't able to secure contractors. Sometimes we're restricted by our budget.

Your Voice Does Matter

From a dedicated group of volunteers we have a Splash Park, it was from groups displaying interest we have Summer Ice, and it's because of customer complaints we're informed of many issues and do our best to solve these. Our departments do listen to our stakeholders and we ask that our taxpayers continue to work with us to make this Town better.

Please Remember

We do require that our stakeholders always use civility with our staff, especially when submitting a complaint and service request. All employees have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Our citizens too have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and if you feel you have been unfairly treated, please don't hesitate to go through our above noted channels.

Addressing Transparency

We are hearing often we are not being transparent. The Town of Fort Frances is making strides to be more transparent. Here are some of the efforts we've made as of late:

- News releases and notices
- Boundless Updates eNewsletter including council briefings
- Sharing council meetings and agendas, inviting the public to join, and having YouTube available to watch recordings
- Giving the public the opportunity to speak before council, sending in a petition, or sending in correspondence
- Seeking public engagement to build our Strategic Plan, Recreation Master Plan, Cultural Master Plan, Museum Strategic Plan
- Giving opportunities for public participation in the budget process which guides our services and tax rates for the following year; posting the budget publicly on our website
- Allowing public the option to submit an MFIPPA (freedom of information) request (*costs associated*)
- Having phone, email, and in-person available for residents to ask questions
- Sharing topics of In-Camera in our council agendas highlighting the reasoning which must be allowable under the Municipal Act (see more below). No motions can be made In-Camera and must be done in Regular Session proceeding.

Not all of a Council Meeting agenda is available for the public. As stated above, we do share the topic of the In-Camera agenda item(s), but we also share the exception of why the item is done in private session. As per the Municipal Act, section 239, here are the exceptions the items must fall under:

- (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (g) a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;
- (h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- (i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- (j) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

Anything else you'd like to see that would increase your trust in us in being transparent? Email us at Town@FortFrances.ca with your feedback or call the Clerk's Office at (807) 274-5323.

From Your 2024 Tax Insert:

A list of some of the services your taxes cover or help supplement.

Fire and Rescue Services

- Fire Safety Education
- Fire Suppression
- Motor Vehicle Crashes
- Water and Ice Rescue
- Fire Rescue

Memorial Sports Centre

- 2 Ice Rinks
- Pool
- Fitness Centre
- Squash Courts
- Rentable space
- Recreational Programming
- Canteen
- Paid Membership
- Summer Camps

Townshend Theatre

- Rentable space

Museum and Cultural Centre

- Museum exhibits
- Gift shop
- Genealogy
- Paid Programming
- Free Programming
- Summer Camps
- Rainy Lake Square
- Historical Sites

Senior Centre

- Paid Programming
- Free Programming
- Free Membership
- Kitchen
- Pool and Snooker Table
- Card Room
- Rentable Space

Sunny Cove

Airport

Emergency Management

Sorting Gap Marina

- Lookout Tower
- Dock Rentals
- Launch Fees
- Ice Cream/Concession
- Dock Maintenance

Roadwork

- 175 km of roads to maintain
- Snow removal
- Street sweeping
- Sidewalk Maintenance
- Street Lights
- Traffic Lights/Signage
- Surveying
- Street Painting

Waste Program

- Landfill Operations
- Waste Collection
- Recycling Collection
- Recycling Depot
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Administration

- Commissioner of Oaths
- Licencing
- Video Surveillance
- Wedding Officiating
- Customer Service
- Provincial Offences
- External Communications
- Freedom of Information Requests
- Parade/Road Closure Requests

Financial Services

- Water and Sewer Billing
- Tax Billing
- Accounts Receivable & Payable
- Cemetery Support including Lot and Niche Sales

Maintenance of Town Facilities and Infrastructure

Parks

- Parks and Greenspaces (including sport fields)
- Splash Park
- Campground
- La Verendrye Parkway
- 8th Street Trails
- Outdoor Rinks
- Cemeteries
- Beautification

Water/Sewer

- Quality drinking water
- Water Treatment
- Sewer Treatment and Maintenance
- Sewer Services

Planning and Development

- By-Law Enforcement
- Animal Shelter
- Zoning
- Town Planning

Economic Development

- Lot Development and Sales
- Attract Economic Development
- Business Improvement Area
- Municipal Accommodations Tax (Destination Fort Frances/Tourism, Rainy River Future Development)

External Institutions We Fund/Pay Levy To

- Physician Recruitment
- Fort Frances Public Library and Technology Centre
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Northwestern Health Unit
- District of Rainy River Services Board
- School Boards

THE MOFFAT FUND

In 2024, the Winnipeg Foundation generously provided the Town of Fort Frances with \$103,750! This substantial grant was designated to support charitable groups and organizations dedicated to the betterment of children and families in our community.

Now, here's how it works: groups must apply to receive a portion of the funding, and the Town is only able to distribute funds to those who submit applications. Each applicant needs to specify the amount of money they require for their projects, ensuring every dollar is carefully allocated to make the biggest impact.

We were thrilled to see 11 groups apply, all of which clearly demonstrated their eligibility. Our dedicated committee worked to distribute the funding as fairly as possible based on the amounts requested and scope of project.

These groups represent a diverse range of initiatives, all aimed at improving the lives of children and families in Fort Frances.

We are confident that each group will use the funds to make a real difference in the lives of many of our community members!

Is there a project you feel strongly about that would benefit families and children? Make sure to apply next year!



MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASED JULY 3, 2024

FROM: The Office of the CAO
TO: Stakeholders of the Town of Fort Frances
RE: Statement Regarding Impacted Employees

The Town of Fort Frances would like to address a recent article regarding former councillor David Kircher's filed legal proceedings against the Town of Fort Frances, specifically to convey disappointment in the highlighting of accusations towards specific employees.

We will not be providing comments on the proceedings at this time, nor will we make contentious statements. We would like to take this opportunity to speak about the dedication and the commitment of our staff, especially those who have been publicly targeted.

Mayor Hallikas stated, "I'm proud of every one of our employees. It is the role of a Town employee to take their duties seriously and deal with every matter impartially."

Civil servants work tirelessly for love of their community, and we are proud of every single one of our employees who have made this commitment. Working for a municipality isn't always easy and comes with higher exposure to public criticism. The Town of Fort Frances wishes to declare their support for our staff members, and stand by the excellence, fairness, and integrity of their work.

A tremendous thank you to all who serve the municipality, including those who have been the recipient of negative publicity. To serve our community with dedication and integrity, we must first do so within, and aim to be unwavering in our efforts to be a supportive work environment for our employees.

REGULAR HOURS

AIRPORT

Sunday to Friday Saturday
7am to 10pm 7am to 6pm

CIVIC CENTRE

Monday to Friday
8:00am to 4:00pm

MEMORIAL SPORTS CENTRE

Monday to Friday Saturday Sunday
6am to 10pm 8am to 10pm 8am to 8pm

MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE

Tuesday to Sunday
10am to 5pm

PUBLIC WORKS

Monday to Friday
7:30am to 4pm
(After Hours On Call 807-274-9516)

SENIOR CENTRE

Monday to Friday
8am to 4pm

SORTING GAP MARINA

Monday to Friday Saturday to Sunday
8am to 8pm 9am to 9pm

SPLASH PARK

Sunday to Saturday
10am to 8pm

FOLLOW US ON:

