



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.

Noxious Weeds a Growing Concern



Canada Thistle (left)

Common Tansy (right)

Photos provided by [Alberta Invasive Species Council](#)

Photo: Paige Kuczmariski



Photo: Nicole Kimmel

There is a developing concern in the community regarding the encroaching growth of certain [invasive and noxious weeds](#): *Canada Thistle* and *Common Tansy*. Alberta's [Weed Control Act](#) states that noxious weeds must be controlled, noting it is the duty of individuals, local authorities, and municipalities to take action towards the prevention, control, and destruction of such weeds.

[Canada Thistle](#) is a colony-forming, aggressive perennial, that spreads primarily by its creeping root system. Stems are grooved, upright, hollow and woody, branching near the top, and grow .5m to 1.5 m tall. Leaves are lance-shaped, dark green, shiny on the surface and occur alternately, slightly clasping the stem. Flowers form at the ends of stems in clusters of one to several. The flower head is urn-shaped and the bracts are spineless. The colour of the flowers may vary, being purple, pink or white. [Click for photos](#).

The best preventive measure in non-cropland is to maintain healthy plant cover and to reseed disturbed areas with a desirable species quickly. Killing the roots is the only effective control method. An integrated plan that uses a variety of control options is the most effective long-term strategy for reducing infestations.

[Common Tansy](#) forms dense stands and the plants contain alkaloids, toxic to both humans and livestock. Stems are branched, erect, often purplish-red, and dotted with glands, with many stems per plant that grow up to 1.5m tall. Leaves alternate on the stem and are deeply divided into numerous narrow, individual leaflets with toothed edges. Flowers are yellow, numerous, and button-like, occurring in dense, flat-topped clusters. [Click for photos](#). Gardeners should not purchase or grow Common Tansy. The most effective control method combines mowing or hand cutting with chemical control and encouraging competition from native vegetation.

Please watch for these weeds and take action to remove and/or control them when encountered, as they can get out of hand quickly. For more information, refer to the [Invasive Plants of Alberta Weed Guide](#), or the [Identification Guide for Alberta Invasive Plants](#).

AU Convocation 2024

Athabasca University Convocation celebrations are returning to our community! A notice on the university website says: "Athabasca University will be welcoming our graduates to our home community of Athabasca, Alberta, for our convocation celebrations on June 19 and 20, 2024.

"Convocation is a special time for all of us at AU—a time to come together and celebrate the achievements of our graduates. We can't wait to celebrate and share the Athabasca region with our graduates and their loved ones."

Convocation ceremonies are being held at the Athabasca Regional Multiplex. Following the ceremonies, grads and guests will enjoy the convocation festival on campus.

The Town is excited to see the return of this event and looks forward to welcoming the grads and their guests!

Register for Lemonade Day!

June 15th is Lemonade Day in the Town of Athabasca! If your child is interested in participating, bring them down to the Town Office to obtain their business license for \$1.00 and register their stand location.

Lemonade Day is a free, fun, experiential learning program that teaches youth how to start, own and operate their own business. Read more about it on the [Lemonade Day! Northern Alberta](#) website.

Canada Day Celebrations

Here are a few events and attractions to watch for and take in during *Canada Day weekend* in Athabasca. Follow local news media, social media and other sources for more details:

- June 29: Farmers' Market (Riverfront)
- June 29-30: Art and Items Bazaar – Athabasca Train Station
- June 30-July 1: *Magnificent River Rats Festival – FREE!*
- June 30-July 1: Canada Day Weekend Market (Riverfront)
- June 30: Fireworks! 11:00 p.m. (Atha. Dist. Chamber of Com.)
- July 1: Art Show in the Athabasca Train Station
- July 1: Athabasca Lion's Pancake Breakfast at Seniors Centre
- July 1: Canada Day Parade (Atha. District Chamber of Comm)
- July 1: Canada Day Kids Bicycle Parade and Show N' Shine (Alley behind Great Canadian Dollar Store) 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- July 1: Lions Tennis Ball Race – After parade, on 49th Street
- July 1: Classic Cruisers' Show & Shine – on 51st Street



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www.athabasca.ca

4705 - 49 Avenue, Athabasca, AB T9S 1B7
Tel: 780-675-2063 – Fax: 780-675-4242
E-mail: town@athabasca.ca

www.VisitAthabasca.ca

Did you know there is a place where you can find a treasure trove of information highlighting an amazing array of things to see and do in the Athabasca region? It's the [VisitAthabasca.ca](http://www.VisitAthabasca.ca) website! It's all about Nature, History, and Events in the region, featuring local events highlighting arts and culture, family events, entertainment activities and more.

Do you have a local event to share? Go to the site and use the handy submission form to get your event posted. *Check it out today!*

Downtown Revitalization Grant

The Town of Athabasca has established a Downtown Revitalization Program for business owners within the Town's downtown core. Eligible business owners may take advantage of a one-time, 50% matching, reimbursement grant of up to \$5,000.00 per premise when undertaking exterior renovations to their business to increase the curb appeal of their storefronts.

Some conditions apply. Please see notice in the [Feb. 2024 edition of the Town Newsletter](#) for more details, or contact the Town Office.

This Garbage Shouldn't Fly Here

Lately, people have been talking trash in Athabasca, and here's what they are saying. They are noticing too much loose trash – papers, wrappers, etc. – falling out of garbage carts and flying away when the carts are being tipped into the garbage truck on windy pick-up days.

The problem is loose trash being thrown into the carts in the first place. The solution is making sure all trash is properly bagged before going into the containers, as required by the Town waste management bylaw. The bylaw states: "Household waste placed in the garbage cart must be reasonably contained within garbage bags to prevent household waste from spilling out or blowing about by wind during mechanical operations of the automated waste collection system equipment."

Residents are encouraged to be diligent in making sure to bag their trash properly before tossing it into the garbage containers. Non-compliance with the bylaw could result in penalties.

Please refer to Town [Waste Management Bylaw 12-10](#) for a complete overview of regulations and requirements.

Town Admin Behind the Scenes

More goes into keeping the Town of Athabasca running as effectively and efficiently as possible than many may realize. It begins with planning and foresight, and for the time and effort put into this challenging but important process, we have some dedicated and determined Town staff to thank, with particular acknowledgement going to members of Town Administration!

For example, the work done on the Asset Management Plan by all departments has supported the ability to develop longer term operating and capital plans. These plans provide for guidance within the Town Office and Council tables and, importantly, allow residents to [connect budgets](#) with strategic plan priorities. The Asset Management Plan is one of the specified goals in the Infrastructure category of the Town's [Strategic Plan 2022-2032](#), available for viewing on the Town website.

Students Study Local Government

Grade 6 students at Landing Trail Intermediate School (LTIS) in Athabasca are studying government. In their quest for a better understanding of how local government works, they turned to representatives from Town Council and Town Administration for some insight and answers to some specific questions.

Mayor Balay, Councillor LeMessurier and CAO Ramey hosted Madam Jones' class at the Town Office, Feb. 12. Councillor Yuill and CAO Ramey presented to Jeff Semenchuk's class at LTIS on April 11. A series of questions, developed by the students, were put to the Council team at each session. Here are a few examples:

- What did you do to encourage the electorate to vote for you?
- How do you make your decisions for the people you represent?
- What is the best (and worst) part of being a Mayor and Town Councillor in Athabasca?
- How much money does the town collect on taxes each year?
- What is the largest expense for the town of Athabasca?
- What happens when you spend your budget or go over your budget in a certain area, like snow removal?
- (Questions for CAO Ramey) How is the CAO selected? What is your role in town governance? What are important skills you need to be successful in this role?

Members of Town Council and Administration appreciated the opportunity to interact with the students and hope that those most interested will further pursue their interest in local government.

Praise for Community Spirit

There are countless ways caring Athabascans demonstrate community spirit and respect for others in the community, from volunteer efforts with various groups and organizations, to one-on-one care and assistance offered to neighbours, and every good and honourable deed in between.

One contribution that is rarely mentioned but certainly noticed is the effort that many make to help keep the town looking clean, tidy, and presentable. We applaud those who take any kind of action to maintain and beautify, not only their own property, but also public spaces and points beyond. The Town of Athabasca is grateful and we offer you our most sincere thanks.

Beautification efforts might simply mean maintaining your own lawns, yards and adjacent boulevards in a presentable manner. It could mean picking up blowing trash that you find creeping past your property, or picking up trash that has fallen out of a public trash receptacle. Any small act of tidying up can make a difference.

Pet Patrol and the Dog Park

One other area that can contribute greatly to the tidiness of the town is cleaning up when your pet makes a mess, particularly in public spaces. Again, we applaud those pet owners who are diligent in this practice. We encourage all pet owners to pick up all pet droppings and dispose of them in an appropriate manner.

Athabasca has a public off-leash Dog Park, located on 48 St., a little northeast of Pleasant Valley Lodge. It's a great place to let pets run free, but it is important, especially for the enjoyment of others, to clean up your pet droppings, both inside the park and out. In particular, please pay attention to keeping the area around the *outside of the fence* cleaner. It will be appreciated.