



Town of

Athabasca

Gateway to the Great New North

June 2023 Town News and Views Volume 18, Issue 2

The Town of Athabasca respectfully acknowledges that we are meeting on Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 territory, home to the First People living on Turtle Island, and we honour all of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who have lived, traveled, and gathered on these lands for thousands of years. We commit to sharing a path forward of respect, learning, and opportunity.

Town Welcomes Councillor Reimer



Town Councillor Darlene Reimer

The Town of Athabasca welcomed a new member to the Town Council team following a by-election held in February to fill one vacant seat on Council. Darlene Reimer was successful in her bid to claim the open position and brings with her a range of skills and experiences that she believes will enhance her service and value to the community.

Since arriving in Athabasca in 2010, Darlene feels the community has given her so much, including a sense of belonging and friendship. She welcomes her role on Council as an opportunity to give back to the community.

Darlene's professional experience includes a 35-year career in the field of banking and financial services where she served communities throughout four provinces and two territories and developed some beneficial qualities, including conflict resolution skills.

In Athabasca, Darlene is an active member of the Rotary Club, has been involved with the Magnificent River Rats Festival Society, and plans to continue this Fall as a mentor with the Athabasca Mentorship Program.

As a Town Councillor, a few items of particular interest and concern to her include the attraction and retention of Regional Health Care professionals, solutions to the challenges of homelessness in the community, and downtown core revitalization and Riverfront enhancement.

Darlene also wants to help foster a sense of connection and belonging among Athabascans and hopes to help share the story of the many features that this community has to offer.

Contact Darlene at councillorreimer@athabasca.ca

Newsletter Reader Contest

Several random Town utility bill account numbers have been embedded into articles in this newsletter and the first reader to find their utility bill number and contact the Town Office wins a prize! Congratulations to **February newsletter winner, Thomas Ma!** Watch the Town website & Facebook for the June contest winner.

AU Homecoming June 17!

Athabasca University (AU) convocation ceremonies are being held on June 16 at the Edmonton EXPO Centre this year. And then, on **June 17**, Athabasca University Class of 2023 grads and their families are **coming to Athabasca** for a fun-filled day of activities at AU campus and around our community! They'll enjoy campus tours and lawn games, the Farmers' Market, street festivals, food vendors and restaurants, nature walks, Multiplex activities, and more.

This event could bring 400 or more visitors to our town. It gives us a great opportunity to showcase our amenities, our hospitality, our shops and services! Businesses are planning to decorate; restaurants and shops can offer special deals to encourage traffic.

Visitors will be invited to take walks along the Riverfront, go on an historical self-guided walking tour, or take in the Alley Cat Festival/Street Dance on 49th Street, among other attractions.

They may choose to enjoy a sports-filled afternoon at the [Multiplex](#), including swimming, pickleball, basketball, inflatable obstacle courses, kids' crafts, and more. Or they may take in the Athabasca District Ag Society [Summer Kickoff event](#), featuring Gymkhana equestrian events, tractors, games, and more. (3008.006)

Overall, the AU Homecoming event promises to be an exciting day for visitors and residents alike! Put on your best face and let's be sure to *make our visitors feel welcome!*

Canada Day Festivities

There's a lot going on around town this summer! So many events and attractions! Canada Day weekend alone offers an amazing lineup. You will have to follow local news media, social media and other sources of information to get all the details for everything, but here are a few of the attractions to watch for:

- June 30–July 1: [Magnificent River Rats Festival](#): Loads of music, entertainment and attractions for young and old alike! (0420.000) Food trucks, Farmers' Market, Art Show & Sale, and more!
- July 1: Lion's Pancake Breakfast at Seniors Centre, 7:30 a.m.
- July 1: Canada Day Parade! (Athabasca Chamber of Commerce)
- July 1: Lions Club Tennis Ball Race – After parade, on 49th St.
- July 1: Classic Cruisers' Show & Shine – on 51st St.
- July 1: Country Compensation Truck Club Show & Shine – 49th St.
- July 1: Fireworks! (Athabasca District Chamber of Commerce)



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Download the FREE *Alertable* app for **iOS** and **Android** smartphones and tablets. Install the FREE *Alertable* skill and action for **Amazon Alexa** and **Hey Google** home devices. Get desktop and browser notifications from Alertable.ca.

After downloading the app, follow the in-app instructions for set up. You will be asked to set your preferences for critical alerts and advisory alerts. Settings are easy to change later. Notifications are fast, reliable, and easy to see and hear.

For more info and to sign up, visit <http://athabasca.ca/p/alertable>.

Taxes Double for Derelict Buildings

The Town now has a bylaw to establish sub-classes for residential and non-residential classes, to manage unoccupied and derelict properties within town. The tax rate for these sub-classes is double the described tax rate for the respective property class.

“Unoccupied property” means property temporarily and/or permanently unoccupied, and of which most of its utilities and appliances may still be functioning. That means it can be occupied at any time. “Derelict property” means property that is abandoned or unoccupied that is in a dire state of repair because no one has permanently occupied it for at least six months, is partially or fully boarded up, or has been issued Alberta Health Services orders.

Notices have already been sent to owners of properties currently considered to be derelict.

Dogs, Cats Becoming an Issue in Town

With increasing complaints regarding dogs barking and dogs and cats running free in town, the Town is asking pet owners to take steps to help alleviate the issue. Many of the animals involved are not licensed. Pet licensing is required in town. This issue includes backyard hens. See Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law for complete guidelines. Here are a few key points:

- An owner, or person charged with caring for the animal, shall ensure that their animal does not run at large. “At large” means being found on any property other than that of the owner of the animal, and not under control of the owner, except where the owner of the property permits the animal to be there. (1830.000)
- No owner shall permit their animal to make excessive noise or disturb the peace, and shall ensure that the animal does not bite or attack a person, or bite, chase or stalk animals, bicycles, vehicles.
- Owners, or persons in control of an animal, shall ensure that feces are cleaned up outside the owner’s property immediately.
- The owner shall ensure that their animal is properly registered and identified by means of a tag, tattoo, or microchip and that all required info is provided to the Town along with related fee(s) within 15 days after becoming the owner of the animal.
- Owners shall ensure that their cats and dogs are spayed or neutered. Owners who do not wish to have their animal(s) spayed or neutered shall register their animal as a breeding animal and pay a non-refundable annual licensing fee.

Appreciation BBQ for Healthcare Workers

Please join us **Friday, June 9th on the Athabasca Riverfront, 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**, for our second annual Appreciation BBQ to **show support for healthcare professionals and workers in our community**. Their service and dedication is greatly appreciated and we want to make sure they know it! Everyone is welcome.

Last year’s event was a great success with wonderful support from the community! Members of the Athabasca Fire Department and the local Rotary Club helped out, ambulance E.M.T.s were also in attendance, and donations were received from local stores. We are looking forward to the same awesome participation and support this year. *Come, join us!*

Tax Installment Payment Plan and Pre-Authorized Town Utility Payments

The Town Tax Installment Payment Plan allows taxpayers to authorize twelve equal automatic monthly withdrawals, taken either on the 15th of the month or at the end of the month.

The plan runs from January to December each year. The first six monthly automatic withdrawals are based on the previous year’s tax levy. After taxpayers receive their Taxation Notice in May, their automatic monthly withdrawals are adjusted in July to coincide with their notice.

If a participant withdraws from the plan or the plan is cancelled, all unpaid taxes become due and payable and are subject to any applicable penalties. (1366.002)

Pre-Authorized Utility Payments and Paperless Billing

Did you know that you can also set up pre-authorized automatic withdrawal payments for your Town utility bill? Once approved and set up, payments will be withdrawn on the due date noted on the respective utility bill. Additional info and application forms are available at the Town Office and on the [Town website](#).

Want to go paperless? You can now have your Town Utility Bills sent via email! Look for the link to this feature on the [Utilities page](#) on the Town website.

CEIP Reminder to Residents

The [Clean Energy Improvement Program](#) (CEIP) is still available to property owners in the Town of Athabasca. CEIP offers a new way to finance energy efficient renovations and upgrades. Read more about CEIP in the [Oct. 2022 edition](#) of the Town newsletter.

Committees of Council

Members of Town Council are kept busy serving on nearly 30 committees in our community, not including other groups and committees they may contribute to unofficially. The [Committees of Council list](#) is on the Town website. Committee appointments may change during the October organizational meeting. (1212.003)

Many of the committees involve cooperation between regional partners, like Athabasca County and the Village of Boyle. Some committees also depend on participation by members-at-large. From time to time, [member-at-large positions](#) may open up and volunteers are invited to consider serving – it’s a great opportunity to get involved and share your experience and expertise.