



## **Happy New Year from the Mayor**

As we welcome 2026, I would like to extend warm New Year's greetings to all residents of our community. The start of a new year is a time to reflect on what we've accomplished together and to look ahead with optimism and confidence. I am very pleased to present a balanced 2026 budget of \$3,858,109 million, with no tax increases to the residents and businesses of our community.

## **2025**

While 2025 brought its challenges and, through resilience and collaboration, we have achieved meaningful progress. It is important to highlight some of the many accomplishments and improvements which did take place over the course of the year. Council has made significant capital investments that strengthen our infrastructure, enhance community spaces, and improve quality of life for residents of all ages. One of the largest projects underway is the Main Street water, sewer, storm, and asphalt project, a vital investment that will improve reliability, safety, and long-term service for our downtown and surrounding neighbourhoods. We are also proud of the construction of the new accessible washroom at George Huxter Memorial Park, ensuring that this important community space is welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

Council remains committed to a balanced and responsible approach to spending across all facets of the community. To improve efficiency and the quality of our road maintenance, we invested in a new asphalt recycler, allowing us to extend the life of our roads while making better use of taxpayer dollars. Our recreational facilities also received important upgrades, including infield and warning track sand replacement at the softball field to improve playing surfaces, sandblasting of the pool to enhance the tank liner finish and longevity, and the purchase of solar lighting for the basketball court to extend safe use into the evening hours.

Looking back on 2025, it is important to celebrate the ongoing commitment of our local volunteers and the success of our local organizations. We are proud to acknowledge the 50-year anniversaries of both the Silver Gliders Figure Skating Club and the 837 Northeast Squadron Air Cadets. For five decades, these organizations have inspired excellence, discipline, and teamwork, providing young people with opportunities to grow in skill, confidence, and leadership. Their

lasting contributions have strengthened our community, and we congratulate all past and present members, volunteers, and supporters on this remarkable milestone.

## 2026

A key priority for the coming year is improving accessibility throughout our community. In 2026, we are planning the construction of a new accessible washroom at Springdale Stadium, ensuring that this well-used facility can be comfortably enjoyed by everyone. In addition, upgrades to the Curling Club washrooms are planned, further advancing Council's ongoing commitment to removing barriers and improving access in our recreational spaces.

Council also recognizes the importance of safe and enjoyable outdoor amenities. Further investment is planned for the Indian River Walking Trail, with additional improvements aimed at enhancing safety, usability, and overall enjoyment for walkers, runners, and families.

At the Springdale Pool, planned upgrades will focus on both aesthetics and operational efficiency. New epoxy flooring will refresh and modernize the facility, while the installation of a new pool heat-retention cover will improve energy efficiency and help reduce operating costs—supporting Council's goal of responsible and sustainable spending.

As part of our fleet upgrades council has approved the purchase of a new loader to ensure reliable and efficient snow clearing throughout the community. This investment will continue council's ability to respond quickly during winter weather, maintain safer roads and public spaces, and reduce downtime caused by equipment breakdowns. One piece of our current fleet has reached it's useful life expectancy and by upgrading our fleet, council is taking a proactive step to improve fuel efficiency, affordability and reliability.

To further our efforts towards capital works upgrades, the Town has submitted an application for funding under the Canadian Housing and Infrastructure Fund. This request is intended to support the continuation of Main Street improvements within the downtown core, building on previous upgrades to enhance infrastructure capacity, safety, and overall streetscape quality. If approved for the 3.7 million requested, the funding would help advance ongoing efforts to revitalize the downtown area and support future growth.

These planned investments reflect Council's continued focus on thoughtful planning, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing the quality of life in our community. By investing in accessibility, recreation, and infrastructure, we are building a community that serves residents of all ages and abilities.

## **Fire Department – Celebrates 75 Years**

2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the Springdale Fire Department. On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate the Fire Department and its members past and present on a remarkable milestone that reflects decades of courage, dedication, and service to the community. For three-quarters of a century, the men and women of the department have answered the call with professionalism and compassion, protecting lives, property, and the spirit of Springdale. This anniversary is a celebration not only of the department's history, but also of the lasting trust and gratitude of the community it proudly serves.

On behalf of Council, I extend best wishes for health, happiness, and prosperity to all residents in 2026. We look forward to another year of progress as we continue working together to strengthen our community.

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