

THE TOWN OF BASSANO NEWSLETTER

THE BEST IN THE WEST BY A DAM SITE!

Things are Happening in Bassano!

The development listed below confirms our efforts to build and diversify the local economy. We are delivering on our vision "to become the most attractive and affordable urban community under 2,500 in Alberta

where industry leaders want to invest, where tourists come for a new experience, and where people choose to live, work and play".

In 2019, we will see two new businesses.

Cannabis Production Facility

We are pleased to announce development permit approval for the construction of a 67,000 square foot cannabis production facility. Canalief Inc., purchased 2.64 acres of land from the Town and construction of the facility is expected to begin this fall. The prospects of new jobs and growth is on the horizon for Bassano. The production facility could employ up to 15 people within the next two years. The Mayor and Council of Bassano are thrilled to diversify the local economy and we welcome the production facility. This development could lead to many other value chain activities and roll off industries. The developers chose Bassano for many reasons but mainly due to its connectivity to the transportation network, access to markets, affordability, and development ease. They were familiar with the community and saw the direct benefits of investing in rural Alberta.

Dr. Irondenko Professional Corporation

Dr. Irondenko's Professional Corporation has expanded its operations to open a general dentistry practice in Bassano. The new office is in the final phase of its build out, right on Main Street, the practice is expected to open this fall with services delivered four days per week.

Brooks Region - NewGrow Program

NewGrow is a program aimed at supporting new and existing businesses in the Brooks Region. Businesses make a pitch to a panel of judges and compete for funding. The funding is a grant (not a loan, and no matching funds are required) and is intended to break down barriers and stimulate business growth in the Region, hopefully leading towards better business retention and expansion.

The NewGrow program gives community entrepreneurs and innovators the opportunity to start up or expand a business or create a new product, service or invention through a business plan and public pitch competition. All participants who take part in NewGrow will have a chance to receive an award package including up to \$10,000 in funding plus valuable business services, promotions and mentorship.

Timelines for NewGrow 2019 are as follows:

- Application Available Online - Friday, August 30
- Judges Announced - Friday, November 15
- Applications Due - Friday, November 29
- Pitch Night - Friday, December 6

Lisa Tiffin: Manager, Community Development
403-362-3333

FCSS Upcoming Events

September 10 – World Suicide Prevention Day

Take a minute and learn about all the ways you can help prevent suicide in our community

October 1 – International Older Person's Day

Mark your calendars! Keep your eyes peeled for details around events on this date.

October 8 – Seniors Tax Presentation at Playfair Lodge
Please join us at 2:30 at Playfair Lodge to learn all about Federal Tax Credits and Benefits that you and your family could be eligible for!

The bi-annual Women's Wellness Conference is approaching and planning is underway for March 2020! We are currently seeking local sponsors for the event, if you would like to become a sponsor or find out more please contact Victoria with FCSS @ 403-501-8540.

Join us for **Ice cream social**
a free community event

WHEN September 9
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

WHERE RAW CONCEPTS

WHY because we love our community

sponsored by Juanita Peirson, RMT and Jeannine Coupland,
come out to meet your local registered massage therapist and acupuncturist

May 27 and June 10, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Highlights

Strategic Plan Updates

Goal 1 – Task 3) – Regional Governance

The Town of Bassano is committed to researching the benefits of regionalization with the County of Newell and the City of Brooks. The purpose of this research is to identify long-term savings with the intent of maintaining service delivery and reducing property taxes. A Regional Working Group (RWG) comprised of elected officials from each municipality were appointed. The RWG are working with a team of administrators and consultants on this project.

No decisions have been made at this time regarding regionalization. Community engagement sessions will be called this fall to present their findings to all residents. Keep yourself informed on the process. A website is managed with all reports, updates, press releases and minutes <https://regionalwg.ca/>. Talk to any of your elected councillors or administration. The Town's representatives on the RWG is Mayor Ron Wickson and Deputy Mayor Tom Rose, who recently replaced Councillor Jackie Seely.

Goal 2 – Task 1) Development Permit Simplification

Investors, whether local or new, benefit from a simplified development permit process. To deliver on our commitment to attract businesses, growth, jobs and investment, we are working to simplify the development permit process. This includes but is not limited to development specific packages, brochures, and checklists for residential and non-residential use. Examples include, "How to Apply" for residential permits, non-residential permits, sign permits, accessory building permits, home based business permits, shipping container permits, demolition permits, flow charts and more. Plus, a detailed plan to showcase properties that are prime for development including an online interactive map.

Goal 2 – Task 3)

Intergenerational/Multigenerational Tiny Home Pilot Project Bassano

A partnership between the Town of Bassano and Palliser Economic Partnership (PEP) was formed to look at the economics of tiny homes in Bassano. The project is funded by PEP and the Town of Bassano. PEP's contribution of \$57,000 is provided through the Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program, a fund offered by the province of Alberta specific to rural municipalities to support/enable/expand economic development opportunities. The Town's contribution is \$5,000 and is funded by our Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) operating fund, an operational grant received from the province. Collectively, the parties signed a contract with John Brown Architect Ltd. to act as the lead consultant for the project.

This is a three-phase study that will consist of a feasibility report, a business case, and an implementation/action plan.

The study will be evidence based and our objective is to determine the economic feasibility of developing an intergenerational and/or multigenerational "tiny home" housing model.

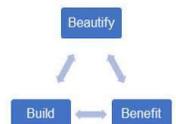
The project is underway, Phase 1 completion is scheduled for the end of September. An advisory committee was appointed to support this project and consists of Lynn MacWilliam, Kevin Jones, Mike Wetzstein, Linda Parrish, and Ron Wickson.

Goal 2 – Task 4) Economic Enrichment Strategy

The Town of Bassano is moving forward with the development of an Economic Enrichment Strategy. The project is a 50/50 cost share with the province of Alberta through the Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) grant program. The Town's contribution is \$25,000 and is funded by our MSI operating fund. The purpose of the economic enrichment strategy is to determine how the Town can take advantage of the transportation and logistics corridors that we are so fortunate to have. Bassano sits along the TransCanada highway and has both rail and air access.

Understanding the benefits of these assets and then building a strategy that promotes the community's competitive advantage is a priority. The study is expected to outline the benefits of building in Bassano for investors.

Bassano is focused on the creation and implementation of long-term plans that build the local economy to ensure prosperity for our residents and deliver on its investment potential. The foundation of our strategies is built off our three-pronged approach.



Goal 3 – Task 1 – Sewage Lagoon Update

As reported in late 2018, there was a significant increase to the sewage lagoon project budget, the original cost projections were \$5.3M. Today, the actual projected cost is \$7.020M. The Town was awarded a grant for \$3,683,500 from Alberta Transportation. A second application was made to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) in late 2018 to cover the cost increase. The ICIP request is for \$2,340,00. ICIP is a federally funded program and is administered by the province. The recent provincial election and upcoming federal election has delayed the review of all ICIP applications.

Town council is committed to this project, the upgrades will proceed. We will wait for ICIP notification and plan to tender the project in 2020. We continue to work through the approvals process for construction and licensing. Alberta Environment and Parks and Alberta Transportation support the Town's approach and are working collaboratively with us on the project. The current facility is operational and will continue to remain active until the upgrade is complete.

**Thank you: Management and Staff
of the Bassano Pool
Great Job! Great Season!**