



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

# 2022

**BLACKFALDS**  
A I R P O R T



2022 was newly-elected  
Town Council members  
first full year together!

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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***We are back to business as usual here in Blackfalds!***

***After two years of a global pandemic, facility closures, layoffs, and cancelled events, we were finally able to come back and celebrate together, and to be able to enjoy the benefit of many improvements to our community despite the challenges posed to not only us, but to the whole world.***

I am so grateful to be able to say that in 2022, we came back swinging. We were tested as a community through COVID-19, but we stuck together, helped one another, and came back stronger.

As a Town, fiscally, we continued to stay responsible, do our best to make sure our residents were able to continue thriving through the tough economy and maintained a 0% increase while still providing the level of quality services that the Town of Blackfalds is known for.

I was so excited to not only see Blackfalds Days return but be able to join everyone for the very first concert in the Eagle Builders Centre. I look forward to attending many more!

With acknowledging the Eagle Builders Centre and Servus Public Library, I would like to thank everyone for their patience during the Womacks / Gregg Street Realignment project. Seeing it now, and the long term benefit it provides for traffic flow through our growing municipality, I think the detours were worth it!

As we look to the next year, I want to thank everyone in Blackfalds for staying strong, pushing through, and sticking with us in 2022.



*Mayor of Blackfalds*  
**Jamie Hoover**

*Jamie Hoover*

# CAO's MESSAGE

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I am pleased to present the 2022 Town of Blackfalds Annual Report.

Our community has faced significant challenges over the past few years and 2022 saw a transformation back to normalcy in our municipal operations. Your government has worked hard to ensure we continue to provide reliable and efficient services to our residents and businesses while ensuring fiscal responsibility.

Many achievements have taken place over the past year including meeting many of the objectives set out in the Town's Municipal Sustainability Plan, a plan which assists in guiding the decision-making of Council in meeting the needs of our growing community.

We continue to work with our local businesses on business retention and expansion. We welcomed a new Economic Development Officer whose key focus has been supporting local businesses.

Long-term planning to better determine the municipality's social needs was also undertaken as well as

a Pavement Management Study to ensure capital dollars are maximized in the maintenance and rehabilitation of our community's roadways.

The year 2022 marked the final full year of my nine-plus year career as Chief Administrative Officer with the Town of Blackfalds. I have greatly enjoyed serving the citizens of this amazing community and am very proud to have been a part of the tremendous growth of the Town, and the many accomplishments we can all be so proud of.

Most of all, I feel privileged to have worked with great staff who are so dedicated in their roles and with councils who have provided leadership in their governance role. We all should be optimistic in what 2023 will bring.



Myron Thompson, CAO  
Town of Blackfalds



***Myron Thompson, Town of Blackfalds Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) has been serving the Blackfalds community for the last 9 years with over 30 years of experience in municipal administration.***

***2022 was his last full year as the CAO for Blackfalds, as he moves on to his well-deserved retirement.***

***We thank him for his years with the Town!***

A photograph of a band performing on stage at night. The stage is lit with spotlights, and the band members are visible. A blue text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# 2022

We celebrated a number of milestones in 2022. Let's look back at some of the highlights of the year!

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## NEW TOWN CONNECTION



The Womacks / Gregg Street Realignment project was completed in 2022 after it was determined in our Transportation Master Plan that a east-west connection through town was a top priority.

The scope of the project included works around the Eagle Builders Centre (both under and above ground), extending Womacks Road, and improvements to the intersection of Highway 2A and the new Womacks extension.



## A TEACHER REMEMBERED

With the realignment nearing its end, it was determined that Gregg Street would have to be renamed to Womacks to avoid confusion.

However, in looking at renaming requirements for the remaining portion of the angled roadway in front of Tayles Park, we realized that the name Gregg was a misnomer.

The road was to be called **Grigg**, after Blackfalds' first schoolteacher, Alice Grigg. The oversight has now been corrected, and the road renamed to Grigg Way.

## HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING



Town officials joined the Wolf Creek School Division in breaking ground on the high school site, as well as announcing the school's name - Iron Ridge Secondary Campus!

The school construction is well underway along Leung Road and we are so excited for the graduating class of 2025 to walk through those doors.

# 2022 Financial Report

*The inflationary economic environment of 2022 brought increased expenses for many, and the Town was no exception.*

The Town's expenses were up 8% from 2021. However, we also experienced improved returns on investments due to the increasing interest rates. As a result, the year ended with a small surplus (0.1% of revenues) that we will be adding to reserves for future years.

Capital reserves continue to remain strong and as a result, the ten year capital plan continues to be both practical and achievable. Paying down debt, as interest rates continue to climb, remains a high priority for us while still maintaining cashflows for day-to-day operations and future capital plans.

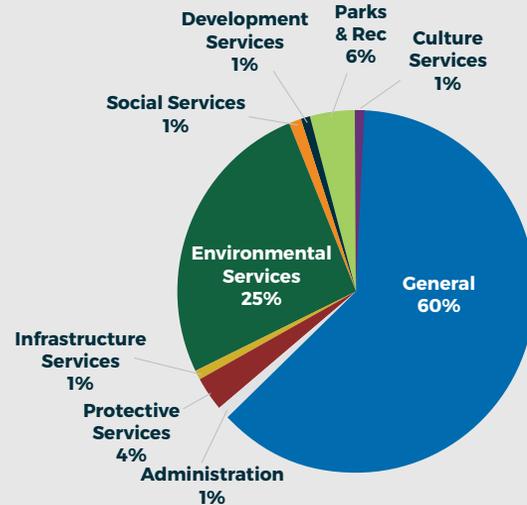
Overall, the Town remains in a strong financial position!

**2022 Revenues\* : \$30,073,679**

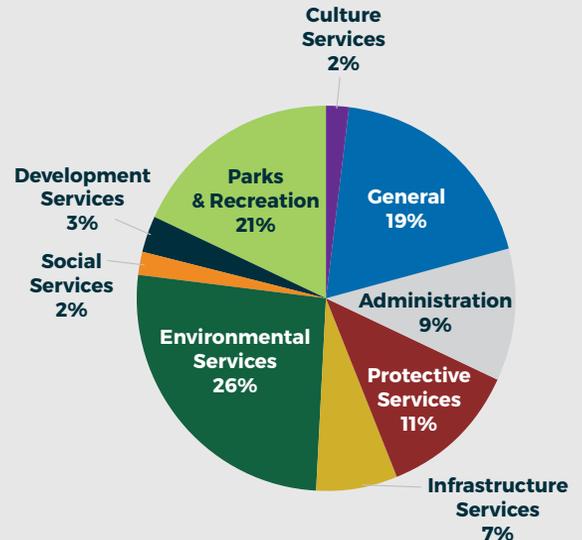
**2022 Expenses\* : \$30,037,201**

*\*Unaudited values. Subject to change with year end audit.*

## 2022 Operating Revenue



## 2022 Operating Expenses



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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***We are excited to share that in 2022, an addition of 36 BUSINESS LICENSES were issued.***

As a participating community in the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program's Rural Entrepreneur Stream, we provided letters of support to vetted and qualified immigrant entrepreneurs whom are considering the Town of Blackfalds as a place to relocate to and establish their business!

Economic Development joined the Blackfalds Healthcare Professionals Attraction and Retention Committee (BHPARC) in hosting numerous prospective practitioner visits.

Blackfalds Days and the Blackfalds Summer Market returned to their original glory, and we celebrated all things Blackfalds with both residents and newcomers!

We proudly hosted the 2022 Alberta Junior Hockey League Showcase at the

Eagle Builders Centre.

The 4-day event was tremendously successful as we hosted all 16 Jr. "A" teams and their fans from across the province. Our world-class facilities and central location were recognized as being ideal for this type of event.

As a means to further strengthen our relationship with our partners at Lacombe County, we have worked together on several updates required within our municipal guiding documents such as the Intermunicipal Development Plan and the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework. These updates will aim to better align our combined strategies and resources.



# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



***The Planning & Development (P&D) team processes development permit applications, subdivisions, requests for certificates of compliance, works with developers to prepare Area Structure Plans to guide the development of new communities, and they work closely with our neighbour, Lacombe County, to ensure development at the Town's doorstep will not impede our future growth and vitality.***

- A new Land Use Bylaw, the primary tool to regulate all uses and development standards within the Town, was approved by Council in April 2022. We have been familiarizing ourselves with the new Land Use Bylaw and are committed to monitoring and amending it accordingly. This is to ensure it continues to reflect contemporary planning and development practices, remains in line with Council direction, and meets the needs of our residential and business community.
- The landowner-initiated annexation application to annex the lands surrounding and including the Mary & Cliff Soper Natural Area has been officially withdrawn by the landowner. We are now preparing a report to the Province detailing the initiation of this annexation, summarizing the public consultation phase, and discussing the withdraw decision. This report will be posted on our P&D page of the Town's website for public viewing once it has been submitted to the Province!
- Our department is actively identifying and creating internal policies and procedures to ensure transparency and consistency in our practices. The first of these internal policies/procedures, the Compliance Certificate Policy and

# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CONT...

Procedures, have recently been adopted by Council.

- Our collaborative work with Lacombe County continues and efficiencies have been found by combining the Intermunicipal Development Plan Committee and the Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework Committee into one Intermunicipal Committee.
- In 2022, we joined forces with a Regional Subdivision and Development Appeal Board to provide an appeal body

of diverse and skilled board members at an arms length of Town Administration.

- By the end of 2022, our team had processed **240** permits with the total permit value of **\$22,693,583.48**. In comparison, by the end of 2021, the department had processed **234** permits with a total permit value of **\$21,917,253.00**. In summary, both permit activity and values are up!



# INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES



***Infrastructure Services Department is comprised of the Public Works' Environmental Services and Transportation Services Department, asset management and GIS, engineering, and environmental management.***

Services include maintaining roads, sidewalks, water, sewer, stormwater, environmental, and regulatory management.

Milestones of 2022 include:

- Completion of All-Star Park Parking Lot expansion.
- Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Analysis was completed and approved by Council to help guide our future utility rates for customers of the Blackfalds water and wastewater system.
- Completion of the Womacks/Gregg Street Realignment project including the closure of Broadway Avenue railway



crossing, resurfacing of Womacks Road and Grigg Street, completion of the parking lot at Eagle Builders Centre, and opening of the new Womacks Road railway crossing to traffic.

- Completion of intersection improvements at Highway 2A and Womacks Road, including pedestrian improvements at Parkwood Road and Panorama Street.
- Completed all field investigations for Pavement Management Study

# INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES CONT...

- Completion of the Phase 2A and 3 construction of the East Area Stormwater Management project.
- A new skid steer and **2** new trucks were purchased.
- Advancement of asset data collection with the development of various asset class condition assessment templates.
- The former landfill site was monitored to manage environmental impacts of the site.
- Spring/Fall Clean Up program and electronic recycling roundup.
- The Blackfalds On-Demand Local Transit (BOLT) system that services Blackfalds to north Red Deer continues to be a valuable service! We added **2** new stops in Aspelund Industrial Park, and **1** at Red Deer Polytechnic in 2022 and ridership numbers continue to grow.

Out of **4,450 TONS OF WASTE** collected, we successfully diverted **818 TONS OF RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE** from the landfill in 2022!



# PROTECTIVE SERVICES

## Municipal Enforcement

*2022 was a busy year for Municipal Enforcement as we welcomed the opportunities to be actively involved in the schools and community as a whole once again.*

We were able to focus on a proactive approach to enforcement throughout the year, patrolling the streets to ensure bylaw compliance through both an educational and enforcement approach.

Our officers were excited to return to normal this year, being able to organize and participate in community events again. The Youth Bike Rodeo, Kids & Kops and the Victim Services Charity Check Stop were the three major activities that we were actively involved in throughout the year.

We spent time in assisting in school talks and worked closely with the RCMP School Resource officer during the year to provide service to the schools within the community.



Officers patrolled neighbourhoods on our mountain bikes throughout the summer months, allowing us many opportunities to interact with residents on a more personal note!

In the past year, there were **1,201 INVESTIGATIONS.**

Combined, approximately **1,500 PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL VIOLATION TICKETS** were issued in 2022.



## RCMP

*Our RCMP Detachment was excited to have the COVID-19 restrictions removed in 2022, which allowed us to become more involved within the community.*

The School Resource Officer (SRO) was able to have full access to the school again, allowing him to become an active part of the resources within the school.

We enjoyed the opportunities to participate in Kids & Kops, assist Municipal Enforcement with the annual Bike Rodeo, and work together with Victim Services and other agencies in the annual Charity Check Stop.

The Detachment is currently staffed with **28** regular RCMP officers, **9** of these, including the SRO, are funded by the Town of Blackfalds, **2** are funded by the counties and the remainder are funded by the province. The Detachment also houses the Victim Services unit, which has **4** staff based out of the RCMP building. **2** of the positions are specifically dedicated to Plain Clothes crime reduction investigations.

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONT...



Blackfalds experienced an increase of **3%** in **BREAK AND ENTER OFFENSES** in comparison to the previous year - going from 37 in 2021 to 38 in 2022.

There was a **12%** decrease in **MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS**, which is 5 less than in 2021.

**THEFT UNDER \$5,000** decreased by **22%** (17 less than 2021).

In total **PROPERTY CRIME** was down **16%**.

Other **CRIMINAL** related files were down **25%**.

We did experience a **23%** decrease in **CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON**.

**MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS** decreased by **7%** a decrease from 13 in 2021.

**4 INJURY COLLISIONS** and **159 PROPERTY DAMAGE COLLISIONS** were recorded.

# PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONT...

## Fire Department

The Blackfalds Fire Department rose to a roster of **30** members in 2022 and we are continuing to look for residents who are interested in becoming a paid-per-call member.

Our members are trained to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Level I and Level II standards, with vehicle extrication and first aid. Our training also included Hazardous Goods Training to meet the NFPA 472 Standards.

We hosted the NFPA 1001 Level 1, Hazmat, and Pump training courses from January through to the end of October.

The annual Santa Run was a huge success, bringing joy to the community as Santa visited every street in town over two nights.

The donations collected during the Santa Run for the Food Bank was **3,100 POUNDS OF FOOD** and **\$630.00** in **CASH DONATIONS**.

In 2022, we responded to **245 EMERGENCY INCIDENTS** which is a **33%** increase over 2021. **57** of these events were in **LACOMBE COUNTY**.

Most incidents were **RESPONSES TO ALARMS** at **43%**, and **MOTOR**

**VEHICLE ACCIDENTS** at **16%**.

Responses for **MEDICAL CALLS** were up **45%** in 2022.



*Alarm calls continue to be an issue as most of these are related to lack of maintenance, expired devices, cooking and or not answering the alarm monitoring companies initial call. Residents are encouraged to keep information current with the alarm companies as well as replacing expired devices. Residents are reminded that all monitored systems need to be registered with an alarm permit available at the Town Office.*



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Parks & Facilities



### IN 2022 WE PURCHASED:

- A utility terrain vehicle for All-Star Park operations
- A new angle broom attachment for winter snow clearing and summer trail maintenance
- A new score clock for EBC Arena #2
- A new auto-scrubber for the EBC
- Equipment required for Arena #1 change over/glass removal from winter activities to spring/summer dry floor events.  
*IE. Glass lifter, jib, safety railing, and glass carts*

2022 was a busy year for our department as we undertook many projects that enhanced and enriched the community.

- We hired **10** summer staff to support spring and summer operations
- Eagle Builders Centre (EBC) Parking Lot and Plaza landscaping
- Womacks Road realignment landscaping
- Supported Camp Curious by building and installing raised planters
- Bike Skills Park preventative, and ongoing maintenance, and landscaping additions
- Addition of trees to the Blackfalds Bark Park and Paramount Crescent
- Added mulch to various sites around the community
- Yearly annuals, hanging pots, and flower bed install and maintained throughout spring & summer
- Installed additional garbage receptacles, benches, and picnic tables
- Ongoing inspection and maintenance of community's **12** playgrounds and **2** community gardens
- Ongoing maintenance and snow clearing of community's **18km+** of paved trails and sidewalks
- Light-Up Blackfalds light and music display
- Maintenance and inspection of the community's **2** outdoor rinks, ponds, and skating loop
- 2A asphalt trail addition

## COMMUNITY SERVICES Parks & Facilities CONT...

- Our Facilities Staff manage all the maintenance (repairs, preventative maintenance, and custodial services) in all Town facilities (Blackfalds Operations Centre, Protective Services, Civic Centre, Community Centre, Abbey Centre, Wadey Centre, All-Star Park, EBC, and Support Services Centre)
- AJHL Showcase weekend in October (Sept 29-Oct 3) both arenas were utilized
- Jr. A Blackfalds Bulldogs Spring camp in April
- 1st concerts held in EBC mid-June
- All-Star Park hosted Ladies Provincials in mid-July and a 4-day Ladies Western Canadian Fastball Championship first week of August
- Jr. A Blackfalds Bulldogs held 2 week Minor Hockey camp at EBC in mid-August
- EBC and Town of Blackfalds played host to the AARFP Arena level 2 course
- Members of our Parks and Facilities team participated in the emergency management exercise
- Hired **3** summer staff to support spring and summer All-Star Park and EBC operations (tournaments, Minor Ball, Minor Soccer, Town slo-pitch league)
- All-Star Park hosted **12** weekend events
- Began construction on the new Border Paving Plaza located at the Eagle Builders Centre. Remaining work will be completed in 2023.



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Abbey Centre



In March due to popularity, and to offer a safe place for the community to utilize regardless of weather or air quality, we extended the \$2 Track Only Option to year-round access.

New pool chemical controllers and the re-tiling of the hot tub were both completed early spring/summer respectively.

We transitioned our family changeroom to a more inclusive universal changeroom to ensure we have safe spaces available for everyone.

The Abbey Centre was the host facility for the Alberta Day activities on September 3 which included performers, a tipi raising and toonie swim.

Staff were happy to assist the Blackfalds Ministerial Association in the coordination of the return of the Remembrance Day Service at the Abbey Centre on November 11 after a 2-year hiatus.

### **POLICY CHANGES**

We completed the Abbey Centre Clothing Policy Survey on February 22. Taking the feedback into consideration, we have updated the original policy of 2014. This was put into effect March 3.

The Program & Lesson Refund Policy 115.15 was rescinded and the new Activities & Membership Refund Policy 153.22 approved by Council June 28, which will help guide our staff and offer further flexibility to our users.

A fee review was completed by the Recreation, Culture & Parks Board this fall with Council passing 3rd reading in November. Changes went into effect January 1, 2023.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Abbey Centre CONT...

### NEW INITIATIVES

- **Thrifty Thursdays:** Each month, we offer cost savings on various Abbey Centre services
- **“Thanks for Being Awesome” :** Coupons for free slushies were given to youth 17 years old and under who staff witnessed doing an act of kindness, or treating someone with respect
- **Try-It Free Sports:** Sport sampler classes including Field Hockey and Pickleball
- **Camp Curious Garden boxes:** we had our first ever Camp Curious garden boxes which were a huge success with our campers. Thanks to the generous support of the Blackfalds Ag Society and in partnership with Pnewko
- **Fitness Sampler:** Participants were able to trial a 30 minute free class of their choosing
- **Adult Wellness Classes**

**98% ENROLLMENT**  
in Camp Curious Summer  
Camps

**2,500+ ATTENDEES**  
at Summer Culture Series

**78,487 MEMBER**  
visits

**37,798 DAY ADMISSION**  
visits

**399 ANNUAL MEMBERS**

**498 MONTHLY MEMBERS**

**1,795 PUNCH PASSES**



### KEEPING UP WITH COVID

The Restriction Exemption Program was rescinded on February 9 which allowed the ability for all to attend the Abbey Centre regardless of vaccination status.

As of March 1, COVID-19 restrictions were lifted resulting in a considerable increase in booking of town facilities, use of child minding, usage of registered fitness programs and attendance in drop in classes.



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Family & Community Support Services

*The Town of Blackfalds recognizes and celebrates volunteerism and awards individuals and groups who display outstanding service to their community and those in need.*

In 2022, **292 VOLUNTEERS** stepped up and worked a total of **1,877 HOURS**.

Out of a total of **40 NOMINEES**, we recognized the work of these amazing volunteers and honoured them with the following awards during volunteer week:

**Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year:**

Brad Harnack

**Gloria House Mentor:**

Louise Rellis

**Outstanding Group (Adult category):**

Lunch Box Program Volunteers

**Leaders of Tomorrow (Elementary):**

Rhys Bonnett

**Leaders of Tomorrow (Junior High):**

Tessa Overacker

**Leaders of Tomorrow (High School):**

Anita Diachok

Heartfelt thanks to the **GENEROUS DONATION** of **\$3,000** from our friends at MEGlobal and received **\$500** from the Volunteer Alberta grant.



### 50+ PROGRAMMING

We were so excited to see new members of the 50+ **WALKING CLUB** in 2022!

The Walking Club allows for the senior community of Blackfalds to enjoy some (safe) exercise, and meet new people!

The Walking Club saw **90** participants in 2022 - all of whom attended **1210** times.

Our 50+ registered fitness classes also

saw new faces as the number of participants grew to **256** in both **50+ YOGA** and **FIT & FUNCTIONAL** classes.

We also had 69 members attend our **IT'S MORE THAN JUST A MOVIE** program.

For more information or to get involved, please visit [www.blackfalds.ca/vibrant50](http://www.blackfalds.ca/vibrant50)

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Family & Community Support Services CONT...



### WINTER COATS FOR KIDS

**156** children accessed this program and received a brand-new winter jacket!

With the generous time and yummy goodness from several local bakeries during our annual dessert auction, the Winter Warmth Fundraiser, we raised **\$6,556!**

Major partnership with **MOUNTAIN WAREHOUSE** who provides us special pricing of \$55.00 which is half the cost for a brand-new winter jacket.

### CHRISTMAS BUREAU

**100 FAMILIES, 258 CHILDREN** and **22 SENIORS/SINGLES** accessed the Christmas Bureau.

**\$17,806.25** was raised for this important program!



### FCSS VISITORS

In 2022, FCSS Staff welcomed **1,932 VISITORS!**

\*FCSS is now located in the Civic Cultural Centre at 5018 Waghorn Street.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Family & Community Support Services CONT...

### TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Partnering with STAPLES, we raised **\$1,955.34** - allowing **133 CHILDREN** to access the program.



**\$23,500** FCSS grant funding was allocated to:

- Iron Ridge Elementary
- St Gregory the Great Catholic School
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe & District

### LUNCH BOX PROGRAM

The Lunch Box Program has been very fortunate as we have been able to partner with so many community organizations. Thanks to the help of those businesses and communities, the program has continued its success into a new year.

**3,962** families / **10,184** children accessed the program

### 936 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Program cost for 2022 totalled **\$93,815.01** = **\$9.21/child/week** for breakfasts & lunches.

Ongoing support from generous donors and successful grant applications will enable the program to continue into 2023.



### YOUTH PROGRAMMING

**Blackfalds Youth Crew** saw **622** attendees

**Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safely** was offered 7 times and saw **85** youth participate

**Inspiring Virtues** offered 6 sessions throughout the year and had **52** registered participants

**Youth Programming** during school break in February had **56** participants

**Youth Week** May 1-7 saw **96** youth participating in a variety of activities throughout the week

**Youth summer programming** had a total of **152** youth in attendance

**New partnerships with IRIC** - Positive Peers weekly for youth focused on healthy friendships

A winter scene featuring a wooden pergola in the foreground, surrounded by snow-covered trees and a clear blue sky. The pergola is made of dark wood and stands on a circular stone base. The background shows a residential area with houses and more snow-covered trees.

**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS  
P.O. BOX 220  
5018 WAGHORN ST.  
BLACKFALDS, AB  
TOM OJO**

**403.885.4677  
INFO@BLACKFALDS.CA  
BLACKFALDS.CA**

**BLACKFALDS**  
ALBERTA