

# BOUNDLESS UPDATES



## Recruiting & Vacancies Current Positions

- Facilities Attendant (closes March 24, 2024)
- Interim Fire Chief (closes March 17, 2024)
- Casual Lifeguard/Receptionist/Instructor (open)
- Volunteer Firefighter (open)
- Student Parks Labourer (open)
- Student Public Works Labourer (open)

[fortfrances.ca/town/human-resources/employment-opportunities](https://fortfrances.ca/town/human-resources/employment-opportunities)

## Upcoming Councils

**Special Meeting - Budget** March 18 at 5:30 pm

**Regular Council Meeting** March 25 at 5:30pm

**Public Hearing** March 26 at 5:30pm

*(Re-Zoning of 301 and 325 Nelson Street)*

Join in person at 320 Portage Avenue, OR  
virtually (link in agendas). Agendas available at:

[fortfrances.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx](https://fortfrances.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx)

### ALSO IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Roads                  | • Summer Day Camps      |
| • Budget Deliberations   | • Science North Exhibit |
| • Coffee, Tea, & History | • Recreator             |
| • Call for Vendors       | • Pool                  |
| • Wildlife Feeding Bylaw | • Erin Crescent         |
| • Summer Ice             | • Weddings              |

**Residents are reminded to check  
their smoke alarm every month!**

WELCOME  
BIENVENUE  
BOOZHOO

## SUNNY COVE

MPP Greg Rickford announces a \$495,000 grant from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund. This money is earmarked for Sunny Cove and will aid in its restoration.

## MOFFAT FAMILY FUND

March 13th to applications were reviewed for the Moffat Family Fund. Recommendations will go to Council, and final approval to the Winnipeg Foundation. Good luck to all applicants!

## REMINDERS

**March 28th - Taxes due**

**Sign up for Water, Sewer & Tax e-Billing by:**

- Emailing [ebilling@FortFrances.ca](mailto:ebilling@FortFrances.ca)
- Providing your account #, name & address

## DID YOU KNOW?

Your final 2023 Tax Bill is all you require for Income Tax purposes? If you require a Tax Statement for any purpose, the fee is \$7.75.

## LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE

**Subscribe to our Newsletter**

[fortfrances.civicweb.net/Portal/Subscribe.aspx](https://fortfrances.civicweb.net/Portal/Subscribe.aspx)



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# BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The 2024 Budget has proven especially challenging for Administration and Council. Uncontrollable costs arose for the Town of Fort Frances, making it necessary to consider cuts and new and updated sources of revenue to minimize a tax increase as much as possible for our municipal tax payers. Administration brought the situation to Council who recommended changes to implement which included reducing Council's conference and training budget, increasing some expected revenues, and introducing a Summer Ice program (which is on track to gain revenue).

Administration brought forward further **scenarios to Council for consideration**. These scenarios included:

- Raising the daily and seasonal launch fees at Sorting Gap Marina to take into account long-term parking;
- Set Marina Hours to manage staff wages;
- Increase Marina confectionary options for customers including snacks and bait;
- Establish fees at the Senior Centre including drop-in, membership, exercise, and room rental fees;
- Increase the price of Senior Centre lunches;
- Reducing the Library budget by 5%.

After consideration of the above scenarios, **Council deemed only the following as actionable recommendations at this time:**

- To reduce the Library budget based on a proposed decrease amount from the Library Board.
- To increase the Marina daily launch fee from \$9.24 to \$10.00.
- To increase the Marina seasonal launch fee from \$66.46 to \$75.00.

Taking these recommendations into account, a budget increase of \$729,178 is still needed, and a 5.96% Municipal Tax rate increase is suggested. The detailed proposed budget is available for the public and included in the Special Meeting – Budget agendas:

[fortfrances.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Id=2132](https://fortfrances.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Id=2132)

**A Special Meeting regarding the budget was called for Monday, March 18, 2024, at 5:30pm.**

Residents are welcome to attend by joining virtually (link provided in agendas) or attending in-person at the 320 Portage Avenue Civic Centre.

Knowing what's important to our residents is vital for moving forward, and you're very welcome to provide your feedback and share ideas with us not only during these budget deliberations, but throughout the year. The best ways to have your voices and opinions heard include by contacting us directly [fortfrances.ca/contact](https://fortfrances.ca/contact), through our [town@fortfrances.ca](mailto:town@fortfrances.ca) email, submitting correspondence or a petition to Council or requesting to make a deputation/delegation to Council [fortfrances.ca/town/mayor-council/speaking-council-correspondence](https://fortfrances.ca/town/mayor-council/speaking-council-correspondence), completing our surveys, attending our public engagement sessions, and submitting your feedback to our form [fortfrances.ca/customer-complaint-form](https://fortfrances.ca/customer-complaint-form).

# NEWS, EVENTS, & UPDATES

## SCIENCE NORTH EXHIBIT OPENING SOON

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 from **March 25 to April 12**.

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.

General 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](http://sciencenorth.ca)

## COFFEE, TEA AND HISTORY

**April 11th & May 9th, Drop In: 10am to 11:30am**

**\$4 Admission**

Dive into the past with Coffee, Tea, & History. Explore hidden treasures from our archives that are specially selected to spark conversations and transport you through time. Afterwards, indulge in coffee, tea, & treats as you reflect and share nostalgic stories. Theme changes monthly so please keep an eye on the Museum Facebook page for updates:

[facebook.com/FortFrancesMuseum](https://facebook.com/FortFrancesMuseum)

## CALL OUT FOR MARKET VENDORS

**We are now accepting applications for the Rainy Lake Square Market Thursdays!** We want to provide the community a marketplace that encourages patrons to support a 'Buy Local' philosophy and we are looking forward to another exciting season! First Market date is set for May 23rd. Can't wait to see you there!

Vendor Costs: \$10/day +HST or \$50 +HST for the season.

For more info and the application, visit [fortfrances.ca/rainy-lake-square](http://fortfrances.ca/rainy-lake-square) or call the Museum at (807) 274-7891 x1112.

## SUMMER ICE

Memorial Sports Centre is piloting a Summer Ice program! Call (807) 274-4561 x1701 to purchase your ice time. Don't hesitate, because ice is selling fast. Our goal is to sell 290 hours by April 15th to secure ice availability for both July and August.

## POOL

Renovations are still underway. Significant, unforeseen issues such as a deteriorating support column and need for new plumbing were encountered during the renovation process. Due to these challenges, the reopening has to be delayed with an anticipated **late May/early June** reopening. We're happy to share HVAC work was completed, as was the **Men's Sauna which is now open**. Upcoming renovations also includes a new viewing area and installation of a new accessible lift.

Thank you for your patience as we continue in keeping safety and longevity at the forefront in this project.

## SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Summer Day Camps will be announced soon in the Recreator! Registration opens April 15th. Keep an eye out on our Memorial Sports Centre Facebook page [facebook.com/MemorialSportsCentre](https://facebook.com/MemorialSportsCentre)

## RECREATOR

The Spring Recreator is coming soon! This is being shared on the Memorial Sports Centre Facebook page as well as on the website. [facebook.com/MemorialSportsCentre](https://facebook.com/MemorialSportsCentre) [fortfrances.ca/sportscentre](http://fortfrances.ca/sportscentre)

# The Spring Equinox is March 19th, 2024!

**FEEDING DEER OR OTHER WILDLIFE****Referenced from By-Law 06-09**

Did you know: “No owner or occupier of land within the Town of Fort Frances shall intentionally feed, cause to be fed, or provide or make available food attractants or other similar substances for the consumption of wildlife within the boundaries of the Town of Fort Frances, on either private or public property”?

Birdfeeders used for bird feed, private vegetable gardens, flower beds, and related compost stations are excluded.

*Please refer to the By-Law for more information and further exclusions.*

For information on the Municipal Law (By-Law) Enforcement Department, please refer to: [FortFrances.ca/town/planning-development/law-enforcement](https://FortFrances.ca/town/planning-development/law-enforcement)

**ROADWORK: Cost Distribution of Grants vs Town Funds****2022 King’s Highway Reconstruction**

\$1.543M Contractor Bid Amount

Grants: 90%, Town 10%

**2022 / 2023 Mowat Avenue Reconstruction**

\$1.819M Contractor Bid Amount

Grants: 98%, Town: 2%

**2023 Sinclair Avenue Reconstruction**

\$1.381M Contractor Bid Amount

Grants: 59%, Town: 41%

**2024 First Street East Reconstruction – Not Yet Awarded**

(Based on budgeted amount)

Grants: 96.4%, Town: 3.6%

**2024 Third Street West Reconstruction – Not Yet Tendered**

(Based on budgeted amount)

Grants: 66% (awaiting confirmation on one grant), Town: 34%

**2024 Resurfacing of Parts of 5th Street West, 6th Street West and School Road – Not Yet Tendered**

(Based on budgeted amount)

Grants: None yet received, Town: 100%

**ERIN CRESCENT****DID YOU KNOW?**

If you’re interested in building a home, the Town of Fort Frances has surplus property for sale on **Erin Crescent**.

- Lot sizes from 650-1440 square meters
- Prices from \$46,500 to \$86,400 +HST

Purchasers of residential land have five building seasons to construct. An additional two years can be requested.

Listings, maps, pricing, and who to contact at [fortfrances.ca/town/planning-development/surplus-town-properties-sale](https://fortfrances.ca/town/planning-development/surplus-town-properties-sale)

**WEDDINGS**

Any questions about getting married? We answer some of these on our website:

[fortfrances.ca/town/administration-finance/marriages](https://fortfrances.ca/town/administration-finance/marriages)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Our Clerks are also civil marriage officiants! If you’re interested in a Town Hall wedding, or can’t find an officiant for your wedding in the Fort Frances area, contact us for availability (contacts on website link above)

THANK YOU

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