



2024 ANNUAL REVIEW NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year everyone!! I am proud of the fact that we implemented the coffee with council sessions twice a month. We enjoy the interactions. Welcome to all the new businesses, McDonalds, Gong's Pet Supplies & Grooming, and BRC to name a few. It was a full house at the McDonald's grand opening. Congratulations to Gong's for opening their new store!! We have met with developers wanting to build residential in Claresholm, and several are very promising. The Porcupine Lodge expansion is making great progress. Pine Place lots are ready for sale. I would also like to welcome all the newcomers to Claresholm. – Mayor Brad Schlossberger.

UTILITY SERVICES

In 2024 the Water Treatment Plant membrane rack Numatics were upgraded by Aria-Filtra. The new G3-Numatics will ensure Claresholm water treatment membrane and SCADA process operation. The Reservoir was cleaned by Aqua-tech Divers in 2024 to ensure clean, potable drinking water is sent for the distribution process during the first point of entry. The Highway Pump Station backup generator replacement and remote radio SCADA control upgrades started in 2024 and will continue into 2025.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Several key capital projects were completed in 2024. Phase II of the Westlynn Storm Project, improving stormwater management by diverting storm water from the Frog Creek drainage at the campground, increasing capacity and reducing flooding risks. The roadworks around Tamarack Road East were completed, allowing the development of 8 new residential lots in Pine Place, which are now available for purchase. Construction at Amundsen Park is now complete with the addition of new pathways, more wheelchair-accessible ramps, and angled parking on the park's south side, making the space more accessible and user-friendly.



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

2024 saw over \$14.9 million dollars' worth of development permits issued for the Town. Many of these will be started or completed in 2025. There were also 19 new housing starts, 13 new home occupations, and 12 change-in-use applications (new/expanded businesses). The Town has adopted two new area structure plans with planning in place for new developments.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

With the continuation of centralization of social support services, (accessing 1-800 number intake lines and web portals) FCSS staff worked diligently to help as many community members as possible. Lack of appropriate or affordable housing was a big issue this year. Sadly, we saw the end of the Teen Group but have created a Junior Teen group that is thriving. Tumbling Tots (a program for large motor skills for littles) is still operating every Monday. Our senior chat afternoon is seeing more members participating. Congratulations to all our Good Neighbor winners; keep up the good work in 2025! Our staff are looking forward to a bright new year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS



Claresholm Economic Development has maintained the Claresholm Business Hub Job Postings newsletter which provides a roundup of all job postings in Claresholm, as well as the ED Bulletin, which is sent out bimonthly to business owners with information relevant to them on awards, grants, incentives, learning opportunities, Town events, and more. The Claresholm Connect4Commerce tool was launched on our website which hosts listings for commercial properties in town. The Claresholm Economic Development Committee created a Strategic Plan for 2024 - 2026 to align with Council's Strategic Plan.

2024 was an exciting year for tourism and community engagement! We kicked off the Winter Festival with a sunny day and one of the largest turnouts to date—perhaps the beautiful weather helped. On Canada Day, we danced in the rain, and once again, you all showed up despite the wet conditions. We celebrated big with "Spread the World" and many other fun activities. The launch of the Stay and Play incentive brought visitors to our town, allowing them to explore all the amazing things we have to offer. Fair Days set a new record, with four action-packed days of fun at the County Fair, attracting people from all over. Some of our favorite highlights were the markets and movies in the park, along with live music at Amundsen. The list of great events could go on and on! We're incredibly grateful to the service groups that contributed to the fun and to the amazing local businesses that helped make events like Kindness Week, the Downtown Trick-or-Treat, and the window decorating contest such a success. We are so fortunate to live in such a vibrant, fun town! Get ready—2025 is bringing even more exciting things our way. Stay tuned!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024 was a big year for the fire department! We responded to 328 events, which is an increase of 37% from our 2023 response numbers. Medical calls and assists to EMS represent 23% of calls we responded to, while false alarms or no-fire-calls make up 25% of responses. This year also saw the completion of one of the



capital projects that the department has been working towards – that being the receipt of the new Fire Engine. This truck represents the most up-to-date apparatus in the Claresholm fleet and is complete with enhanced safety features, such as a surround view camera system. Another project that was completed this year was the purchase of the final piece of our electronic extrication tools (Jaws of Life). This project received funding from our annual golf tournament and the Community Foundation of Lethbridge & Southwestern Alberta. Thanks to everyone who has helped us realize our goals!

PARKS & RECREATION

Claresholm Recreation paired with the Social Centre for our Garden Series evenings where speakers, seed swapping and plant exchanges were highly successful with participants. Our 3rd annual Water Barrel program was again widely popular. The new skate park was built, designed for multiple uses, and abilities, future plans for the park are in the works. The Claresholm Bark Park now has a Board to assist with Park Development. The Claresholm Aquatic Centre received a facelift during the annual shutdown. The ball hockey tournament during Winterfest was a crowd favourite, and other events such as Canada Day and Fair Days were hopping with fun, family activities for all. The 2024 Southern Alberta Summer Games was back after a 4-year hiatus in Coaldale.



MUSEUM & VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

We had a highly successful summer season in 2024, welcoming over 2,500 visitors and hosting 23 bus tours. Highlights included our Father's Day Classic Car Show, participation in Fair Days (where we won the Grand Aggregate prize for best parade float), and our annual Lemonade on the Lawn event. Additionally, we hosted our first-ever Stones & Bones event in collaboration with the Royal Alberta Museum this May, which was a resounding success. This year, we also marked the 100th anniversary of the RCAF with the unveiling of our completed Link Trainer, now part of our War Years exhibit. To wrap up the year, we once again took part in the Old-Fashioned Christmas festivities, drawing our largest crowd yet—221 visitors who enjoyed cookie decorating, hot cider, and live entertainment. We thank everyone who made this year a success for the museum, and we can't wait to welcome you back for another season in 2025.