

# THE TOWN OF BASSANO NEWSLETTER

THE BEST IN THE WEST BY A DAM SITE!

**Organizational Meeting:** Ron Wickson was appointed Mayor; Irv Morey was appointed Deputy Mayor each on a one-year term.

**Municipal Election:** 2021 is the next general municipal election. If you are thinking about running for office, now is a great time to engage with the current council, attend council meetings to learn more about the Town’s current projects and review the Municipal Government Act.

**Council Meetings:** You may have noticed that council meetings have been plentiful this year and this will not change anytime soon. Council has been working hard to deliver on its strategies to move the community forward, to be responsive to residents, and to act swiftly with business and investment opportunities. This requires more of their time and thoughtful planning. Meeting dates are posted on the events calendar on [www.bassano.ca](http://www.bassano.ca).

**Municipal Development Plan (MDP):** Council gave 1<sup>st</sup> reading to the MDP on October 27, 2020. An MDP is a long-range planning document that sets the Town’s development objectives. It influences how planning and development decisions are made. The MDP is viewed at 30,000 feet; we take a bird’s eye view and outline how we would like to see the community develop over the next 20-30 years.

Public consultation is now underway. Copies of the MDP are available for pick up at the office or may be viewed online at [www.bassano.ca](http://www.bassano.ca). The first public engagement session will be held online on November 16 at 6:00 p.m. Join us to talk about what the MDP means for Bassano – bring your thoughts and ideas or let us know if we have hit the mark.

Ask yourself:

- Would I want to live in Bassano as it is explained in the MDP?
- Would other people be interested in moving to Bassano based on the offerings listed in the MDP?
- How could we improve the MDP?

A few highlights from the MDP include:

1. Focusing on infill development rather than expanding the Town’s footprint.
2. Promoting the Town’s history and heritage.

3. Partnerships to address social programming, recreation, culture, volunteerism, and leadership.
4. Use of smart city technologies.
5. A focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Emergency Management:** Identified as a key operational strategy for Bassano, the Town, the County of Newell and the Villages of Rosemary and Duchess passed a Regional Emergency Management Bylaw and Agreement to collectively address the regions emergency management needs. Over the next 12-months policies will be developed to operationalize the Agreement. Mayor Wickson was appointed as Bassano’s lead representative on this committee. Deputy Mayor Morey was appointed as the alternate.

What is Regional Emergency Management and Why Should I Care?

- ✓ We develop emergency management response plans to keep you safe.
- ✓ We will pool our resources and expertise around the County to improve response time in an emergency event. *Regional emergency management is separate from Fire Services, it manages disaster services (e.g. pandemic response, tornados, train derailments, etc.).*
- ✓ We are here to educate the communities to help everyone plan and prepare for an emergency.

**Lagoon Project:** It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Town’s application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) was approved for the Wastewater Treatment Upgrade and Irrigation Project. This is a three-way partnership between the Town, the province, and the federal government. The project is scheduled to commence in 2021 and is now fully funded.

Grants were awarded through a competitive process. The Town has been working diligently since November 2018 for ICIP funds and the full amount requested was received \$2,723,264.

Estimated Project Cost	\$7,020,000
ICIP Grant Award (federal)	\$2,723,264
AMWWP Grant Award (provincial)	\$2,339,766
Municipal Contribution	\$1,956,970

418 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue – Central Commercial (C1) lot sold for \$7,500 to the Pioneer Gas Co-op with two conditions, that the lot is consolidated with their existing property and that a security fence is installed along the property frontage to mirror the business. This sale allows the Gas Co-op to manage their expanding business while remaining in the central core of Bassano. Thank you for your continued investment in our community.

422 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue – IC lot sold for \$8,500 to Brant Ching to allow for the expansion of his construction and outdoor storage business with two conditions, that the property is consolidated with his existing lots, and that a security fence is installed around the perimeter of the property.

406 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue former CIBC building – C1 lot sold for the list price of \$13,000 to Mike Taylor. The property will be developed for mixed use (residential and commercial). We appreciate Taylor’s investment to restore this significant building and to help rejuvenate main street.

**FAB Village Square:** Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and voted on a new location for FAB Village Square. Council passed bylaw 907/20 to rezone Plan 151 0415; Block 51; Lot 1MR to Public and Institutional to accommodate the project. Join us online for a **Public Hearing** as council presents the removal of the Municipal Reserve (MR) designation on the lot on **November 9 at 6:00 p.m.** Meeting details are available on the Town website and Facebook page. This is the next step to ensure the land is development ready.

A partnership with the Newell Foundation is still being considered.



**Canalief Update:** 1002 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue was sold to Canalief with a condition that a cannabis production facility was built (foundation by December 2019). Council recently granted an extension until September 2021 as the investors have experienced internal delays in part due to the pandemic. Canalief reaffirmed their commitment to the project and look forward to bringing new jobs and industry to Bassano.

The municipal contribution will be funded as follows:

Municipal Contribution	\$1,956,970
Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Capital Grant	\$933,440
Bassano Lagoon Capital Reserve	\$1,023,530

This project will help boost the local economy and we cannot wait to get moving on it. Updates will be provided to our residents regularly as the project proceeds.

**Infrastructure Upgrades:** Town Council has had to delay all major roads infrastructure projects over the past few years until the lagoon project was sorted out. With a 30% increase in project costs identified in late 2018, there was a high probability that the Town would have had to redirect all its infrastructure reserve funds to pay for the project which is why the ICIP announcement is so exciting. The federal government awarded \$2.7M to Bassano for the upgrade which allows the Town to continue with its investment plans to upgrade underground infrastructure and roads. Council re-arranged their strategic priorities in September with 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue upgrades to follow the lagoon project. Order of Magnitude costs were received from MPE Engineering in October. At a special meeting council elected to focus on the lagoon upgrade in 2021 and to complete preliminary planning work for road upgrades for a few key reasons.

1. The Town may have to carry the entire cost of the lagoon project until government transfers are made. Rather than taking out an operating loan and having to pay interest, the Town will use its capital reserve funds to bridge the funding gap until government transfers are made if necessary.
2. This is a large-scale project, and all parties must remain focused on its completion. Adding road upgrades in the same year stretches council and staff too thin.

Road upgrades will take place once the lagoon project is complete.

**Land Sales/Development/Growth:** We are making progress towards our growth and development objectives. The Town sold four properties this season and we are pleased to welcome a new business to the community.

901 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue – Industrial Commercial (IC) lot sold for \$35,000. The lot has been consolidated with 902 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and an agricultural tire distribution warehouse will operate at the location. Development permit TOB-D-14-20 was issued by the Municipal Planning Commission on October 27, 2020. Welcome Silk Tire.

Recreation Funding Committee (RFC): In 2020, the Town and the County offered \$50,000 in recreation grants to the community. Thanks to your feedback, the program has been revised and will be offered again in 2021.

- ✓ 2021 recreation grant fund guidelines and applications will be available by November 5. It was decided to release the program early because the RFC recognizes that applicants offer programs at different times of the year. Having access to the grant guidelines and applications early may help applicants plan their programs/events for next season.
- ✓ With a focus on inclusion and diversity related to recreation and leisure, in 2021, the Bassano Public Library will be eligible to apply for funding under this program.

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BEAUTIFY: We have had many local successes this year that align with the beautification vision.

A huge thank you to the volunteers and investors this year that contributed to all the beautification efforts. Here are a few successes:

- Revitalization of the Cenotaph and campground.
- 518 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue face lift – another attractive and welcoming building on our main street.
- Stunning hand painted murals placed on the side of the Creaky Floor.
- Received a \$7,300 grant from TD Friends of the Environment to purchase trees for the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Naturalization Project in 2021.
- Town wide garbage clean-up and tree trimming to name a few.

Implementation of the Beautify Bassano Initiative (BBI)

- 15 properties were cleaned up per our priorities list. We appreciate the support of the property owners that complied with the Town’s orders. Your commitment to Bassano is recognized.
- Public works completed all crack filling (2019 projects carried forward and 2020 priority areas complete).
- Bi-weekly branch pick-up was very well utilized by the community.
- Boulevard trees and green space tree maintenance plan near complete. The chipped wood will be used as ground cover for the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Naturalization Project.
- Sidewalk repairs complete in 5 priority areas.
- Potholes repaired.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West road rehabilitation project complete. The deteriorated road surface was

removed and the road was converted to gravel with a dust suppressant applied.

- Weed maintenance and control complete.

Infrastructure Master Plan Projects Completed in 2020 (projects were funded 50/50 by the Town and the County of Newell):

1. All 7 filters at the Bassano Outdoor Pool with cleaned, new sand and laterals were installed \$5260.
2. Replaced stairs at the Bassano Outdoor Pool \$1020.
3. Replaced the deteriorated changeroom floors per Alberta Health services at the Joint Use Facility \$7195.

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Volunteers: Volunteers are the heart of our community and we recognize your time and extra efforts this season. The pandemic has added new pressures on volunteers, and we would like to take a brief moment to recognize what you have done to help us safely launch programs and open facilities in Bassano. The Town has worked in collaboration with each volunteer organization that provides programs in municipally owned facilities to develop risk mitigation plans to keep users safe following provincial health guidelines. The operation of the facilities and events is made possible because of our volunteers. We respect all the work of our past, present and future volunteers – thank you!

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Program updates can be found on the Town’s website, or on each organizations Facebook page. Get out and enjoy the programs safely. Keep active and have fun. Remember, to practice social distancing and use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer kills the virus that may be living in your hands. Help prevent the spread.

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Tax Sale Auction: Town of Bassano will offer for sale, by public auction, the following parcels:

Roll No.	Civic Address	Reserve Bid
284000	225 – 3 Street	\$107,000.00
296000	216 – 3 Street	\$ 21,000.00

Auction will be held at the Town Office, 502 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Bassano on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Further information is available at the Town Office.

**LEST WE FORGET**: Remembrance Day Ceremony: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this years Remembrance Day Service will be restricted to a maximum occupancy. To ensure you can attend, please contact Mike @ cell: 403-376-3756 or work:403-641-3693.

It is further requested that children under 5 do not attend, all attendees wear masks and maintain social distancing, and please refrain from attending if you have signs or symptoms of Covid-19. Doors open at 9:30am, service to commence at 10:30am.

# Bassano FCSS

## Seasonal news

### SAVE THE DATE

## Santa's Workshop Updates and Changes

To ensure we meet mandatory COVID-19 regulations all families wishing to participate in Santa's Workshop will be required to pre-book an appointment slot with FCSS. No walk-ins will be accommodated on the event date. Time slots are available between 3:30pm – 7:45 pm. Children will be required to provide a list outlining who they are shopping for during the event, up to a

maximum of 5 names are allowed on each child's list, one gift per person. Gifts are a cost of \$1/per gift. Parental supervision is required at the event, one parent permitted per household in the waiting area, non-participating children are not permitted at the event. Attendees are required to wear masks while shopping. **DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE FEELING UNWELL**

## Get Involved

Join us at 5PM on November 10<sup>th</sup> for a walk to raise awareness for the prevention of Family Violence, in partnership with the Bassano RCMP. The walk will take place along the parade route and will kick off at the Arena. **Approx. 3km walk, join for what you can!**

If you are in need of a Christmas Hamper please contact FCSS between November 9<sup>th</sup> – December 16<sup>th</sup> to register. **Applications after December 1<sup>st</sup> are not guaranteed a spot on the Angel Tree.**

**DONATIONS are now being accepted** for Santa's Workshop and Christmas Hampers. Donations accepted on an appointment only basis, please contact FCSS to arrange a time to drop off your donations today. No fabric items accepted as donation due to COVID-19 restrictions.

#### Accepted Items:

- Gentle used items in good condition
- New items
- Monetary Donations
- Canned goods and non-perishable items
- Gift cards
- Gift bags and wrapping paper

Keep your eyes peeled for further details on how to register for a Christmas in the Campground stall or enter a parade float in the Santa Parade.

 Family Violence Prevention Walk  
 November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

 Santa's Workshop  
 December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

 Santa's Parade  
 December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

 Christmas in the Campground  
 December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

 Christmas Hamper Applications  
 Deadline  
December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

 Angel Tree  
 Available at Chinook Financial  
After November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

 **Donation Deadlines**  
 Santa's Workshop Donations  
accepted until December 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Christmas Hamper and Angel  
Tree Donations accepted until  
December 18<sup>th</sup>

Contact Victoria with questions  
and for more information on  
how to get involved.

fcss@bassano.ca ★ 403-641-3788

