

Town of Pincher Creek | Quick Business Update



We are very pleased to be sending out renewal notices to 408 businesses operating in Pincher Creek! We welcomed 60 newly licensed businesses in 2022. Pincher Creek's business growth remains strong as we build on the 42 newly licensed businesses in 2021.

The Pincher Creek Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Update – January 2023

Pincher Creek Town Council approved the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) at the January 10, 2022, council meeting. The executive summary of the plan is available on the [Town website](#) under the Economic Development tab.

In 2022, four community participation sessions were held:

CEDS – Our Downtown: How to Move from Vacancy to Vibrancy

CEDS – Housing: If We Don't Build It, They Can't Come!

CEDS – Workforce Retention and Attraction

CEDS – Health & Wellness Opportunities

These sessions were recorded and can be viewed on the Town website using links under the Economic Development tab.

In 2023, we will be moving forward with some of the actions items identified by CEDS including housing, updating planning documents, and workforce attraction. Connect with Marie at the Town Office for more information on upcoming participation opportunities.

New Process for Property Assessments

In the past, the Town of Pincher Creek has issued a "Combined Property Assessment and Tax Notice." This meant that the property owner was notified of their assessment for the year at the same time they were notified of the amount of taxes owed. **The new process for 2023** will be that the property owner will receive a Property Assessment Notice separate from the Property Tax Notice.

The Property Assessment Notice will be mailed sometime in February. The property owner will have 60 days from the assessment date to appeal their property assessment. Property owners can only appeal their property assessment, NOT their property taxes. **The Property Tax Notice will be mailed after the Property Assessment Notice (sometime in May.)**

New Tax Exemption Bylaw

The Town of Pincher Creek acknowledges the importance of business development for the general benefit of the town including goods, services, employment, and taxes. The town wishes to facilitate growth of existing businesses and also attract new business construction to support the growth and prosperity of our community. The new Tax Exemption Bylaw allows **qualifying** non-residential properties to apply to enter into a tax exemption agreement. Please stay tuned for more information on this program and the process for applications.

Snow Removal – Sidewalks (Businesses)

A reminder that non-residential sidewalks should be cleared of snow, ice, dirt, and other obstructions within 24 hours. Residential sidewalks are required to be cleared within 48 hours. Please refer to Section 68 of the Traffic Bylaw (1599-09) for more info.

Town of Pincher Creek Calendars

Town of Pincher Creek calendars will be available in late January from the Town Office and Recreation Office. We encourage businesses and organizations to use the calendars to assist in planning events, scheduling staff, and staying informed on what is happening in Pincher Creek!

Pincher Creek & District Chamber of Commerce – Membership

The Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that is directed by a team of volunteers and dedicated to helping local businesses thrive in our community. The Chamber actively promotes, facilitates, and strengthens the business climate by providing leadership, representation, networking opportunities, service, and education to our chamber members. As a significant business resource in the community, the Pincher Creek & District Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages and facilitates partnerships and collaboration among individuals, not-for-profit groups, businesses, and municipal government.

We invite all businesses in Pincher Creek to become a Chamber member by navigating to www.PincherChamber.ca. Please call or text Linda at 403 627 5199, or email info@pincherchamber.ca for more information. Yearly memberships start at \$50 for not-for-profits, and \$75 for businesses.

Pincher Creek Women in Business Group

The Pincher Creek Women in Business Group aims to welcome and connect diverse groups of women in the Pincher Creek area. Through the organization of social events and seminars, they promote women in the community to grow, be inspired, build relationships, learn, create, and provide mentorship opportunities for women in various stages of their careers. The group aims to educate women on a variety of professional development topics and provide networking opportunities for female business leaders (as well as have fun!)

For more information, search *Pincher Creek Women in Business* on Facebook, or contact the Pincher Creek & District Chamber of Commerce.

2023 Women in Business Event Dates

January 26 | March 30 | May 25 | July 27 | September 28 | November 30

Online groups that may benefit you and your business

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PincherCreekWomenInBusiness>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PincherChamberChat>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/192747470899719>



Alberta SouthWest Regional Business License (2023)

Save money on “out-of-town” business license fees!

When you renew your annual community business license, pay **\$80.00** to “add-on” the Regional Business License which authorizes you to do business in other Alberta SouthWest partner communities.

The Regional Business License is now in its 21st year of service to the region, and it is ideal for trades, sales, and service.

Please note that, to qualify for the Regional Business License, your primary business location must be within one of the Alberta SouthWest partner communities. For more information, please contact your local municipal office, visit www.albertasouthwest.com and scroll down to “Regional Business License Program,” or contact bev@albertasouthwest.com.

New Year’s Message from Mayor Anderberg

On behalf of the Town of Pincher Creek town council, management, and staff, I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year!

2022 has proven to be a very busy year with many positive projects and initiatives being completed. 2022 has also been a year of some significant lows and challenges experienced by our community.

Overshadowing most things in our organization this year was the sudden passing of our longtime friend and councillor Wayne Elliott. As we pass our condolences along to Janice and Wayne's family once again, it is important for us to reflect on how Wayne impacted Pincher Creek in so many ways. He has been missed at the council table and in the community. Wayne was a tireless advocate for Pincher Creek.

Many issues facing most communities in Alberta are also significant problems in our community. Health care and doctor shortages, affordable housing, and inflation seem to be at the top of the list. Housing availability has been prioritized by council, and we will be working diligently to improve our housing situation. A number of other identified areas of concern are directly related to the shortage of all classes of accommodation in Pincher Creek, making it difficult for our local businesses to find and house employees. This also extends to staffing at town recreation facilities and child care centers, the hospital, schools, and emergency services. Town council and administration are working with the province and other organizations in addressing these issues.

It is certainly not all doom and gloom for our community, however. We are well positioned to move forward in a positive fashion in 2023.

Two major infrastructure projects were addressed in 2022. Twinning of the force main sewer line was completed and commissioned, and the two main treated water lines under Pincher Creek are slated for completion in early 2023. The CT scanner announced last year, along with hospital upgrades, is also in progress and scheduled to be completed this year.

The Premier announced the allocation of funding and twinning of Highway 3 late in 2022 with completion in a 10-year window. Much work has been done by the Highway 3 Twinning Association and the Town of Pincher Creek in advocating for the twinning over the past 20 years.

The Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission negotiated an ambulance contract extension with Alberta Health along with a significant increase in funding.

Many energy saving projects have been initiated through the Climate Change Action group matched with funding and cost savings, much coming from the federal government.

Many, many other projects were completed in 2022 and several decisions were made going forward into 2023. The 2023 budget was extensively discussed and ultimately approved. Major changes in direction is the shifting of storm water management into utilities to align with water, wastewater, and garbage services. Utility rates were also adjusted to reflect some of the cost increase experienced in these areas. A community information night will be held February 1, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the Town Gym to give an update on these changes.

Senior management positions are also changing at the town. As of January 2022, Lisa Goss was appointed as the Director of Legislative Services, taking over from Gus Kollee who retired after an extensive career in municipal government and many years at the town.

Al Roth, the Director of Public Works, announced his retirement after more than 20 years of service to our community. Al will continue to reside in Pincher Creek. Alexa Levair has been appointed as the new Director and brings with her an excellent background in community infrastructure.

Laurie Wilgosh, our Chief Administrative Officer, also announced that she would be retiring at the end of 2022. Laurie has served our community for 14 years in a very capable manner. Angie Lucas has agreed to be our new Chief Administrative Officer. Angie has many years background in municipal government and planning. A transition plan has been discussed and approved with our current CAO, and Laurie has agreed to stay until March 2023 to facilitate a smooth transition.

It should be noted that two of the three senior management positions available have been filled with very capable people from within our organization. I would like to congratulate Angie on her appointment to the CAO position and welcome her to Pincher Creek. Council and myself look forward to a positive and effective relationship.

In October, Council welcomed Councilor Garry Cleland to the table through the by-election process.

As you can see, a lot has happened in 2022 and much is already scheduled for 2023. Without a doubt, this has been the busiest I have ever seen council and administration in my six council terms and there is more to come.

From a personal point of view, I very much appreciate the support from council and all town staff when I could not always be there this year. Deputy Mayor Mark Barber and Deputy Mayor David Green and the rest of council willingly and capably covered my obligations. I cannot adequately express how much your support and the support of the community has meant to me. Thank you all.

Once again, have a happy and prosperous 2023.

Mayor Don Anderberg

Fees for Utility Services Moved from Tax Roll to Utilities Invoices

During budget conversations, council transferred approximately \$255,000 in utility costs previously funded by municipal property taxes to Pincher Creek's updated fee schedule. Previously, the costs for stormwater items such as ditches, drainage, culverts, etc. were covered through property taxes. These will now be charged through utility accounts. Additionally, there is an increase in utility rates for 2023. This is the first increase in utility rates in over 10 years. Please see the below chart for additional information. The updated rates and stormwater charges come into effect as of January 1, 2023. Additional information, and an opportunity to ask council questions, will be available during a Public Open House held on February 1st at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall Gym (962 St. John Avenue.)

METER SIZE	DESCRIPTION	2022 per month	2022 per billing	2023 per month Increase	2023 per month	2023 per billing
5/8"	Water Meter Base Rate	13.91	27.82	3.75	17.66	35.32
3/4"	Water Meter Base Rate	49.47	98.94	3.75	53.22	106.44
1"	Water Meter Base Rate	67.75	135.50	3.75	71.50	143.00
1.5"	Water Meter Base Rate	85.03	170.06	3.75	88.78	177.56
2"	Water Meter Base Rate	85.03	170.06	3.75	88.78	177.56
3"	Water Meter Base Rate	105.03	210.06	3.75	108.78	217.56
4"	Water Meter Base Rate	105.03	210.06	3.75	108.78	217.56
	Wastewater Base Rate (COM)	6.48	12.96	2.25	8.73	17.46
	Waste Management Base Rate	7.54	15.08	3.25	10.79	21.58
	Storm Drainage Rate (NON-RES)	0	0	17.00	17.00	34.00
EXAMPLE NON-RESIDENTIAL WITH 2" WATER METER						
2"	Water Meter Base Rate	85.03	170.06	3.75	88.78	177.56
	Wastewater Base Rate (COM)	6.48	12.96	2.25	8.73	17.46
	Waste Management Base Rate	7.54	15.08	3.25	10.79	21.58
	Storm Drainage Rate (NON-RES)	0	0	17.00	17.00	34.00
	TOTAL	99.05	198.10	26.25	125.30	250.60
	2023 INCREASE PER BILLING					52.50