

Town of Pincher Creek Newsletter

January to March 2023

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 long-time 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 childcare 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 are 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 Hall 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 Manager 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

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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 I look forward to a positive and effective relationship.

In October, council also welcomed Councillor 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

Welcome Angie Lucas CAO as of February 1st, 2023



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 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 then be mailed in May.**



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Upcoming Meetings

Unless advertised otherwise, council meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. and the first Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m.

Please contact the Town Office if you would like to speak at a council meeting, and refer to the Events Calendar on the Town website for any additional meetings. Minutes are also posted on our website after adoption by council.

All meetings are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend virtually via their computer, tablet, or smartphone by navigating to the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/97819090695>.

Public Open Houses

February 1st | June 7th | October 4th

Council invites all residents to join them for three public open houses in 2023! There will be a variety of topics and presentations with an aim to share information with residents in a varied format.

Each open house will be held at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall Gym (962 St. John Avenue.)

Dog Licenses

A dog license is required for all dogs over the age of six months. The fee for a spayed or neutered dog is \$15/year, and a dog that has not been spayed or neutered is \$30/year. Service dogs are no charge. You may purchase your 2023 dog tags at the Town Office.

Volunteer compliance is greatly appreciated to avoid penalties. Remember, the number on your dog's tag will help in returning your dog home if he/she ever becomes lost! Please contact the Town Office for more info.

2023 Business License Renewals

As a reminder, payments for all 2023 business licenses are due in January. After February 28th, there will be a \$25.00 charge for late renewals.

The annual fee for a business or home occupation is \$125.00. The Alberta Southwest Regional License is also available for an additional \$80.00.

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.

Tax Installment Payment Program (TIPP) and Direct Electronic Funds Transfer (DEFT)

TIPP is an optional monthly tax installment payment plan by which taxpayers may make consecutive monthly payments for taxes rather than one single tax payment. DEFT is an optional automatic payment for the amount of your bi-monthly utility invoices.

Provided regular monthly payments are made, penalties for late payment of taxes will not apply to any tax account under TIPP. For more information, please call or stop by the Town Office, and we will give you all the information you need.

Bylaw Corner

Clearing of Snow

The Town of Pincher Creek would like to remind residents and business owners that snow on publicly accessible sidewalks must be cleared within 48 hours of a snowfall event in residential areas and within 24 hours in front of businesses (as per Town of Pincher Creek Bylaw #1599-09). Please also ensure that snow from driveways is not placed on the road.



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Recreation & Community Services Updates

Please follow the Recreation Facebook pages for up-to-date information on recreation programs. You can also call the Recreation Office at 403 627 4322.

www.Facebook.com/PincherCreekRec

Outdoor Skating Rink Open | 615 Thistle Crescent

The Castlevue Park outdoor rink is open and in great shape! Please be respectful of the neighbors. Helmets are highly recommended!

Winter Walk Day | February 1st

Get outside and enjoy the winter season! Additional details will be posted closer to the event.

Jersey Day | February 1st

Join us in celebrating hockey in Pincher Creek! On February 1st, wear your favorite hockey jersey, and submit a photo on any social media platform using the hashtag below. Please make sure your photo is public so we can show our community spirit!

Don't forget to post your Winter Walk and Jersey Day adventures on social media using the hashtag:
#PincherCreekLovesHockey!

Snowshoe and Cross-Country Ski Lending Program

Embrace the snow by borrowing a pair of snowshoes or cross-country skis for free this winter through the Pincher Creek & District Library. For more information and to arrange curbside pick up, please call the library at 403 627 3813.

Community Mass Registration Night | March 2nd

Register the whole family for spring and summer activities in one place and at one time. A list of all the activities, organizations, and events that are attending will be available closer to the event. This evening will save you time and help you get organized for spring!

If you are a group that is wanting to be present at Registration Night, please contact the Rec Office to book a table. The office can be reached at 403 627 4322 or rec@pinchercreek.ca.

Pink Shirt Day | February 23rd

Wear a pink shirt on February 23rd in support of the anti-bullying movement.

Over 75% of people say they've been bullied, and over 90% of bullying incidents have peer witnesses. When those peers intervene, most incidents are over within 10 seconds. Bullying could be happening to someone you know and care about, so join us in taking a stand against bullying, and let your peers know that it is not okay. Show kindness, empathy, and compassion, and speak out!

Have you thought about becoming a lifeguard and/or working at the pool?

The Pincher Creek Swimming Pool is looking for part-time and casual lifeguards and front desk staff to work weekends, holidays, and evenings. It is a great way to work and stay active, and you will receive some great pool perks! We offer courses right here in Pincher Creek, so you could become a fully certified lifeguard and start earning money this winter and spring.

What's in it for me?

- \$17.49 – \$23.71 per hour
- Flexible schedule (great for students or parents)
- Free swimming!
- Union position with the Town of Pincher Creek
- A certification you take with you and can use in many locations
- On-the-job training

For more information, or to learn more about these programs, please contact Blake at 403 627 2565 or aquatics@pinchercreek.ca.

To Apply

If you possess the required certifications, or are interested in a front desk position, you can apply by emailing your resume to Adam Grose at recmanager@pinchercreek.ca.



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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!

Career Opportunities

The Town of Pincher Creek is hiring! For information on positions and how to apply, please go to:
<http://pinchercreek.ca/town/employment.php>.

Food Bank

The Pincher Creek Community Food Bank is open for hampers by appointment. Please call 403 632 6716 to arrange pickup or delivery.
www.PincherCreekFoodCentre.ca

Upcoming Events

Find out more online at www.PincherCreek.ca

Red – Recreation Events

Blue – Events at Castle Mountain Resort

Purple – Events at Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village

Green – Events at the Community Hall

January

1	Happy New Year!
2	Swimming Pool Shutdown Begins
7	Demo Day
14	Willow Valley Trophy Club
21	U15 Hockey Tournament
23	Swimming Pool Re-opens
26	Women in Business
27	Family Literacy Day
28	Old Timers Hockey Tournament
28-30	Bronze Cross
31	Dog License Renewals Due
31	Kayak Club Starts

February

1	Public Open House
1	Winter Walk & Jersey Day
2	Groundhog Day
4	U9 Hockey Tournament
6	JLC & Winter Swim Lessons Begin
7	Journey of Scotch
11	Legions' 95 th Birthday
14	Valentine's Day
16	Chamber Social Event
18	U7 Hockey Tournament
20	Family Day
20	Free Skate
20	Syncline Alpine Trails Anniversary Celebration
20 – 24	National Lifeguard Course
22	Pink Shirt Day
28	Business Licenses Due

March

2	Community Registration Night
4	Spring Demo Day
12	Daylight Savings Time Begins
12	Kidsport Free Swim
15	Chamber of Commerce AGM
17	St. Patrick's Day
18	Spring Fling
18	Shenooks Home Tournament
18, 19	Beats in the Base
25	Skating Carnival
25, 26	Beats in the Base
30	Women in Business
31	Ice Arena Closed for the Season

April

1, 2	Beats in the Base
7	Good Friday
8, 9	Beats in the Base
10	Easter Monday
16	Pitch-in Month Starts
16-22	Volunteer Appreciation Week
17	Spring Swimming Lessons Start

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New 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 1st, 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.)

		2022	2022	2023	2023	2023
		per month	per billing	per month	per month	per billing
				Increase		
METER SIZE	DESCRIPTION					
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 (RES)	16.06	32.12	2.25	18.31	36.62
	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 (RES)	0	0	8.50	8.50	17.00
	Storm Drainage Rate (NON-RES)	0	0	17.00	17.00	34.00
EXAMPLE RESIDENTIAL WITH 5/8" WATER METER						
5/8"	Water Meter Base Rate	13.91	27.82	3.75	17.66	35.32
	Wastewater Base Rate (RES)	16.06	32.12	2.25	18.31	36.62
	Waste Management Base Rate	7.54	15.08	3.25	10.79	21.58
	Storm Drainage Rate (RES)	0	0	8.50	8.50	17.00
	TOTAL	37.51	75.02	17.75	55.26	110.52
	2023 INCREASE PER BILLING					35.50
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

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