

Friday, November 1, 2024

FORT FRANCES INSIDER

WELCOME BIENVENUE BOOZHOO TAANISHI

The Town is Hiring:

- Head Senior Lifeguard
- Public Works Labourer/Seasonal Airport Attendant
- Economic Development Officer
- Volunteer Firefighters

FortFrances.ca/Employment

Water/Sewer/Taxes E-Billing

Sign up by emailing ebilling@fortfrances.ca your name, account #, & address



Have you got your poppy yet? With the raising of the poppy flag, the Royal Canadian Legion's Annual Poppy Campaign is underway.

Some Town facilities will be closed in observance of Remembrance Day on Monday, November 11th. Watch our social media for all facility hours.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF MAYOR & COUNCIL

Meetings are held at 5:30pm Central

- Join:
- In-person at 320 Portage Ave
 - On Microsoft Teams (links in agendas)

Wish to bring a matter forward to Council? Check out FortFrances.ca/TalkToCouncil

Submit your request no later than 12:00pm the Wednesday before that Council meeting to the Clerk's Office

- November 12, 2024 (Regular)
- November 18, 2024 (Budget)
- November 25, 2024 (Regular)
- November 28, 2024 (Official Plan and Zoning By-Law)
- December 2, 2024 (Zoning By-Law Amendment)
- December 9, 2024 (Regular)

OCT 28TH COUNCIL RECAP

Regular Session

- Resident presented on concerns regarding reconciliation efforts and provided ideas and resources for the Town.
- Council directed Administration to bring forward a resolution supporting the campaign to have the province recognize the physician shortage in Ontario.
- Town donates \$480 plus tax to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 29 to become a partner in safety.
- Town to enter into a letter of understanding providing by-law services to Alberton.
- To fill former-Councillor Olson's vacant seat, Council chose to do an Appointment by Open Call. Those eligible to run for Council would apply, and Council will vote. More information to call.
- Council agrees to review composition. Current composition is one Mayor, six Councillors.
- By-Law to come forward to adopt a Municipal Significant Event policy.
- Council approves a Tournament and Events Growth Coordinator position in partnership with the RRFDC and MAT Committee for an 18-month term.

- Draft Special Event policy discussed and is tabled to the November 12th meeting of Mayor and Council.
- Council authorizes the submission of a grant application to Connecting Links to develop a roundabout design for the Central Avenue intersection.
- By-Law awarding Tender 2024-OF-11 Supply and Installation of Generator Load Bank at the Water Treatment Plant (Benka Electric).
- By-Law renewing insurance with Intact Public Entities for the 2024-2025 Term.

Closed Session

- Appointed Sylvia Smeeth to represent the Town of Fort Frances on the Rainy River District OPP Detachment Board.
- Administration provided direction in respect to Fire Union negotiations.

Start considering your political future because **Council will be accepting applications for the open councillor vacancy.** More info to come!

Free Yard Waste Day at the Landfill happening this Saturday, November 2 from 10:00am- 5:00pm!

EMPLOYMENT



Volunteer Firefighters

We are always looking for more volunteer firefighters! These are paid, on-call positions. Training, pager, gear supplied. Comradery, public service, and fulfillment are just added bonuses! Apply on our website. If you have any questions, Contact the Fire Chief!

Dave Robertson

Fire Chief

[drobertson@fortfrances.ca](mailto:d Robertson@fortfrances.ca)

(807) 274-5323 x1250



Aquatics

Memorial Sports Centre is hiring for a Head Senior Lifeguard.

We are also taking names of those who are certified to instruct Aquafit programs!

Always make sure to check out open opportunities at FortFrances.ca/Employment, but don't hesitate to reach out to the Memorial Sports Centre team for information and opportunities!



Ria Cuthbertson

Recreation and Aquatics Supervisor

rcuthbertson@fortfrances.ca

(807) 274-4561

Nathan Young

Recreation and Culture Manager

nyoung@fortfrances.ca

(807) 274-4561

THE ROUNDABOUT

Since the roundabout has been a popular item for discussion, we wanted to expand more on it.

What's approved?

Only the application to the Connecting Links funding which would cover 90% of the cost of the design. The roundabout has not been approved yet, and designing the roundabout if the grant application is not successful has also not been approved.

What happened at Council?

Council was divided on this topic and both pros and cons were discussed. It was not unanimously supported.

Where did we go for feedback?

We postponed the application by one Council meeting to allow residents to provide feedback to their Council and/or the Town. Very little feedback was sent directly to the town but what was received was heavier in support. Residents also have the option of speaking to a Council member, which some had done.

Won't this cost a lot?

A roundabout would cost a lot initially to create, but the Central Avenue intersection has aging infrastructure which will need to be replaced at a high cost. This involves ripping up the intersection to replace the infrastructure, doing electrical, installing new lights, repaving, plus the ongoing utility fees. A roundabout is anticipated to save money in the long run.

What about the bridge traffic?

Engineers would be asked to incorporate the bridge traffic, diverting them prior to entering the roundabout.

What about Scott Street traffic?

Another potential benefit to the roundabout is bringing more East-headed traffic down Scott Street potentially increasing business. The summer congestion from the current design of Central Avenue does not always allow for this.

Beautification

Beautification of the Town came up quite a bit in the Town of Fort Frances 2025 Budget Survey. The center of the roundabout itself could be a real showpiece, adding beauty to the town.

What about safety?

ICBC Insurance says "Modern roundabouts can reduce injury crashes by up to 75% as they reduce speed and eliminate head-on, right-angle and left-turn crashes. They can also increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists." Also, roundabouts eliminate lights, preventing the common issue of people running through red and yellow lights.

We encourage you to read more on roundabouts!

Get better informed on roundabouts by researching. We also encourage you to ask your Councilperson questions or contact our engineers at the Operations and Facilities department.

If I'm still not satisfied?

If your opinion conflicts with the Town of Fort Frances and you want to present your opinion to Council, we recommend to go through our channels to do so, including: Speaking with member(s) of Council, writing to Mayor and Council, sending in a petition, doing a deputation/delegation. [FortFrances.ca/TalkToCouncil](https://www.fortfrances.ca/TalkToCouncil)

MORE INFORMATION

CEMETERY REMINDER

If you have any plants or ornaments at the cemetery, this is a reminder to please remove them before the winter arrives.

BASKETBALL NETS

All basketball nets on roadways are now to be removed so they do not impede on snow removal.

FURTHER INFO ON PARADES AND INSURANCE

Parades in the Town of Fort Frances are important and bring many from the community together.

Conditions noted in our drafted Special Events Policy may be surprising to many of our community members, but many of them are already existing conditions our parade organizers are used to, including having special event insurance and listing the Town of Fort Frances as one of the insured. This is not about protecting only the Town of Fort Frances, but it protects the organizers of the parades: many of which are volunteer groups.

The draft policy proposed a requirement for floats entering parades to also get \$2,000,000 coverage, which also can be done by insurance companies for only the duration of the parade. All who participate are then covered in case of an accident. This action was recommended in the draft policy as it is suggested by insurance companies and is a standard amongst other municipalities.

The draft policy also recommends implementing sanctioned areas for (dis)assembly. This was suggested by emergency groups as having floats and people riding on the back outside of parade routes violates traffic laws. This is also a standard practice, and helps to further ensure safety.

If any residents still have concerns, we encourage you to reach out to a councilmember or contact the Recreation and Culture department.

ASK AWAY!

We want residents to feel comfortable coming to us to ask us the questions they want the answers to, so we're piloting a new section of the newsletter!

Have a question? Use our anonymous, 1-question form: [FortFrances.ca/ASK-AWAY](https://www.fortfrances.ca/ASK-AWAY)

YOUR QUESTIONS, OUR ANSWERS

Why does the council feel the need to waste taxpayers' money on changing the Central Avenue intersection when it works fine now?

The intersection needs to be redone due to aging infrastructure at a high cost. A roundabout could reduce long-term costs, enhance safety, improve traffic flow, and add visual appeal. Only the application for the grant which covers 90% of the cost of the design has been approved so far, not the roundabout itself.

Why do you add fluoride to drinking water?

The Town adds fluoride to drinking water as a safe, effective way to strengthen teeth and prevent cavities. This practice is endorsed by health organizations like the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a cost-effective public health measure.

Is the Fort Frances newsletter AODA compliant?

For the newsletter we choose clear, readable fonts at a minimum size of 12 point. We maintain a high contrast between text and background colours. We use headings to organize content and improve readability and searchability. We provide links in our PDF newsletter. We try to use clear language for easy understanding of information. We also offer paper copies as requested. We want the newsletter to be as accessible to the public as possible, and if you believe there are essential features missing, please don't hesitate to reach out to town@fortfrances.ca.

REGULAR HOURS

AIRPORT

Sunday to Friday
7am to 10pm

Saturday
7am to 6pm

CIVIC CENTRE

Monday to Friday
8:00am to 4:00pm

LANDFILL

Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

Saturday
10am to 5pm

MEMORIAL SPORTS CENTRE

Monday to Friday
6am to 10pm

Saturday
8am to 10pm

Sunday
8am to 8pm

MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE

Thursdays to Saturdays
10am to 4pm

PUBLIC WORKS

Monday to Friday
7:30am to 4pm

(After Hours On Call 807-274-9516)

SENIOR CENTRE

Monday to Friday
8am to 4pm

FOLLOW US ON:

