

General Message

I hope everyone is having a great start to their summer season. We think of all those affected by the wildfires and hope for some relief in the form of rain for the whole province.

The last four months have been busy with Council and Administration focusing on the following work:

- Town's Financial Year End and Audit
- Property Assessment Re-Evaluation
- 2025 Budget Preparation (including Tax Tools and Mill Rate)

If you have interest in any of the above topics or others please visit the Town [website](#) to review agendas, minutes or other pertinent information.

Town operations are shifting to summer mode and we ask you watch for staff working at various locations helping to make the town look great. One of our strategic priorities are to help beautify the town, and you will see that through various actions such as flowers and upkeep of our existing green spaces. We ask all residents to do what they can to help our efforts and contribute in your own way to making Dundurn look great.

I want to remind everyone that the Spray Park is now open for the season, please keep your eye out for some improvements that will provide a bit of shade for users. The Sports Centre (rink) is now open daily for summer use, offering floor hockey, basketball, and pickle ball. Our summer sport program is a great way to use the otherwise idle facility and provide options for our kids. LiveBarn has been installed, discount codes can be found on our Facebook page and posted within the Sports Centre.

You may have noticed we installed our new entrance sign in collaboration with Sunshine Meadows. This is one of the first steps in the implementation of our branding and marketing plan. Stay tuned for upcoming engagements and opportunities to participate.

And lastly, Canada Day will be celebrated in the Town of Dundurn this year. I thank the organizing team that includes local residents and council representatives from the Town, RM, and Shields. It takes a lot of hard work to put these events on and I look forward to participating this year.

Council Highlights for February 2025 to May 2025

February 2025

- Published "water and wastewater" service excellence policy.
- Approved the regional budget for the Dundurn and District Fire Commission.
- Approved the new Town entrance sign.

March 2025

- Published the "understanding your assessment" service excellence policy.
- Held Special Meeting to introduce the Preliminary Budget for 2025.

April 2025

- Approved the capital purchase of a new pickup truck, backhoe, and water meters.
- Approved the new fire services and cost recovery bylaws.

May 2025

- Approved the 2025 Capital and Operating Budgets.
- Approved tax tools and mill rate bylaw.
- Published the "understanding budget and property taxes" service excellence policy.

- Installed new Town entrance sign.
- Held first Town Ratepayer Open House Meeting

Town Updates

Sunshine Meadows

I am excited to see increased building activity in Sunshine Meadows. You may have noticed three new single-family homes, and a six-unit multi-unit building (rental) take shape over the last 9 months. There are plans for additional units over the next 12 months and we are working collaboratively with the Developer to explore further residential and commercial opportunities.

Fire and Protective Services Updates

The Dundurn and District Fire Commission provides fire and first-responder services to our region. Over the past 3 months, the department has acquired a new to us tanker truck to help support fire calls and shuttle water. We are lucky to have this great team of volunteers serving our rate payers and visitors.

The Town has recently approved the 2025 Fire Budget and updated our fire bylaws to modern standards in line with our neighbouring municipalities. Effective July 1, 2025, each property owner will be responsible for paying the cost of any fire fighting efforts at their property, switching from the Town being responsible. You will need to speak with your property insurer to update your policy to provide coverage for these costs. Stay tuned for more information and feel free to contact the office with any questions.

2025 Budget and Tax Tools

Council deliberated and approved the 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets. This budget builds on last years action plan and continues to provide funding toward the implementation of Council's strategic priorities.

One of the major changes revolves around the taxation strategy. We opted to switch from minimum to base taxes to create a more equitable and balanced property tax regime. This allows for the common costs of services to be equitably distributed and a lower mill rate to factor in the value of the property.

First Rate Payer Open House

We held our first open house for rate payers. This activity promotes transparency and access to Council and was not only identified in our strategic plan but was heard loud and clear on the campaign trail. Being open and transparent is key for this Council and we will continue activities and others as opportunities present themselves. We encourage you to make your voice heard and we look forward to listening.

Upcoming Council Matters

Next 1-3 Months	Next 3-6 Months
Distribute Property Tax Notices	Utility Strategic Planning & Asset Management
Marketing & Branding Strategy Implementation	Regional Planning Meetings
Economic Development Incentives	Recreation Strategy & Committee

Community Engagement

Event	Date	Purpose
Town Ratepayer Meeting	May 27	Community Engagement