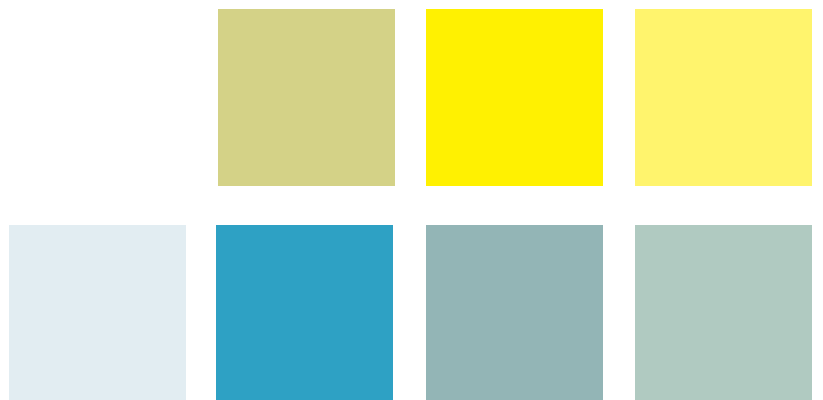


# 2021 MUNICIPAL YEAR IN REVIEW

2021



# 2021-2025 Council



Town of Olds Council consists of a Mayor and six Councillors who are elected by the citizens of Olds every four years. Together they are responsible for establishing corporate policy and setting strategic priorities. The current Council was officially elected and began its four year term on Monday, October 25, 2021.

Of the approximately 7,270 persons eligible to vote in the Town of Olds Municipal Election - 2362 people cast their vote on October 18, 2021.

Pictured left to right (back row):

Councillor(s) Dan Daley; James Cummings; Harvey Walsh, Darren Wilson.

Pictured left to right (front row):

Councillor Wanda Blatz, Mayor Judy Dahl and Councillor Heather Ryan.

# 2017-2021 Council

Farewell and thank you to outgoing members of the 2017-2021 Council. Pictured left to right are:

Councillor Mary Jane Harper  
14 Years of Service (2007-2021)

Councillor Mary Anne Overwater  
8 Years of Service (2013-2021)

Mayor Michael Muzychka  
4 Years of Service (2017-2021)

Councillor Debbie Bennett  
11 Years of Service (2010-2021)

Councillor Heather Ryan  
Re-elected 2021

Councillor Wanda Blatz  
Re-elected 2021

Councillor Mitch Thomson  
1 Year of Service



# Mayor's Message

Welcome, I am grateful to present the 2021 Annual Year in Review on behalf of Town of Olds Council.

The onset of the COVID19 pandemic in 2020 presented unexpected challenges for our community and much to everyone's dismay, this unprecedented virus continued throughout 2021. Olds residents responded by demonstrating a feeling of expectation and desire for certain goals to happen as they made personal sacrifices to keep their families and neighbours safe and healthy.

Council and Administration moved quickly to adapt programs and services to safeguard the health of the community. Council has heard that everyone feels they deserve happiness. We are all hoping for a peaceful resolution to the struggles we have all been faced with.

We are continuously reminded of the unsettling forecasts we are faced with today in these times, yet we are here to serve this remarkable community.

On behalf of myself and your newly elected Council, we will work with residents and business to establish corporate policy and set strategic priorities for the next four-year term.

With Gratitude, Mayor Judy

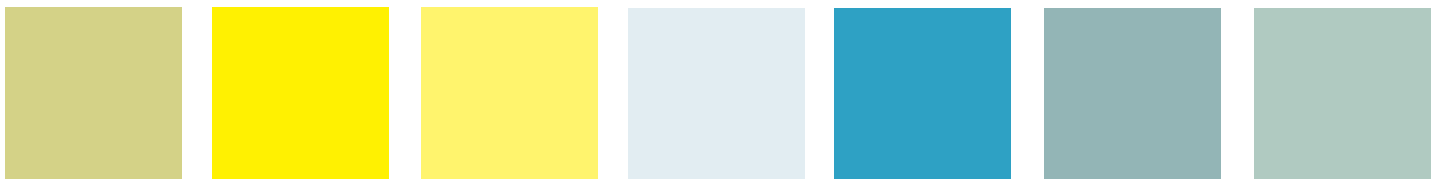


Judy Dahl  
Mayor, Town of Olds

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***"I am reminded of the hope we share based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in life, community and the world at large."***

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# CAO'S Message

In the 2020 Annual Report, I reflected on how the Town of Olds and the world changed as a result of COVID-19, and I must say through the tremendous contributions of our staff, the guidance of our Council, and the patience of our residents, we were able to make adjustments throughout 2021 to continue to deliver quality services to our community.

This was a challenging year, as COVID-19 continued to force us to adjust service levels, place restrictions on the usage of facilities (due to provincial health orders), provide assistance to the business community, and work through COVID-19 protocols, all while service delivery continued.

Some of the significant accomplishments and achievements made during the past year are highlighted below:

The business community was supported through the pandemic with an operational grant and the elimination of both business license and building permit fees. In addition, we worked with restaurants to fast-track patio permits, so they could continue to provide services while faced with indoor capacity limits and other service restrictions.

The Town of Olds opened the newly built Operations Centre in the west end of Town, and saw the construction of two major road projects; the Highway 2A roundabout (part of our long-term transportation plan) along with the construction of a new intersection at Highway 27 and 70 Avenue.

A new Municipal Development Plan was adopted and three quarter sections of land were annexed and approved by the Province of Alberta in December. This annexation will accommodate growth for many years into the future.

The October 18, 2021 election brought many changes

to Town Council. After a four year break from municipal governance, Judy Dahl was re-elected as Town of Olds Mayor. Councillor Blatz and Councillor Ryan were re-elected for another term, and four Councillors were newly elected. Welcome to Dan Daley, James Cummings, Harvey Walsh and Darren Wilson. I want to wish the new Council all the best during their four year mandate and I anticipate that they will continue to provide great leadership to our community.

I want to thank our former Mayor, Michael Muzychka, and Councillors Debbie Bennett, Mary Jane Harper, Mary Anne Overwater, and Mitch Thomson for their support and service.

The Town was joined by Scott Grieco in November of 2021 as he takes on his position as the new Director of Operations.

After 40 years of public service, I announced my retirement last November and I look forward to that next step in my life. I have many treasured memories of my time with the Town of Olds.

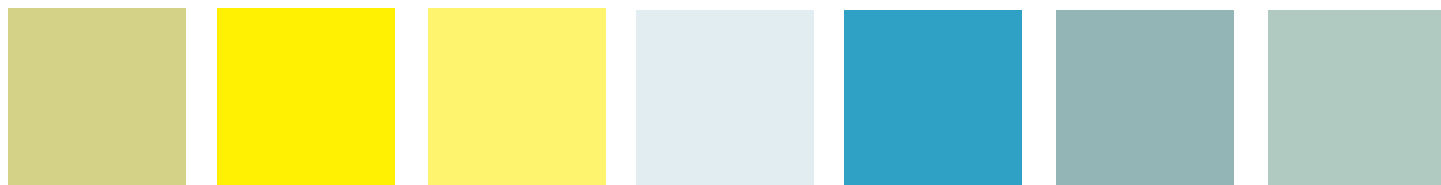
Special thanks to Council and the incredible staff for their tremendous support over my four and a half years as CAO, and the many adjustments and sacrifices that you made and for your resiliency as you continue to provide our town with quality services to our residents.

I want to thank the residents of Olds for allowing me to serve you over the last years of my career, and the various Councils who provided me with the guidance to carry out my duties.

I am hopeful that 2022 allows a return to a more normal and consistent way of life, and that we are able to reflect on challenges we faced as an opportunity to learn and grow.



- Michael Merritt, CAO



# Operations - 2021 Capital Projects



## 68 Street Roundabout

The 68 Street roundabout opened Wednesday October 27, 2021. The roundabout is an added safe alternative to an intersection and will increase access to the Southeast industrial area of the community. The industrial area is expected to grow so the addition of infrastructure to support our local economy is a welcome addition. Roundabouts provide a safer, less congested alternative to traditional intersections by ensuring consistent flow of traffic and also provides a natural traffic calming within the Community. Cleanup and line painting will happen this Spring of 2022



## 70 Avenue Intersection

The 70 Ave intersection was completed at the tail end of 2021 with a new intersection including signalization. The intersection provides traffic calming at the west end of our community and will provide enhanced transportation access in both entering and leaving the Community. The intersection was installed to support the growth in the Western portion of the Community including Westview, Rotary Athletic Park, Chinook Meadows, and Highlands. Final cleanup of the project will be completed during the spring of 2022.

## Wayfinding Signage Project Continues



The intent of the new wayfinding signage is to establish a consistent system of signs which direct and inform both visitors and residents.

The wayfinding project began in 2020 with 11 bold signs installed. The signage was strategically placed to:

- Improve Tourism.
- Showcase Amenities at a glance for those passing through Olds.
- Effectively direct travelers to amenities/facilities.
- Showcase the OLDS brand.

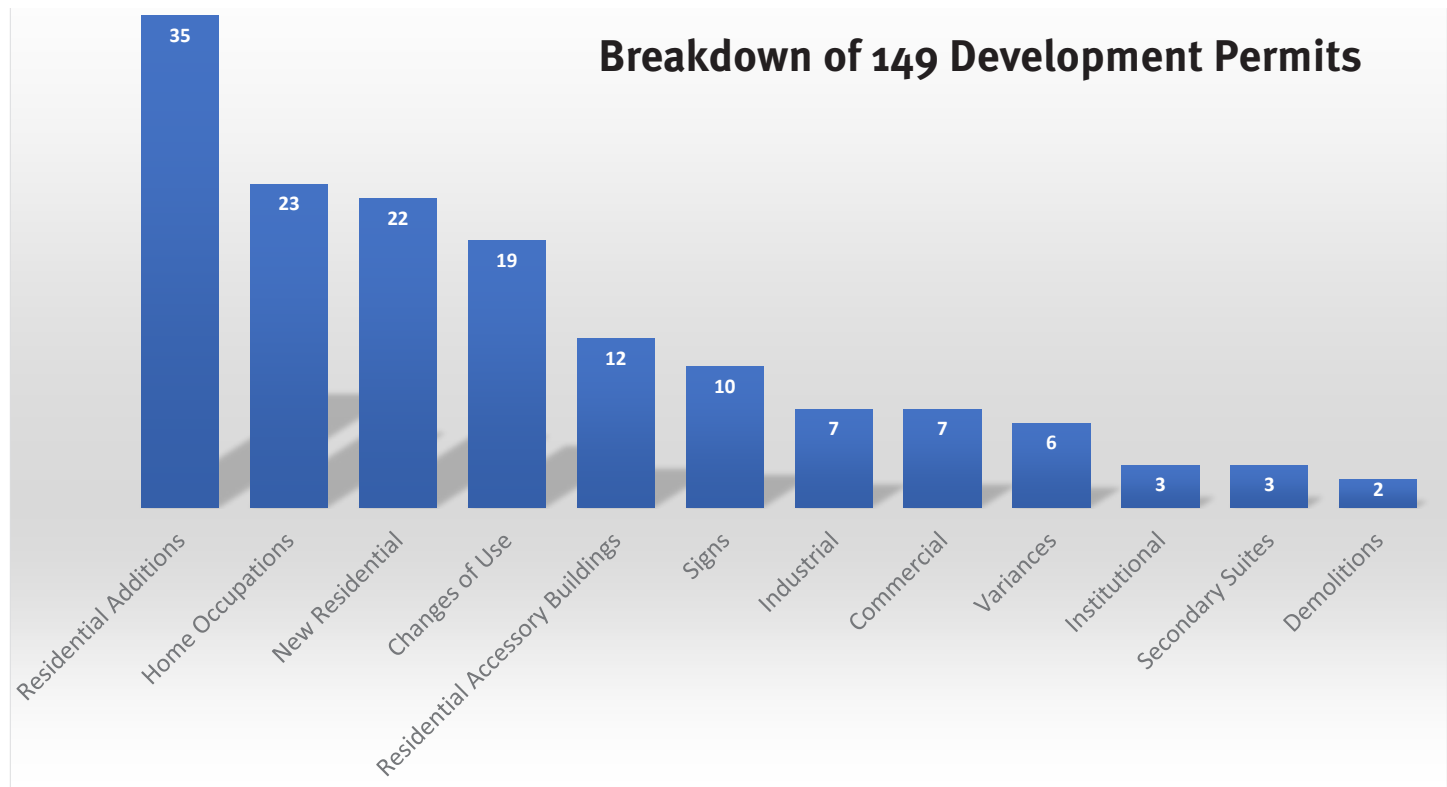
2021 saw the continuation of the wayfinding signage throughout Town. The focus in 2021 was on installing signage along Highways 27 and 2A, along with a Civic Amenity Identifier for the new Operations Centre.

The installation of signage is a longer term project using the 2018 Wayfinding Signage Master Plan as a guide to phase in signage over several years.



# Operations - Planning & Development

149 building permits were issued for various types of projects.



## Building & Development

Development services are in place to ensure that all development on residential, commercial, and industrial properties complies with the Town's Land Use Bylaw. The Town of Olds also provides building inspection services to ensure Safety Codes are met when assisting residents, professional home builders, commercial contractors, and professional engineers and architects. Inspections and permitting processes were adapted during the pandemic to allow some inspections to be completed virtually.



### 2021 Building Permit Statistics

	Residential										Commercial		Industrial		Institutional		TOTALS	
	Detached Dwelling		Duplex			Multi-Unit			Acc. Bldg/Other									
	#	Value	#	Units	Value	#	Units	Value	#	Value	#	Value	#	Value	#	Value	#	Value
Jan	2	\$640,000.00							2	\$130,000.00	1	\$80,000.00					5	\$850,000.00
Feb	4	\$982,000.00							3	\$75,500.00							7	\$1,057,500.00
Mar	2	\$640,000.00							9	\$445,700.00	2	\$57,000.00	1	\$50,000.00			14	\$1,192,700.00
Apr	1	\$200,000.00							4	\$32,544.00	2	\$45,000.00	1	\$20,000.00			8	\$297,544.00
May	1	\$430,000.00							9	\$177,500.00	2	\$92,600.00					12	\$700,100.00
Jun									4	\$20,500.00	1	\$5,000.00					5	\$25,500.00
Jul									5	\$110,460.00			1	\$28,000.00	1	\$22,405.00	7	\$160,865.00
Aug	1	\$370,000.00							9	\$126,780.00	1	\$50,000.00			1	\$750,000.00	12	\$1,296,780.00
Sep	1	\$340,000.00							4	\$30,000.00			1	\$3,200.00			6	\$373,200.00
Oct	2	\$875,000.00							1	\$10,000.00	4	\$219,973.00			1	\$150,000.00	8	\$1,254,973.00
Nov	2	\$750,000.00	2	1	\$440,000.00				1	\$23,687.00	2	\$110,000.00	2	\$228,935.00			9	\$1,552,622.00
Dec	1	\$300,000.00									2	\$65,000.00	1	\$285,000.00			4	\$650,000.00
	17	\$5,527,000.00	2	1	\$440,000.00	0	0	\$0.00	51	\$1,182,671.00	17	\$724,573.00	7	\$615,135.00	3	\$922,405.00	97	\$9,411,784.00



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# Operations - Planning & Development

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## ***Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Annexation***

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The Town of Olds and Mountain View County worked together to complete an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP). Mountain View County and the Town of Olds IDP coordinates land use planning and development decisions involving lands close to and bordering the Town of Olds.

Annexation is the process of transferring land from one municipal jurisdiction (County) to another municipal jurisdiction (Town). This enables the annexing jurisdiction to administer the area and put in place its plans for orderly and logical growth of the area for many years to come. The Province of Alberta is the approving authority for annexation proposals.

Annexation is mainly about the supply of available land for planned growth. It means planning ahead so that when the landowner is ready to develop and the economic potential emerges subdivision and development applications can be considered for approval in a timely manner.

Annexation does not change who owns the land. Each landowner prior to annexation continues to own their own property after annexation unless they decide to sell the land to someone else.

The latest Annexation involves lands on the northeast corner of Olds. Road names within the annexed area were approved by Municipal Planning Commission on February 17, 2022. Range Road 13 will now be known as 34 Avenue on the northeastern end of town. 46 and 50 Avenues will now extend farther norther in name to the new town boundary. Further information on the IDP is available on the website at [olds.ca/IDP](https://olds.ca/IDP)



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## ***Municipal Development Plan (MDP)***

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The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is a long-term strategic Plan for managing growth in the Town of Olds. The MDP sets the vision of how to accommodate this growth responsibly. It is an important decision-making tool for Mayor and Council, Administration and Stakeholders. The MDP was revised and updated January 25, 2021.

Topics covered in a Municipal Development Plan include:

- Land use patterns showing the locations for major residential, commercial and industrial areas of activity;
- Major road and pedestrian corridors and networks;
- Preservation of significant natural features;
- Open space, park and recreation areas;
- Design of subdivisions and neighbourhoods;
- Economic development and locations for employment related needs;
- Cultural and heritage preservation; and
- Directions for future growth and expansion.

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## ***North Reservoir Relining Project***

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The Town would like to thank residents for their cooperation with watering restrictions during the North Reservoir relining project. The relining work, which began on May 13, 2021 was expected to last until early August however it wrapped up early on July 21. Inspections noted signs of concrete deterioration, by relining the 500,000 litre concrete cistern in 2021 we are able to extend the life of the reservoir another 10 years. This will allow the Town to plan and prepare for its replacement.

Work progressed quite well and the project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. The total cost of the project was \$538,725.00 and will extend the lifespan of the reservoir for many years.

Watering restrictions were in place throughout the hot weather and drought conditions and the Town thanks residents for being extremely helpful and understanding during this construction period.

# New Municipal Operations Centre



One of the many highlights of 2021 was the opening of the Town of Olds new Operations Centre. Featuring a total of 43,970 square feet of building space and 84,685 square metres of usable land, this facility had been planned for many years and was designed with future growth in mind. The new Operations Centre is located on 70 Avenue, just north of Highway 27 and the Town of Olds' Rotary Athletic Park – a community recreation site that features a variety of amenities such as athletic fields and playgrounds, which also hosted its grand opening in 2021!

The new Operations Centre replaces its former building location on 50 Avenue, which was also known as the previous Fire Hall.

Prior to moving into this new facility, departments such as Utilities, Public Works, Parks, and Facilities worked out of a multitude of other buildings such as the former operations centre, an equipment quonset and an older Atco trailer. These spaces were situated on differing properties throughout an east-Olds residential neighbourhood and created parking and safety concerns for both staff and residents when the town would

access heavy equipment at various hours throughout the day. This is only but one reason that the new Operations Centre was highly anticipated and welcomed within our community.

The new Operations Centre was built on the former site of the old Sewage Lagoon and Water Treatment Plant. When the provincial government mandated that all communities join a regional pipeline and send their wastewater via that pipeline to Red Deer, the former Sewage Lagoon and Water Treatment Plant were closed, which made the new site in

the northwest corner of Olds the ideal location to build the new Operations Centre, which would then properly house all staff and equipment.

Both the building and the site were designed to streamline operational functionality and the new Operations Centre is also proudly home to the Olds Fire Department's Training Centre.

Be sure to watch for information on a public Grand Opening of the new Operations Centre, which will include tours of this impressive facility, later in 2022!





# 2021 Municipal Election

The Town of Olds, along with all Alberta municipalities held their general municipal election on Monday, October 18, 2021. As part of the Local Authorities Election Act, Mayor and Councillors are voted in for a 4-year term with a general election being held every four years. The 2021 election was unique as it took place during the middle of a global pandemic.

The Town of Olds saw two candidates running for mayor, and nine candidates running for a total of six councillor seats.

Electors were not only asked to vote on the local municipal election, the Province saw this as a great opportunity to hold a Provincial Senate election, and along with that, two referendum questions were added to the Provincial ballot as well. (One in regards to equalization and the second question on daylight savings time).

Additional advanced voting dates were put into place for voters convenience. The following safety measures were put into place to protect from Covid-19:

Directional traffic flows were put in place to ensure voters could enter and exit through a separate door, and PPE including masks and cleaning were utilized to ensure everything was sanitized between each vote cast. Persons with mobility/health issues were encouraged to vote at advanced polls.

The election was run solely with Town staff and many compliments were received on how efficiently the election was run and how safe electors felt coming out to vote.

A special thank you to all citizens who exercised their right to vote in the 2021 Municipal Election.

Marcie McKinnon, Returning Officer



**ADVANCED  
VOTING**

Town of Olds  
Admin. Office  
4512 46 Street

**October 13, 2021** Noon - 4 pm

**October 14, 2021** Noon - 6 pm

**October 15, 2021** 2 pm - 8 pm

**October 16, 2021** 10 am - 4 pm

COVID-19 - The Town of Olds adheres to all Alberta Health Services regulations.

**Election Day: October 18, 2021**

8:00 am - 8:00 pm

**Olds Royal Canadian Legion**

5241 46 Street, Olds, Alberta



Olds Town Council with Municipal Affairs Minister Ric McIver at the Alberta Municipalities Convention in November 2021.

# Community Services

As we know COVID has had an impact on everything that Community Services offers. There was a lot of transitioning to COVID friendly activities and part of our jobs was to connect regularly with different businesses and community groups.



## Arts

- "I Love Olds" Photo Contest ran from April to August with three winners announced in September 2021, all of the entries can be viewed on the Town of Olds website.
- Another wave of Covid-19 meant that the collaborative community event planned for Alberta Culture Days in Olds in September had to be postponed at the last minute to September, 2022
- The Public Arts Advisory Committee which was established by Council in 2019, continued to support the development of the public art program in the community through advising on the new Mural Bylaw and process as well as other community inquiries around public art projects.

## Great Neighbours Program

### Riddle Me This Adventure

Residents were asked to shake the Covid blues and register their families for an active, creative, puzzling pursuit through Olds over the Family Day Weekend.

The Town delivered a series of puzzles and challenges right to residents door steps. They were asked to solve the riddles at their own pace and time by using team work, creativity and venturing out in the Olds community.

### Nominate a Great Neighbour

This program began in July 2021 where fabulous neighbours who were appreciated and deserved recognition were nominated as a Great Neighbour. Each week the Great Neighbours crew showed up with a BBQ, tent, games and hotdogs for a party at the winning household. [www.olds.ca/gnp](http://www.olds.ca/gnp)

### Covid Friendly Trails and Maps

Did you know Olds has over 20 km of trails throughout the four quadrants of town. Residents were encouraged to enjoy fresh air and use a specially designed trail map to discover areas of town they may not have otherwise experienced. The Trails map is available at: [https://www.olds.ca/sites/default/files/docs/2021 trails brochure.pdf](https://www.olds.ca/sites/default/files/docs/2021%20trails%20brochure.pdf)

### Community Volunteer Bank

The Olds Community Volunteer Bank was brought to you by the Great Neighbours Program to connect individuals who want to donate their time to the community and organizations in need of volunteers. Follow the Community Volunteer Bank on Facebook for regular updates.

### Twinkle Light Tour

To join in the Olds Fashioned Christmas spirit, residents who had fantastic Christmas light displays were plotted on a user-friendly map for everyone to take the tour and enjoy the superb decorating skills in town. Prizes were awarded to the best displays.

### Hartman Green Disc Golf

Did you know Olds has a 9 hole, par 27, 860 meter disc golf course located in Hartman Green (56 Ave. & 43 St.) Disc golf is one of the best lifetime fitness sports. It is easy to learn, a healthy activity and accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels. Best of all, there is no charge to play! A complete brochure, printable score cards and rules to the game are available to download at:

<https://www.olds.ca/HartmanGreen>



# Community Services

## 2021 Events

### ***Volunteer Appreciation 2021***

With Covid restrictions in full swing, local organizations that utilize volunteers received a little gift of appreciation for their volunteers to be redeemed at local businesses as we could not get together in person to recognize all the hard work of our volunteers. Our volunteer base in Olds worked tirelessly through all the different levels of Covid Restrictions in 2021 and we tip our hats to you all.

### ***Canada Day 2021***

A drive through event was held on July 1, 2021. People received some goodies at each tent they stopped at. Mountain View Moccasin House, The Boys and Girls Club of Olds and area, Westview Coop and Kiwanis Club of Olds all worked together to bring about this great family event.

### ***Olds Fashioned Christmas***

Olds Fashioned Christmas was again a work of many groups that came together. The Covid restrictions had relaxed slightly and we had approximately 700 people who were able to enjoy the activities inside the COW Palace. Many others lined the Light Up Parade route and then joined the fun out at the Rotary Athletic Park for a Christmas display of fireworks.



### ***Public Art***

There were no public art engagements completed in 2021.

### ***Rotary Athletic Park Grand Opening***

In September the official Grand Opening of the Rotary Athletic Park of Olds was celebrated with a ceremony followed by games, hot dogs some horseshoes. The day was chilly but fun was had by all who attended as we celebrated residents of Olds, local business and the Rotary Club of Olds who all helped the park become a reality.



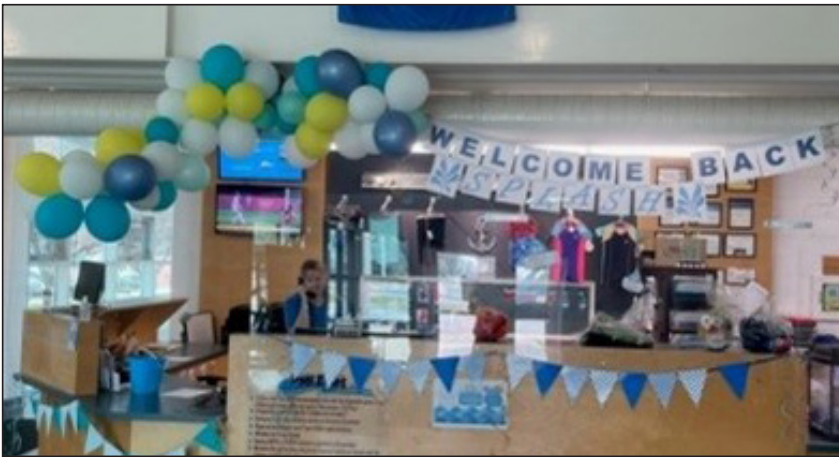
## Culture

Continued support for community efforts in developing a creative, welcoming, and inclusive community including:

- Support for UBUNTU Mobilizing Central Alberta and their request for a proclamation of Black History Month in Olds in February, 2021.
- International Women's Day Proclamation March 8, 2021.
- Support for Olds and District Hospice Society including proclaiming Hospice Palliative Care Week.
- The Declaration to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities was endorsed by Town Council on May 26, 2021, as a commitment towards being an official Welcoming and Inclusive Community with AUMA.
- Truth and Reconciliation through collaboration with Mountain View Moccasin House Society and Olds Indigenous Connections in their planning of National Indigenous Peoples Day and other initiatives. Due to the Covid situation a virtual event was created for National Indigenous Peoples Day in 2021.
- Orange Shirt Day proclamation and commemoration of the first annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021.
- Supported Mountain View Moccasin House Society in their initiative to facilitate Stoney Nakoda Knowledge-Keepers coming to Olds to share Tipi and Hunting Teachings.
- Recognized and promoted Métis Week which commenced with raising the Métis Flag at Town Office.
- All in support of our efforts towards increased awareness and celebration of the spectrum of diversity in our community.



# Community Services - Aquatic Centre

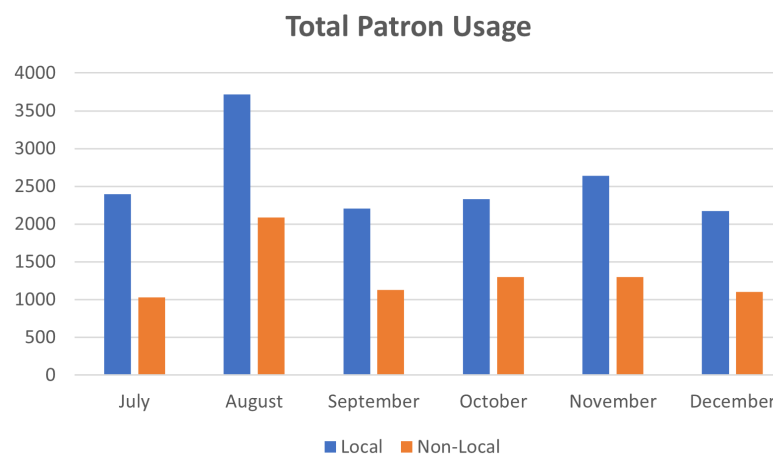


The Olds Aquatic Centre opened the facility once again after a second full closure in 2021 due to COVID-19. The decision was made to implement a Restriction Exemptions Program (REP) at the facility in order to offer full programming. This was the first time since the start of the

COVID pandemic that the Town of Olds was able to offer full program public and family swims as well as pool and party room rentals.

- The Splash Park was open for 2021
- School Swimming lessons were provided once again
- Both Special Olympics and the Horizon School were welcomed back to the facility in the fall.
- 3 special events were hosted in 2021
- Grand Re-Opening
- Halloween Swim
- Christmas Swim
- In-person advanced aquatics programming was offered including the following:

- National Lifesaver Programming
- Bronze Medallion Courses
- Babysitters Programs
- Stay Safe Programs



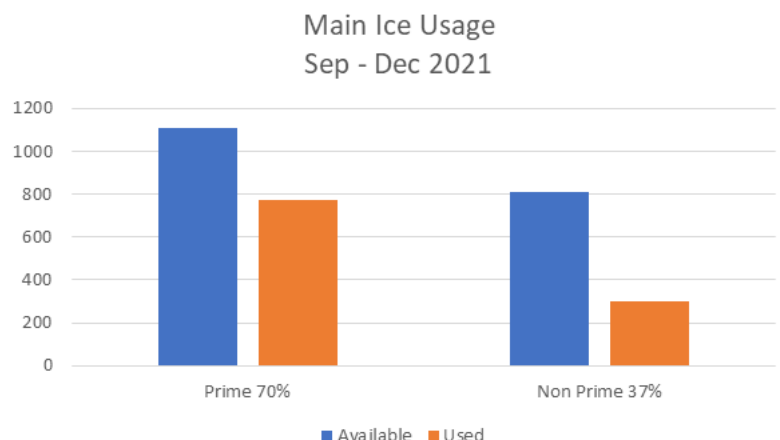
**Utilization Stats from July 2021 to December 2021**

Please note: up until July of 2021, the pool had been open and closed more than once due to ongoing COVID-19 provincial restrictions.

## Sportsplex

The Sportsplex was closed in January/February 2021 and reopened in March for Grizzly and Bronco practices. Hockey clinics were held in April on the main ice with Lacrosse practicing on the auxiliary ice surface.

Unfortunately, the Sportsplex was again shut down in May due to rising COVID numbers. Following this shutdown, the facility reopened the middle of June with Junior and Minor Lacrosse practices held throughout the summer. The ice fired back up in August and by September all hockey was back in full swing for the remainder of the year!



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# Public Engagement ‘THIS AFFECTS YOU’

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Town of Olds Administration and Council, under the slogan **‘THIS AFFECTS YOU’** reaches out the citizen body to engage and hear directly from the people who live and work in Olds. Engagements held during 2021 included:

**Curbside Garbage/Recycle/Compost Schedule  
Recreation Master Plan**

**Business Impact Study  
Olds Policing Advisory Committee**

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## *Olds Policing Advisory Committee (OPAC)*

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The Olds Policing Advisory Committee (OPAC) was launched in January to provide a forum to receive input from the community with respect to public safety matters. This committee consists of five members of the public and two members of council who meet to discuss community policing needs and trends in the community regularly to ensure the Olds community has safe, effective and fair policing through public input. Committee members have a wide range of experience and expertise including social services, working with youth and business backgrounds.

Olds RCMP launched a survey in 2021 asking what citizen’s priorities were:

- **What are the top three policing priorities in Olds?**
- **Are local RCMP detachment staff approachable and accessible?**
- **Do you feel there are areas that could be improved upon?**

Survey Results for the year 2022 Priorities are follows:

- **Crime Reduction**
- **Community Engagement & Visibility**
- **Domestic Violence**

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## *Curbside Program*

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In June 2021, a survey was held to determine whether residents wanted to maintain a three week rotation schedule for garbage/recycling/compost or move to a two week cycle. The proposed two week cycle would repeat every two weeks and cost households an additional \$8.60 per month. Waste pickup is not done on an individual basis so the decision to change would affect all households.

Residents were given two options and asked to select one of the following:

- Option 1 - Keep the 3 week cycle (no change in cost).
- Option 2 - Move to a 2-week cycle (\$8.60 per month increase to your utility bill).

Thank you for your feedback. Participation for this survey was high with 1468 responses! 65% of respondents chose to keep the current schedule, a 3-week cycle versus moving to a 2-week cycle.

Beyond the two options provided, feedback was received with ideas on how the current system could be improved. Administration is reviewing all comments to bring to Council for fall budget and service level deliberations. As the town has a waste contract in place for the remainder of this year, any decisions to adjust service levels would take place in 2022.

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## *Regional Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan*

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The Town of Olds was fortunate to receive a grant from Alberta Community Partnership to complete a Regional Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. The Towns of Olds, Didsbury, Carstairs and Sundre, the Village of Cremona, and Mountain View County, came together collaboratively to update a 2009 regional master plan. Since that time, each community has changed substantially, and all have experienced growth in residential, commercial and industrial areas. To ensure investments in parks, recreation and culture best meet the needs of our communities, the municipal partners worked to update the master plan.

Primary research was completed through community engagement and in-person community tours. Secondary research consisted of a review of key internal and external documents, benchmarking research, trends analysis and provincial and national recreation documents. The final report includes an assessment of the current state of parks, recreation and culture infrastructure and service delivery, recommending priorities to meet current and future needs, and prioritizing an implementation plan that will guide decision related to parks, recreation and culture in Olds and surrounding region.

[www.olds.ca/discover-olds/heritage-arts-culture/mountain-view-regional-parks-recreation-and-culture-master-plan](http://www.olds.ca/discover-olds/heritage-arts-culture/mountain-view-regional-parks-recreation-and-culture-master-plan)

# Protective Services

The Town of Olds along with the Olds Fire Department provided outdoor ice surfaces as a pilot project. These skating rinks did not have boards, only snow edges. The pilot project included 8 surfaces at the following locations:

- Neil Leatherdale Park
- Deer Meadow School
- Richards Crescent
- Hartman Green
- Imperial Ball Diamonds
- Centennial Park
- Winter Lake
- Highlands Ponds

The Town received positive feedback from the public regarding the number of ice surfaces, location and the addition of benches and shovels.

Use was sporadic, however this was due to weather extremes. The poly liners used in construction in 2021 needed less water therefore the maintenance of the ice surfaces has been easier.



## Fire Hydrant Flushing

During the summer of 2021 Town of Olds staff while flushing out the fire hydrants, collected the water and emptied it onto trees and green spaces throughout town. As a safety precaution, fire hydrants are flushed annually to ensure each device is fully functional and flushed of any debris that may inhibit operations in the event of a fire. It is a direct responsibility of the municipality to be able to provide these services to the public.

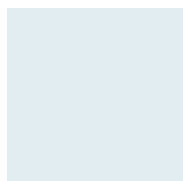
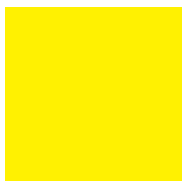
Director of Protective Services, Justin Andrew explains that in the event of situations like water restrictions, it is still important to conduct these tests as fire insurance rates, that all taxpayers bear, are very dependent on the proof provided by the municipality that the water infrastructure is maintained and verified annually. 2021 was a drought year and trees and green-spaces were watered from the flushing thus saving them from drought and disease.

## Fire Department Awarded Grain Rescue Equipment

The Town of Olds Fire Department was awarded a grain rescue equipment from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), in partnership with Corteva Agriscience Canada.

While training is key, a successful rescue could not happen without the proper equipment. CASA, in partnership with Corteva Agriscience, has provided Olds Fire Department with a GSI RES-Q-TUBE and a Haul-ALL pencil auger, both of which are essential in rescuing a grain entrapment victim. When used in combination, the grain rescue tube creates a barrier between the victim and the grain while the auger helps rescuers quickly move the grain away from the victim.

Former Mayor Michael Muzychka and former Councillor Al Kemmere voiced how extremely fortunate Mountain View County is to have this type of rescue equipment awarded to, and available in, our rural farming community.

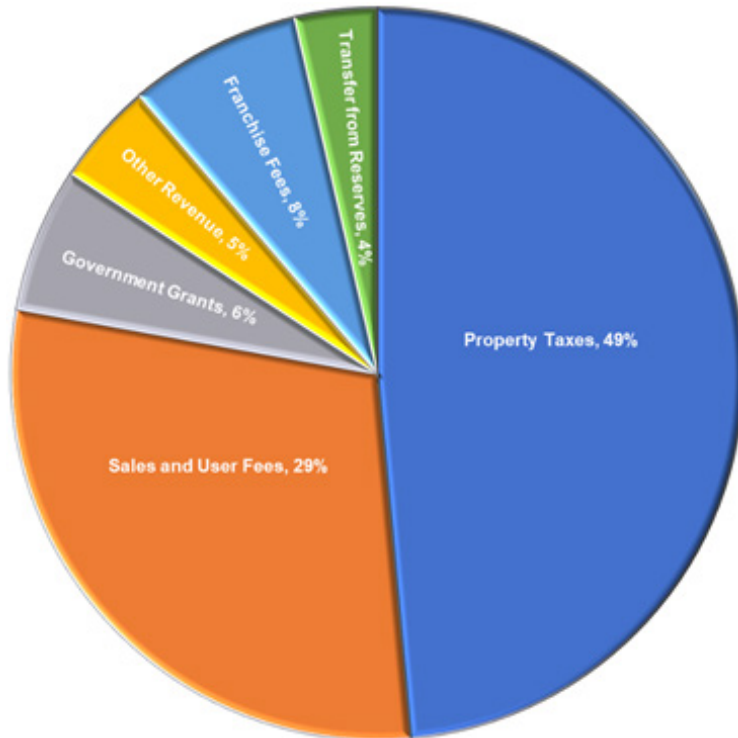




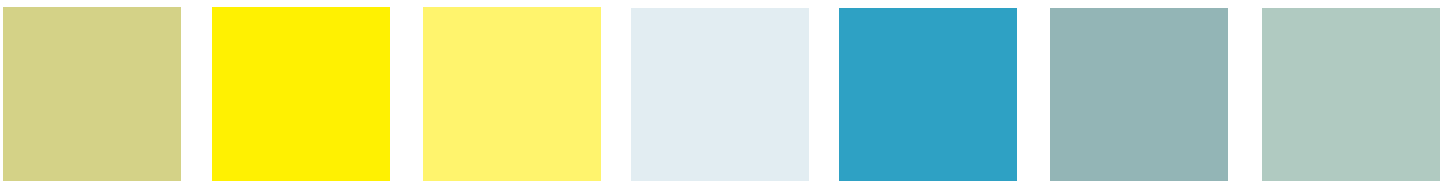
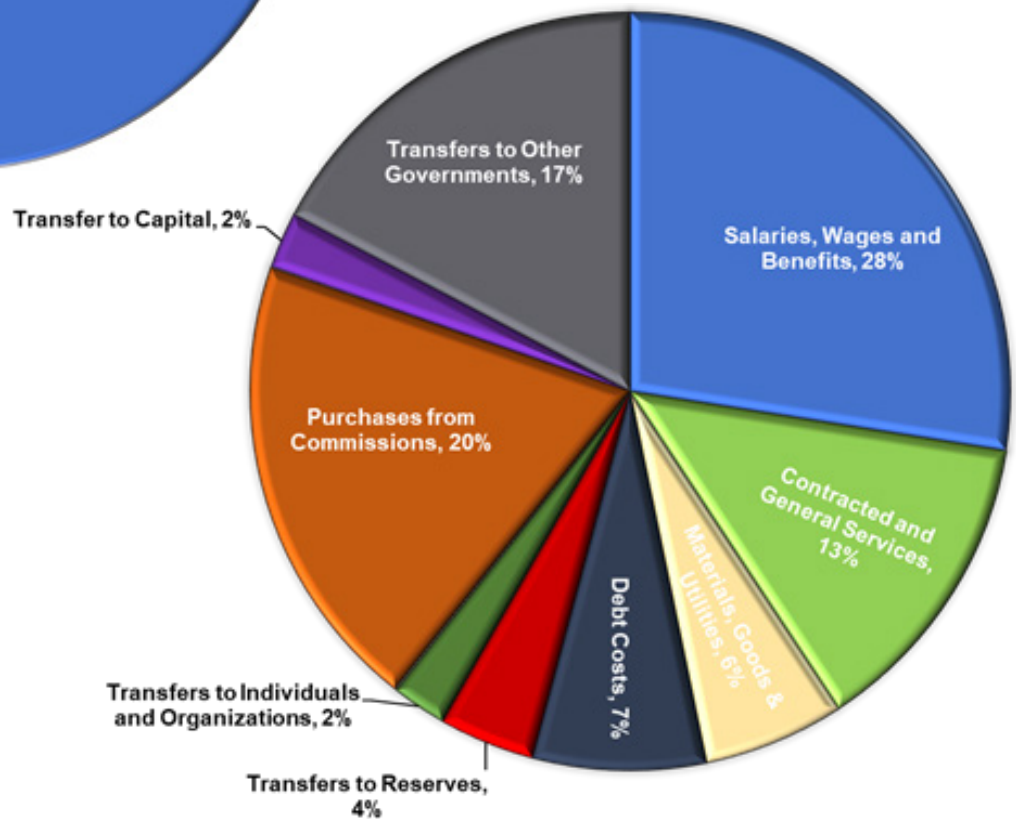
# Finance

Revenue is generated through taxation, sales and user fees, franchise fees, government grants and other revenues such as licenses and Permits, penalties, costs and fines and investment income.

Property taxes are the main source of revenue for the Town of Olds, followed closely by sales and user fees. Sales and user fees are things like water, wastewater and solid waste fees as well as revenue earned at Recreation Facilities.



The largest expense and our greatest resource at the Town of Olds is our employees. Followed by purchases from commissions (water, wastewater and solid waste) and transfers to other governments (education tax and seniors requisitions).



# Finance

The Average single-family home paid \$2,741 in Property Taxes in 2021. Where was it spent?

Alberta School Foundation	\$789	29%
Governance and Administration	\$484	18%
Protective Services	\$461	17%
Recreation	\$470	17%
Operational Services	\$348	13%
Seniors Housing	\$119	4%
Economic Development	\$38	1%
Community Services	\$32	1%

## Grants

The Town of Olds continues to have great success with grant dollars. The dollar values below represent a point in time as grants tend to cross over multiple years. A great example of this is the money received from the Provincial Government - Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) to construct the Roundabout on Highway 2A at 68th Street. While the \$\$ value is recorded in 2020, this project continued throughout 2021 with final work to be completed in 2022. The Town of Olds also assists local service groups, non-profits and societies in grant applications. These amounts (both applied for and received) have not been included in the chart below.

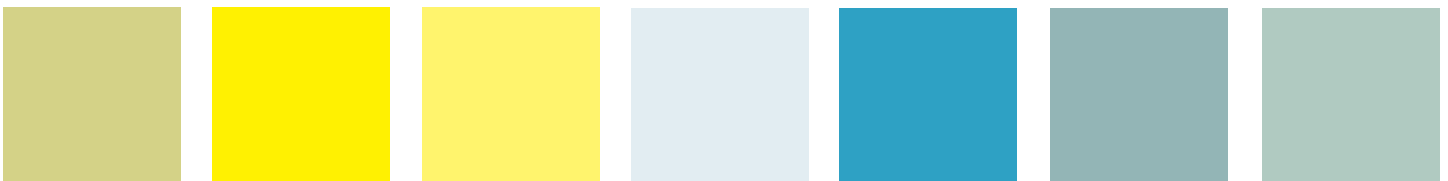
YEAR	2019	2020	2021
# of Grants Applied For	23	22	19
# of Grants Received	17	17	11
\$\$ Value of Grants Received	\$4,849,925	\$8,472,775*	\$4,292,916

\*Includes COVID-19 provincial funding of \$2,026,657

## *Council Approved Winter Averaging Wastewater Program*

For the months of July, August, and September, the winter averaging method will be used to calculate your wastewater charges. This method uses the lessor of your actual consumption or the 'average' of your consumption for the 9 month period from October to June.

The rest of the year, the wastewater consumption is based on water consumption, therefore using the winter averaging method allows residents the opportunities to water their lawns, flowers and gardens without worry of increased wastewater charges over the summer.



# Economic Development



In 2021 the Town of Olds hired an Economic Development Officer with a focus on retaining and expanding local business, attracting new business, and encouraging the growth of new entrepreneurs. The ultimate goal is economic growth and competitiveness.

## **Business Retention and Expansion**

Growing a competitive economy is no small undertaking and requires a solid strategy and sound approach. An economic strategy framework 'Building the Next Generation Economy' was developed and will now lay the foundation for future growth and prosperity.

This strategy will assess the economic environment's weaknesses and strengths and affect positive action. It will identify and engage driving industries to foster competitive advantages which will allow business and industry the edge necessary to be a competitive player in global markets.

The first step towards advancing the strategy has already begun by mobilizing key businesses along with industry and

community stakeholders. Introduction meetings have begun to take place to introduce the strategy and launch a permanent change in how business, communities, government and institutions can work together to do business now and into the future.

## **Business Attraction**

Attracting investment from within and beyond cannot occur without implementing an extensive communications and marketing plan. Essentially, the Town of Olds is in the process of presenting itself as a new product going forward. This involves a number of steps such as market research and product design; and understanding the needs of investors. A Technical Readiness Team (TRT) has been formed and is committed to marketing, and promoting Olds as a community and region of choice by instilling confidence in both residents and investors. By capitalizing on the Town's "investment ready" reputation 'Invest Olds' strives to contribute to a healthy economic environment.

## **Business Creation**

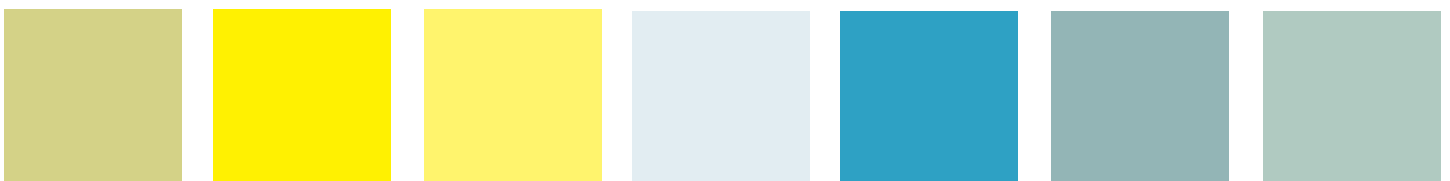
Business Creation will encompass fostering a culture of entrepreneurship by profiling and promoting new entrepreneurs, along with informing and reminding the community and consumers about the existing businesses in Olds and the products and services that are available locally, encouraging everyone to continue to support and grow local business and economy.

## ***Local Businesses Receive Operational Grants, Business Licenses & Permit Fees Eliminated***



In 2021 Council approved a second round of operational grants to local businesses.

Business license fees and development permit fees were waived for the entirety of 2021.





## Tributes



George William (Bill) Windsor

George William (Bill) Windsor died peacefully on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at the Olds Hospital & Care Centre at the age of 93 years.

Education at the University of Alberta served to enhance his enchantment with the great outdoors.

Biology became both a vocation (teacher) and an avocation (conservation, harvesting, and hobby). During his 34 year teaching career, his biology students were led to gain an appreciation of the wonders of all living things. Each day he instilled upon these same students that learning is a lifelong experience.

He also played and coached hockey with the Olds "B" team of the Chinook Hockey League in the late 1950s, and served on Olds Town Council from 1971 - 1974. On behalf of Council, staff and the community of Olds, we extend our gratitude to Bill Windsor for his 4 years of service with the Town of Olds.

Former Town of Olds Councillor, Arvin Bull, of Olds, Alberta, passed away peacefully at his home, on March 18, 2022 at the age of 88. Arvin farmed with his brother, in the Balzac area, and in the early '70's moved his farm east of Olds, Alberta. Arvin was a lifelong learner and attended both Mount Royal College and Olds Agricultural College. Farming was his love, but never stopped Arvin's passion to explore life as he embarked being a realtor, land and real estate appraiser, Town Councillor, church member, and much more. He was a brilliant community leader who was always open to share his life experiences and wisdom. On behalf of Council, staff and the community of Olds, we extend our gratitude to Arvin Bull for his 12 years of service with the Town of Olds.



Arvin Bull



Terry Dodd

Mr. Terry Dodd passed away on February 13th 2022. Terry was a volunteer firefighter in the Town of Olds for over 40 years. In that time, Terry served through the ranks including as Fire Chief for over ten years which included leading the response to the Halloween fire in 1978, which forever left its mark on our community. It was his leadership that saw the development and growth of a modern, well equipped fire service that continues to this day. Mr. Dodd was a tireless volunteer, dedicated community leader and a gentle presence anywhere he went. Terry was a veteran of our armed forces and has been an active member of the Olds Legion Branch 105 right up until his passing. The Town of Olds and the Olds Fire Department gratefully acknowledge his service and pass our sincere condolences to Terry's family and friends.



4512 46 Street  
Olds, Alberta T4H 1R5  
403.556.6981 [www.olds.ca](http://www.olds.ca)

