



City Living

Country Style

Let's Celebrate Our Successes What DID we achieve in 2014?

Too often, we go about our daily lives and do our jobs without thinking about how far we have come and what we have accomplished. It is important to take the time to recognize those accomplishments.

A lot of the things done by a municipality are not obvious to the on-looker, they happen behind the scenes and the work that goes into operating and maintaining a standard of living is not always apparent. Every job we do, whether it be big or small has an impact and while some are obvious, more are not.

The Town of Lamont has been a busy place this year. We have successfully completed a number of projects, both large and small, and continue to work on others. It has been an exciting year and we are proud of our staff as they continue to make Council's visions become reality. The quality of life of the residents of the Town is of the utmost importance to Council and staff.

The largest single project that was undertaken this year is the sewage lagoon expansion. The expansion was necessary to enable growth in the Town and we now have the capacity for increased sewage management for many years with no stress to the system as population and businesses increase. The cost of the expansion was \$1.7 million dollars – we were successful in receiving a grant from the Province in the amount of \$1.3 million. The remaining balance was budgeted by Council. The lagoon expansion also required extensive discussions with Ducks Unlimited and Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Developments regarding the filling in of a wetland. The Town has agreed to further expand on green spaces and parks and to also take water conservation measures, which, in turn, will reduce the amount of flow into the lagoon. These measures will save the Town \$222,000 that would have had to be paid to Ducks Unlimited.

The paving was done on 47th Avenue. This project was done at a cost of \$703,237 which included the cost of doing some underground repair as well.

In addition to this job, the repairs at the CN Crossing were also completed at a cost of \$24,823 as well as miscellaneous patching and concrete work at a cost of \$68,412.

A replacement of the foot bridge in Hillside Park was completed at a cost of \$38,000.

The Revenue Sharing agreement with Lamont County generated some additional funding to the Town in the amount of \$29,042.

While these large projects are the ones that garner all the attention and are highly visible to everyone, there are many things done by both staff and Council that aren't so noticeable.

Both groups contribute their time freely to ensure events and programs are available and run smoothly for the enjoyment of the residents. Christmas Light Up, the Community Fair, Community Awareness, Picnic in the Park and the Town Wide Clean Up are examples of events that both Council and staff volunteer their time to provide the community with activities. You see them at these events, but you don't realize that they are there as volunteers and not as paid staff or Councillors. Kudos to all for having that level of commitment that you are willing to donate time away from your families to participate in these activities!!

We have been able to see some success in the legal battles that continue to consume a lot of time and energy. Our Mayor and CAO have spent countless hours working on this and the caveats on the Westerly lands have finally been released. The battle is far from over, but every small victory is worth celebrating as it gets us one step closer to being able to promote development in those areas.

Something we have been looking forward to for a very long time!!

We are near completion of setting up for electronic payment of taxes. Once that is done, you will be able to have your property tax installments automatically withdrawn from your account rather than supplying the Town with post-dated cheques. We will be set up and ready to go for the start of the new year.

In addition to these projects we continue to maintain daily operations while making changes that have a positive effect on the Town and its residents. While it is impossible to capture everything that is done throughout the course of the year, this is a list of some of the key items:

- ❖ installed 150 wireless water meters
- ❖ installed 2 Stop signs and Stop Ahead signs at 50 Ave. and RR 193
- ❖ spring street sweeping
- ❖ completed a Drinking Water Safety Plan in conjunction with Alberta Environment
- ❖ repaired water break in Campbell subdivision
- ❖ worked on road to grass/tree drop area – grading and dumping 33 loads of concrete crush. Also added some gravel to this site
- ❖ cleaned old compost site area
- ❖ repaired a catch basin with concrete on 50 Ave.
- ❖ poured new concrete at town sewage lift station creating a ramp for new 4” trash pump
- ❖ installed a speed sign at RV park
- ❖ hydrant and sewer flushing completed throughout town
- ❖ grading of alleys in Edna and Hillside subdivisions
- ❖ replacement of signs that were faded or had been vandalised
- ❖ power flush sewer lines at the hospital
- ❖ gravelling of annexed roads
- ❖ sprayed parks and rec grounds
- ❖ repaired most pot holes
- ❖ repair of 3 cc valves
- ❖ cleaned up Town sign including hauling of rotten wood
- ❖ installed sod in area of previous water break
- ❖ removal of beavers from Edna Creek and cleaning the beaver dam out to open up the flow of water
- ❖ hydrants have been winterized
- ❖ repaired isolation rods at valve box at sewage lagoon
- ❖ purchased a new rough cut mower which decreases cutting time
- ❖ new 4” trash pump used to assist pumping out lift station in heavy rains
- ❖ purchased a new grass sweep which saves time in raking
- ❖ continued involvement with Capital Region Board and Alberta Industrial Heartland Association to advocate for and promote the Town of Lamont. We have taken on a larger role with the Capital Region Board and now have a representative on the Regional Services Committee
- ❖ we have partnered with the Town of Bruderheim and Lamont County to form the Oil and Gas Exploration Extraction and Transportation Committee (OGEETC) which will help us promote smart decisions regarding pipeline and oil well developments in the area so as to not hinder future development
- ❖ we have partnered with neighbouring communities to apply for a number of the Collaboration grants that have been made available by the Alberta government. These grants can be used for a variety of projects and promotes the municipalities to work together. By getting these grants, it enables us to complete more work without increasing tax rates to do it
- ❖ The Lamont County Regional Economic Development Initiative is one such project that we are partnered with all the municipalities in the County, and the County itself to sell Lamont and the region to promote our readiness for industrial and commercial growth
- ❖ we have hired a Deputy CAO which will help the Town maintain continuity and adds an extra set of hands to the office staff which will help maintain efficiency
- ❖ we have moved the operation and maintenance of parks by taking them out of the Public Works department and moving them into the Parks and Recreation department. This has improved park care and provides a clear division of duties between the two departments
- ❖ the Lamont and District Chamber of Commerce has increased in membership and is showing a large presence in the area
- ❖ this year was the first Town Wide Clean Up and it was such a success, it is being planned as an annual event and will be held the second weekend in May
- ❖ offering curbside yard waste collection provided a convenience to residents while also freeing up man hours in Public Works so other tasks could be performed
- ❖ increased staffing levels in Public Works created better response times on maintenance items and emergent issues
- ❖ Council supports continuous training of staff; a hallmark of good management practices
- ❖ vandalized baseball diamond dugouts were removed
- ❖ communication form on website provides another way for residents to voice their concerns
- ❖ the Town worked closely with Elk Island Public School Board to work out the sidewalk and parking lot access at the elementary school
- ❖ the Mayor and Council met with the Minister of Environment and thanked him for the assistance

his staff provided regarding the lagoon expansion/wetland issue

- ❖ the Mayor and Council met with representatives of Lamont Health Care Centre to discuss community needs and common interests
- ❖ a new roof has been put on the meeting room, arena and Community Hall
- ❖ the Town donated the use of the meeting room for Public Health nurses to administer flu shots
- ❖ we set up the hall in conjunction with the churches for the Remembrance Day ceremony
- ❖ completed an annual camera inspection of the sewer lines to take a proactive approach in checking for potential problems.
- ❖ the website is in the process of being redesigned to enable it to be more user friendly and more streamlined to the eye.
- ❖ Town Council passed a motion to join the Northern Lights Library System. This will provide Lamont Library card holders with access to inter-library book and other material loans. It will also open our library to library card holders from other libraries to access our resources.
- ❖ Permanent toilets have been installed in the park area. Areas have been marked for picnic tables and picnic areas will be available in the future. Other ideas are in the planning stage. We are striving to have a park area and green spaces that can be used by all residents of the community regardless of age.
- ❖ We continue to strive to make all of the Town events better than the previous ones. Working
- ❖
- ❖ No one thing sets us up for success. No one thing seems like a big thing. But when you put all these things together you can see that we are a small but mighty team. The team is comprised of Council, staff and residents – no one team member can work effectively without all the other members.
- ❖
- ❖ We CAN make Lamont a community of choice. We CAN make Lamont the envy of the region. We are making great strides towards our goals and we thank all of you for helping us achieve that. We thank all of you for being a part of our journey and we look forward to continued successes and continued memories with all of you.
- ❖
- ❖

with the service clubs provides the opportunities of having extra hands and ideas. Definitely a win win for all of us!

- ❖ In 2013 and 2014, Ride for Dad made Lamont a stopping point which brought hundreds of participants into Town. Mayor Skinner was a participant of the event both years and was able to provide information to fellow participants about the Town and give an insider's perspective of all the Town has to offer. The Lion's Club also gained exposure as they provided donuts and coffee to the riders.
- ❖ 2014 brought Adamstock to Lamont which also created traffic through town. Any event that is held which brings in new people to see our beautiful, vibrant community is a success.
- ❖ Administration and Council have been busy reviewing and revising old policies and bylaws as well as writing new ones as needed to promote a safe, equitable environment to work and live in.
- ❖ The Town has recently initiated an online notification system for information or emergency alerts. This system will be effective to get messages out to residents, but in order for it to work, residents have to first sign up. Go to www.lamont.ca for more information.
- ❖ Town Council has not increased the municipal portion of property taxes for a number of years. Factors such as the School Requisition; Landfill Requisition and Property Assessments have caused taxes to increase and decrease but the portion that goes to the municipality has not changed.



