

BOUNDLESS UPDATES



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HOLIDAY HOURS

Civic Centre

Closed March 29th to April 1st, reopening April 2nd

Public Works

Closed March 29th to April 1st, reopening April 2nd
On-Call (807) 274-9516

Landfill

Closed on March 29th



Museum

Closed March 29th to April 1st, reopening April 2nd

Senior Centre

Closed March 29th to April 1st, reopening April 2nd

Memorial Sports Centre

Closed March 29th, reopening March 30th

Airport

No disruption to hours

For regular hours of service, please see
fortfrances.ca/hours-operation

WELCOME
BIENVENUE
BOOZHOO

BIDS, TENDERS, EOIs

Open bid for the **Portage Avenue underpass rehabilitation**: Tender 2024-OF-03.

Closing **April 9, 2024 at 2:00pm**

Expression of Interest for **scheduled air passenger service** for Fort Frances and Dryden airport.

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

Find more details at

FortFrances.BidsAndTenders.ca

WATER, SEWER, TAX E-BILLING SIGN-UP:

- Email ebilling@FortFrances.ca
- Provide account number, name & address

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Held at the Civic Centre & Microsoft Teams:

REGULAR COUNCILS

April 8 at 5:30pm

April 22 at 5:30pm

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COUNCIL MEETING BRIEFS

MARCH 25, 2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

BY-LAWS

- 21-14-M - Amendment for regulation of traffic
- 17-24 - Sign collective agreement with CUPE Local 65
- 18-24 - Agreement between Fire Department and Paramedic Services
- 19-24 - Agreement with Makkinga Contracting for tender

CONSENT AGENDA

- Council remuneration and expenses
- Drinking water systems as well as wastewater treatment facility monthly reports
- Disclosure report for the 2024 Operating Budget
- POA audited statements
- Award of tender for reconstruction of First Street East between Central & Mowat avenues
- Motion to add to NOMA agenda on loss of air service
- Application to the NOHFC for Firehall improvements
- Request for records from Integrity Commissioner

OTHER ITEMS

- Presentations: Splash Zone inflatable waterpark, Lakers dressing room, Senior Centre operations
- Administration to bring motions forward on catch and release system, supporting firefighter and search and rescue volunteer tax credit, donating to the Senior Centre, and waiving the rental fee for the FFHS Chem Free Grad
- Councillor Behan appointed to healthcare board coming out of an RRDMA meeting recommendation
- External Communications policy
- Council endorsed administration to put a new MOU together with the Library
- Cultural Awareness training session for elected officials
- Community Services updating user fees
- 833 Portage Avenue property to be listed with a realtor
- Moffat Family Fund recommendations to be made to the Winnipeg Foundation

MARCH 26, 2024 PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held Tuesday, March 26, 2024 where Council and the public heard a presentation on applications to amend the Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law, and Plan of Subdivision from Agent Scatliff + Miller + Murray seeking to **redesignate the property at 301 and 325 Nelson Street; N Mill Complex PC, from Light Industrial to a Mixed-Use**, and further to subdivide this land into several parcels. The purpose for these applications is to permit the **potential future development of a mixed-use “Wellness Precinct”**.

This is in partnership with Aazhogan of Rainy River First Nations, and is Phase I of BMI's plans for the former mill redevelopment which overall will include market, gateway, waterfront, and enterprise.

The Phase I plan presented incorporates its proximity to La Verendrye Hospital into its planning, and plans to build a large clinic/health centre, with lodging for visiting health professionals. There will also be space for hotel and retail.

To watch the full presentation, the meeting is recorded on our YouTube at [**www.youtube.com/@FortFrancesON**](https://www.youtube.com/@FortFrancesON)

The public are invited to write or speak in favour or in objection for these public meetings. One letter in favour of the plan was received, and no objections were made.

THE 2024 BUDGET

NOTICE OF INTENT To ADOPT THE SUPPORTED 2024 BUDGET



NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances pursuant to the requirements of By-law No. 64/02, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances at its meeting to be held on Monday April 8, 2024 following the Regular Meeting of Council held in person and virtually, intends to consider a by-law to adopt the Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances 2024 Budget. The Regular Council meeting is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting agenda and other documents related to the budget will be available on the Town's website by April 4, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend or join virtually this meeting to hear a presentation on the budget by Administration and to make written or oral presentations to Council either in support of or in opposition to the budget proposal. For additional information, please contact Dawn Galusha, Treasurer at the Civic Centre phone 274-5323 ext. 1225.

Dated this 22nd day of March 2024

RESPONDING TO YOUR CONCERNS BUDGETARY DECISIONS



Administration and Council faced challenges as uncontrollable costs skyrocketed in 2024. Decisions made brought down the increase to residents from over 7% to 5.54%. Where able, Council and Administration try to avoid increases. Keeping taxes down aids in attracting new residents, tourists, and economic development, which benefits all of us.

CONCERNS HEARD ABOUT SENIOR CENTRE LUNCH PRICES & MAKING MEMBERSHIP FEES

Council asked for ideas where savings or revenues could be found in specific areas of the organization, including the Seniors Centre. Raises in pricing of lunches and creating memberships and fees were just a couple of many potential options brought forward for discussion. There has been no direction to make membership fees at this time however this initiative may be reintroduced in the future. Lunch fees may increase, but not to the amounts proposed. Recommendations to pricing increases are always published in our agenda. The public may submit requests for deputations, correspondence, or petitions to Council by following the procedures here: fortfrances.ca/town/mayor-council/speaking-council-correspondence

CONCERNS HEARD TO MAKING CUTS TO THE LIBRARY BUDGET

The Library requested a 5% budget increase for 2024. Due to concerns about a significant tax increase for residents and cuts in many Town departments, the full 5% was not granted. Council recognized the importance of libraries as well as the contributions our Library provides to our community and did implement an increase. The Library's budget was not cut; rather, the increase was reduced to lessen the tax burden. For more information, visit the Library's updated statement at www.ffpltc.ca/2024Budget or www.ffpltc.ca/sites/default/files/2024-03/Clarification%20of%20March%202024%20media%20release.pdf.

As stakeholders of Fort Frances, residents are right to feel passionate about these issues, and are always invited to take part in budget deliberations and other Town decision-making. To have your voice be heard by your Municipal elected officials and Administration, call, email, write, meet with us, or attend Council meetings.

SPOTLIGHT

RECOGNITION DRINKING WATER SYSTEM 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



"It should be noted that achieving a **score of 97.05%** on the MECP's annual inspection is an excellent result and is a direct reflection on the **efforts and diligence of the staff working at the Water Treatment Plant and on the Water Distribution System**. 2023 presented many challenges to the staff and they preserved and succeeded throughout the year and ensured that the residents of Fort Frances and Couchiching First Nation always had safe drinking water. **Their accomplishments and hard work should be duly recognized by the Town.**"

EXCERPT FROM THE MOTION PASSED BY COUNCIL MARCH 25, 2024:

"That at this time, the staff of the drinking water system should be acknowledged for all of their effort and hard work to ensure that all consumers connected to the Town's water system receive outstanding water. Please keep up the good work."

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

MEMORIAL SPORTS



SPRING RECREATOR

THE SPRING RECREATOR IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Find it online at FortFrances.ca/SportsCentre

Or get your paper copy during your next visit to Memorial Sports Centre

SUMMER ICE

We are selling hours of ice rink time for this summer. If we sell enough hours by April 15th, we'll have July availability in addition to our already confirmed August Hours.

Contact Melissa to purchase your hours now!
(807) 274-4561 x1701 or mbelluz@fortfrances.ca

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE



ABOUT THE ECLIPSE

INFORMATION PROVIDED IS QUOTED AND ADAPTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO APRIL 8, 2024 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE SAFETY SHEET

April 8th, 2024, after 1pm CDT to approximately 2:20 CDT as the moon aligns perfectly between Earth and the Sun, parts of Ontario will experience temporary darkness.

DID YOU KNOW

- **It's not safe to look at the Sun without eye protection.** Looking at even a small sliver before or after the eclipse without eye protection can be harmful to your vision. Health impacts may include retinal burns, blurred vision, and loss of eyesight (immediate or delayed onset).
- **Glasses with specialized filters adhering to the ISA 12312-2 international standard can be worn to prevent eye damage.** Glasses should be inspected for wrinkles or scratches ahead of use and should not be used if damaged.
- If eye protection isn't available, try **alternative viewing strategies, like an eclipse box or live stream.**

TRAVEL TIPS

- **While driving, avoid looking at the eclipse.** Keep your eyes on the road to drive safe & avoid collisions.
- **Follow local directives and road signage as you travel on April 8.** While travelling on highways, do not stop, take pictures, or get out of your car to view the eclipse.
- **Stay updated on road conditions** before, during, and after the eclipse by **visiting 511on.ca**
- **Expect increases in traffic and road congestion.** Plan ahead, fill your gas tank, and have snacks, water, entertainment, & first-aid supplies on hand.
- If travelling to view the eclipse, **plan to arrive at your destination 24 to 48 hours head of time.**

EVENTS

RAINY LAKE SQUARE MARKET THURSDAYS



We are **accepting applications** for the **Market Thursdays!**
First Market date is set for May 23. 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/rainylake-square or call the Museum at
(807) 274-7891 x1112.

COFFEE, TEA & HISTORY

Thursday April 18th, \$4 Admission

Dive into the past with Coffee, Tea, & History.
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

SCIENCE NORTH EXHIBIT IS NOW OPEN

Come celebrate the ever-evolving world of Indigenous Ingenuity with our travelling exhibition, presented by Indigenous Tourism Ontario and Science North.
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.

Open until April 12 at the Fort Frances Museum.

Visit: Wed 10am-6 or Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 9-4.
General admission is by donation, and it's fun for the whole family!

For more information or to book a groups program, reach out to: sciencenorth.ca or call the Museum 807-274-7891

DID YOU KNOW

HAZARDOUS WASTE



The Town runs a **hazardous waste collection day** the **2nd Saturday of September**.

Did you know that the Town is reimbursed by Product Care Ontario for items such as light bulbs, paint and pesticides? These reimbursements help offset the cost of the event.

BATTERIES

Did you know that alkaline batteries (A, AA, C, D cell, etc) can be dropped off at public works at no cost for safe recycling by Call2Recycle?

GLASS

Did you know that since November 2023, recyclables do not have to be separated and glass is accepted in your blue boxes along with other recyclable materials?

As well, glass can now be disposed of in the recycling compactor on 6th Street West with your other recyclables.

FLUSHING

Did you know the following items should not be flushed: pharmaceuticals, personal hygiene products, household hazardous waste, fats, oils, grease.

Sewage lift stations need to be cleaned on an annual basis, with the Town spending approximately \$50,000 to clean out items that should not have been flushed.

CURBSIDE PICKUP EASTER WEEKEND

YOUR SCHEDULE



Your garbage collection schedule is only impacted if you were due for a Friday pickup. Monday pickup is not being affected. Your calendar of pickups should remain correct, so please refer to it.

For the schedule, please refer to fortfrances.ca/town/operations-facilities/waste-management

WATCH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

THANK YOU
MERCI
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APRIL 12TH!