



Town of

Athabasca

Gateway to the Great New North

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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.

Municipal Election 2025

Municipal Elections will take place in Alberta on Oct. 20, 2025. For those interested in running for Mayor or one of six Councillor seats in Athabasca, nominations are open until noon, Sept. 22.

Serving as a Town Councillor can be a rewarding experience, although there is a certain level of commitment involved. If you are thinking about throwing your hat into the ring, here are some resources to help you prepare for your run:

- Alberta Municipalities and Rural Municipalities of Alberta are hosting *webinars* to help prospective candidates prepare for this year's election. Visit the [Municipal Election Webinar – Small and Mid-Size Municipalities web page](#) to find more information and to register.
- *YourAlberta: Learn* has a playlist of YouTube videos that could also be helpful. Visit the [2025 Municipal Election Prospective Candidates](#) page to view the videos.
- More information can be found on the [2025 Municipal Election page](#) of the Town website, including links to the [Candidate Package](#), [Municipal Government Act](#), and [Local Authorities Election Act](#).
- You might also consider talking to a [current Councillor](#) to get some personal perspective on their experience.

For more information, Town of Athabasca Returning Officer Jeff Dalley can be contacted at the Town Office: 780-675-2063

MDP/LUB Review in Progress

Work continues on the review and update of the Town Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB). The purpose of this review is to reflect recent changes in provincial legislation and better meet community needs, now and into the future. More details are available in the October 2024 edition of the [Town newsletter](#).

The consultants, ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd., are currently working with Town administration to complete the first draft of the documents. *The second round of public engagement* will begin in June. Feedback received will be used to inform proposed updates to the documents. Please watch for news of public engagement opportunities and consider offering input.

The goal is to have the final drafts completed and the corresponding bylaws passed by Council this September.

Old Brick School Upgrades

Old Brick School conservation and revitalization efforts can now take another big step forward, thanks to a \$125,000 [Community Facility Enhancement Program \(CFEP\)](#) grant recently awarded to the Athabasca Pottery Club, a long-term tenant of studio space located in the basement of the historic building.

The overall goal of the Brick School conservation project is to upgrade the building, inside and out, top to bottom as required, while maintaining the historical character of the facility. The intent is to transition the building into an active and vibrant centre for arts and culture in the community, with the Athabasca Pottery Club leading by example.

The [Old Brick School Design Development Report](#), completed in 2019, notes that “the basement of the Old Brick School is inhabited by the Athabasca Pottery Club, and has been for over 60 years. The space is already a lively space that is rich in history, making, arts, community and culture. From their clay-making process to throwing, glazing, firing, displaying and selling of pottery pieces, whether for utilitarian purposes or for art, this space embodies and demonstrates what the remainder of the Old Brick School could be.”

The report also states that, “as a former educational institution, the programming of the new Old Brick School, as an Arts & Culture Centre, pays homage to its roots. The underlying theme of education persists throughout the building.”

The much-appreciated CFEP grant moves the conservation project forward and will go towards repairs and upgrades in the Pottery Club studio space, including:

- Building foundation, including structural supports
- Plumbing upgrades and relocating the bathrooms
- Removing partitions for more floor space
- Improving accessibility

In a letter to Nancy Parker, President, Athabasca Pottery Club, announcing approval of the \$125,000 CFEP grant, the Honourable Tanya Fir, Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women, writes, “I am extremely honoured to support the work of non-profit organizations that aim to foster healthy, vibrant communities across Alberta.”

Tasked with managing the conservation of the Old Brick School, the [Athabasca Public School Conservation Committee](#) will continue to oversee the project and investigate further funding opportunities.



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Housing Needs Study Invites Input

Great news for the Athabasca region, as word was received from Alberta Municipal Affairs, Office of the Minister, earlier this year confirming a \$60,000 [Alberta Community Partnership](#) (ACP) grant. The objective of the ACP program is to improve the viability and long-term sustainability of municipalities. The funds will be applied towards a *regional housing needs assessment project* being planned by the project partners, the Town of Athabasca, Athabasca County, and the Village of Boyle.

The housing needs assessment project officially launched this past April and is expected to be completed within six to eight months. The Western Canadian-based consulting firm, [McElhanney Ltd.](#), has been hired to undertake the project.

Community engagement will be an important element of the project and regional residents are encouraged to watch for news of opportunities to participate. Dates of events will be announced as they are confirmed.

Among other key elements of development, one objective of the project is to identify the types of housing that may most be needed in the region. More details will follow as the project progresses.

Property Tax Due On or Before June 30

Unless you are on the Town Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP), your property taxes must be paid in full on or before June 30. Failure to pay on time could result in penalties up to 12%.

Combined Assessment & Property Tax Notices were mailed on May 2. If you did not receive yours, contact the Town Office immediately. The mailout included a brochure explaining payment deadlines, what your taxes go towards, how they fund essential services, and how TIPP works. Detailed info is also available on the [Town website](#).

Your tax dollars help maintain and improve vital town services, including: Infrastructure and Roads; Public Services like garbage, recycling, and cemetery maintenance; Emergency and Safety Services; Recreation and Community, including parks, trails and facilities like the Multiplex; and Planning and Development.

Town property taxes are made up of three parts: Municipal Taxes; Provincial Education (School) Tax; and Greater North Foundation Tax. These are explained in detail in the brochure and on the Town website. Be sure to pay your Town taxes on or before June 30 to avoid penalties!

Return of the Unflushables!



A selection of garbage and other 'unflushables' removed daily from the town sewer collection system. See anything here you'd like to reclaim?

There are some things just not meant to be flushed, but some people still try to flush them, anyway! There could be some personal implications if you do this. Did you know that the pipe that runs under your home to the property line is the homeowner's responsibility? If that section of pipe gets clogged with large objects being flushed, grease from the kitchen sink, or by the roots of trees on your property, it is your responsibility.

Finding garbage in the Town wastewater has been a long-time battle in Athabasca, and right now there is a serious concern about the amount and types of unflushables being flushed. The list of unflushables includes: various types of wipes, acrylic paint, medications, clothing, food packaging, syringes, rubber gloves, diapers, cat litter, and more. Check the [Unflushables page of the Town website](#) for a longer list – and some disgusting photos!

Please *do not flush* any unflushables. A good rule of thumb is to **ONLY** flush the **Three Ps**: **Pee**, **Poop**, and (toilet) **Paper**.

Do You Need a Building Permit?

Be certain to check with the Town before beginning your project in Athabasca, as all required permits must first be obtained. Fees will be doubled for any work that starts prior to the issuance of the required permits. Permit requirements and fee structures vary depending on the type of project being undertaken. Development permits are required for various types of residential and commercial buildings, as well as for garages, decks, sheds, fences, additions, accessory structures, demolitions, and more.

An overview of permit requirements and fees can be found on the Town [Building and Development Permits web page](#). Development packages, including forms and information are also available at the Town Office. Please familiarize yourself with the requirements to avoid any project delays or costly omissions.