



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2023

BLACKFALDS
ALBERTA



Town Staff at the Red Deer
Kinsmen Ball Tournament |
June 2023

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Looking back at 2023, the same opening statement from the past is unavoidable – it was another year of growth in Blackfalds. From steady increases in population, schools bursting at the seams, almost 50 new businesses opening, new and expanding service organizations arriving, numerous buildings under construction, and major roadway changes, our community continues to evolve.

With that change, there is a mix of excitement and pride, along with challenges and questions about how to manage the change. The positive perspective looks at how many more options there is for shopping local, and to be entertained in Town including the exciting high level sporting events this past year. The tactical and critical thinker looks at the obstacles yet to overcome or to adapt to, which includes ever increasing costs to the Town, businesses and residents, and the strain on the community's infrastructure, like increased parking demand, lack of commercial space, construction delays, roadway realignment adaptation, overburdened schools and demand for expanding utilities to meet growth. 2023 was a foundational year when it came to many of these opportunities and challenges, and this will be the primary focus for decision making by Council and Administration.

2024 will see completion of some current growth, and the beginning of the next phases. The soon to open secondary campus will bring monumental change to the youth presence in Town in the fall, and I expect to see another school build announced soon. Planning, and perhaps groundwork, will hopefully start on another boom of residential building in Blackfalds, new and improved outdoor recreation facilities, and with the completion of more than 20 new commercial spaces there will be even more local businesses to enjoy.

Within this report, we hope to highlight all of the changes and planning that happened in 2023. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the planning, construction and even just adapting to the evolution of our great, vibrant community. As always, continue to provide your thoughts, participation and understanding.



Mayor of Blackfalds
Jamie Hoover

Jamie Hoover

CAO's MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the 2023 Town of Blackfalds Annual Report. As the new Chief Administrative Officer for the Town, I have the opportunity to look into the operations with a new perspective and a fresh set of eyes and it was clear there were many positives to build on moving forward. I am honored to work with a tremendous group of employees who work passionately day in and day out to deliver the services that allow our residents to enjoy a high quality of life.

With Council's guidance, the Town continued to advance our Capital Works Program and the Asset Management Program which is critical in maintaining, operating, and replacing infrastructure in the most cost-efficient manner. Key projects for 2023 included fleet purchasing, the installation of the EV charging stations, the Lorne Avenue Rehabilitation Project, East Area Stormwater Phase 2 and 3 project, Womacks Extension, Border Paving Plaza, Abbey Centre Pool Deck Lift, and ongoing road, trail, and playground maintenance.

In addition to our regular local and regional users, our facilities played host to a variety of events including the Great Benjamin Circus, Arm Wrestling Championship with participants from across Central Alberta and Western Canada to closing out summer at the Vesta Energy Bike Skills Park with

a Jump Jam Competition. At the time of drafting this message, we have confirmation of one national events and other provincial championships that will be held in Blackfalds in 2024. We will continue to market and promote our facilities along with the message that that we are committed to being an outstanding host community.

You may have noticed some name changes to our facilities as we welcomed new naming sponsors, Vesta Energy who sponsored the Bike Skills Park, Border Paving who sponsored our Community Plaza, and Sterling Industries who sponsored what was previously All-Star Park! I'd like to take this opportunity thank our partners, sponsors and donors who so generously give back to their community and allow us to provide the very best for the residents of Blackfalds.

Collectively Administration met Council's budget expectations for 2024 to reduce our tax increase well below inflation while maintaining the quality services that we provide. We welcome 2024 with energy and optimism and will work hard to deliver on the priorities and planning of Council, increase efficiencies, and to transform our service and culture.

Kim Isaak, CAO



This is Kim Isaak's first year with the Town of Blackfalds! She came to the Town from the City of Camrose in August of 2023.

She, her husband Lloyd, and dog Hoss live in Blackfalds.



2023

We celebrated a number of milestones in 2023. Let's look back at some of the highlights of the year.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



We were so excited to enter into naming sponsorships with three businesses this year for various facilities!

Border Paving LTD became the naming sponsor for the Border Paving Plaza.

Vesta Energy became the sponsor for Vesta Energy Bike Skills Park.

Sterling Industries sponsored Sterling Industries Sports Park!



RETURN OF THE E-SCOOTERS

The Town of Blackfalds welcomed Neuron Mobility as the new e-scooter provider for Blackfalds!

2023 Stats:

Total Trips: 5,333

Total KMs: 13,400+

CO2 Emissions (kg) Saved: 853

Unique Active Users: 1,050

Avg Trip Distance (km): 2.5

Avg Trip Duration: 15 m 23s

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS MET



Acquiring energy-efficient modes of transportation was identified in the 2021 Environmental Stewardship Strategy and 2023 was the year the Town took steps toward those goals.

The Municipal Enforcement Department acquired an electric vehicle, and two charging stations were installed within Town limits!

2023 OPERATING BUDGET

In compliance with the Municipal Government Act (MGA), Administration provided a three-year operational budget projection to Council in November of 2023.

The Town was once again able to capitalize on the high interest rates, earning significant amount of interest income over budget.

The Town received higher than budgeted amounts in franchise fee revenue, which supports the future capital plans, projects and initiatives.

There was higher revenue recognized in the Abbey Centre through memberships and programs. This puts the facility in a much better position compared to where they were during the pandemic restrictions.

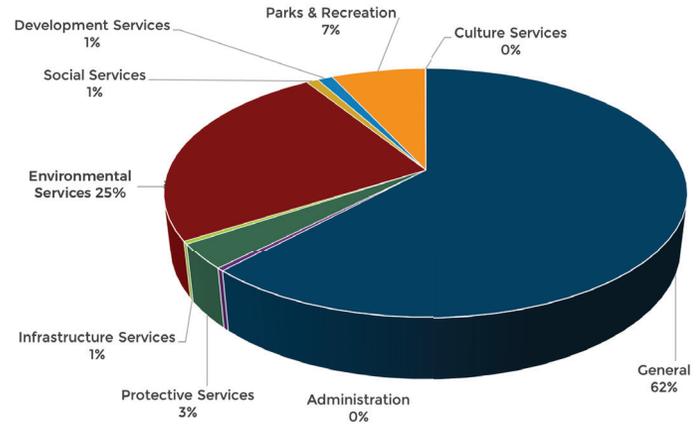
This created an opportunity to pay down the Abbey Centre debenture earlier than expected, saving two years of interest costs.

The Town of Blackfalds continues to have strong capital reserves and the five-year capital plan is both practical and achievable. The plan supports expansion, growth and infrastructure requirements over the next five years.

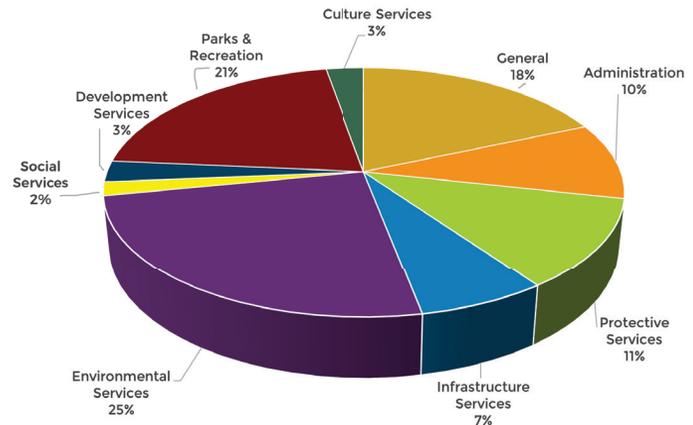
The 2023 Operating Budget

totalled \$31,470,566.

2023 Operating Revenue



2023 Operating Expenses



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

We are excited to share that in 2023, an addition of 47 BUSINESS LICENSES were issued.

2023 not only brought in an incredible amount of new businesses, but also a substantial amount of **new development!** New commercial buildings popped up in Blackfalds Crossing, as well as on Vista Trail. We are excited to see what 2024 brings for these new areas and the businesses that will call it home! This year, we celebrated several health practitioners for **Health Week** where we showcased all the healthcare providers in our community and thanked them for the work they are doing within our community. Not only did we celebrate the practitioners that have already been established in the community, but we also welcomed **new health practitioners** via the BHPARC! Apollo Health Centre welcomed Dr. Nkechi Gbenoba to the team and we know that the added

doctor will greatly impact our residents. This past year was also successful for tourism. A **new e-scooter company** came to Town and brought an environmentally positive alternative transportation method which was vastly enjoyed by residents and visitors. For the first time, the Vesta Energy Bike Skills Park was used for the **Jump Jam BMX showcase** which brought in a number of novice and professional bikers, as well as spectators. The **2023 Summer Culture Series** saw record-breaking attendance for performances including Kvitka Ukrainian Dancers, the Blackfalds Zoo, Calysto Steel Pan Band. Calfskit, the Joe Show, and Richard Young the Magician.



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.

- In 2023, the Planning & Development Department researched and prepared a bylaw to introduce a 2-year **urban hen pilot program** that was approved by Council in the summer. So far, the program has been going fairly well with a few urban hen licenses issued.
- The Department continues to actively identify and create internal policies and procedures to ensure transparency and consistency in our practices. The current policy/procedure under development pertains to the **Development Security Deposit** that is taken at the time of certain development permit applications. Once complete, the Department will have a clear set of policies and procedures around the collection of these Development Security Deposits, when a refund is to be issued, and what to do if the deposit goes unclaimed.
- Planning & Development continue to monitor the effectiveness of our **Land Use Bylaw** and bring amendments forward to Council as need be. The latest amendments brought to Council in late 2023 pertained specifically to updating some allowable uses in certain districts. The Land Use Bylaw controls all development that occurs on titled properties within the Town's municipal jurisdiction, so it is very important it reflects the needs of our community,

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CONT...

contemporary planning and development trends, and contains clear uses and development standards.

- The Department continued to find improvements with notification and engagement of the public and internal departments on planning and development matters. In 2023, we improved the way we notify the public of upcoming Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) meetings and agendas. Past and upcoming MPC meeting agendas are now posted on the Boards & Committees page of the Town's website, and upcoming meeting agendas are also posted on the Town's bulletin board located outside of Council Chambers at the Town's Civic Centre. We also improved collaboration with internal departments in reviewing Area Structure Plans, plans that govern the future planning and development of

new areas, and development permits to ensure that all department requirements are fully understood and reflected in those processes.

- Planning and Development worked closely with several local developers and their consulting teams to prepare some amendments to Area Structure Plans that guide the future development of new areas in Town. These amendments will be going to Council in 2024 and have been sparked by the need to provide affordable housing options for Blackfalds and a new school in the north-western portion of the Town.
- By the end of 2023, our team had processed **199** permits with the total permit value of **\$18,213,084**. In comparison, by the end of 2022, the department had processed **240** permits with a total permit value of **\$22,693,583**.



INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES



Infrastructure Services Department is comprised of asset management and GIS (geographic information system), engineering, environmental management, and Public Works' Environmental Services and Transportation Services.

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

Milestones of 2023 include:

- Completion of Phase 1 upgrades at the Transfer Station.
- Rehabilitation of Lorne Avenue with full road and sidewalk replacement.
- Conducted engineering and tendering for a new sanitary sewer lift station in the future McKay Ranch subdivision development.
- A new skid steer, 1.5-ton dump



truck, and service trucks were purchased.

- Advancement of asset data collection with the development of various asset class condition assessment templates.
- Organized for new aerial imagery of the Town for GIS purposes.
- Conduct pedestrian upgrades with the installation of two new rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) at key intersections.
- Completed intersection improvements at Highway 2A and Womacks Road including trail improvements, roadway markings, dedicated left-turn

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES CONT...

lanes and signals, and stormwater drainage improvements.

- The former landfill site was monitored to manage environmental impacts of the site.
- Spring/Fall Clean Up program and electronic recycling roundup.
- Installed a new Level 2 electric vehicle charging station next to Highway 2A, and a new Level 3 electric vehicle charging station at the Town Civic Center.
- BOLT, which provides transportation services from

Blackfalds to north Red Deer, continues to be a valuable service with continued steady growth over the year, as well as the stop at Red Deer Polytechnic and the new stops in Aspelund.



In addition to the **4475 METRIC TONS OF WASTE** collected, the Town successfully diverted approximately **619 METRIC TONS OF RECYCLING, 222 METRIC TONS OF METAL RECYCLING,** and **300 METRIC TONS OF YARD WASTE** from the landfill in 2023.



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Municipal Enforcement

2023 saw a decrease in the number of operational files opened, providing officers an opportunity to be more proactive. Officers worked together with the schools to ensure a more visible presence in the immediate vicinity of schools, particularly the Junior High. This helped build relationships as well provided a higher level of safety for residents, school staff, students, and nearby businesses.

The Department was very excited to see the segways return and use them along with mountain bikes during patrols and events in the community such as the Blackfalds Days parade. The addition of the EV Mustang Mach E as a Municipal Enforcement Vehicle in 2023 was very well received and is performing well.

This year officers focused on increasing Joint Force Operations with several taking place throughout the year, providing officers an opportunity to work together with other enforcement agencies focusing on improving the safety of streets within the Town.

Officers participated in Kids & Kops, various school activities, Charity Check Stop which raised money for the Blackfalds Food Bank, along with numerous other events. These activities were a tremendous success and provided an opportunity for enforcement to engage with the public on a positive note.

The Department worked closely with the RCMP on many investigations, motor vehicle collisions, mischief complaints and various other matters over the year. Officers took the lead working with the School Resource Officer on the Students Against Drunk Driving Liquor Bag Campaign over Christmas. The students produced some excellent liquor bags with some amazing messages discouraging drinking and driving.

In the past year, there were **865 INVESTIGATIONS.**

Combined, approximately **1,600 PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL VIOLATION TICKETS** were issued in 2023.



RCMP

The Blackfalds RCMP Detachment is currently staffed with 28 regular RCMP officers, 9 of which are funded by the Town of Blackfalds, including the School Resource Officer. 2 of the remaining 19 provincially-funded officers are dedicated to plain-clothes crime reduction investigations, including focus on high-volume offenders and warrant apprehensions.

This unit has been very successful, with an example being a drug trafficking investigation which resulted in an arrest, seizure of **100 grams of meth**, **30 grams of fentanyl** and **15 grams of cocaine**, with the individual still in custody.

The Detachment has been very pleased to have been able to participate in several community/ partner-led initiatives in 2023. These include Restorative Justice, Virtual Opioid Dependency Program (VODP – assistance for clients with addictions), Charity Check stop, Youth Action Committee and more. Additionally, members are proud to have participated in events such as Canada Day, Remembrance Day, Blackfalds

PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONT...



Days, the RCMP 150 BBQ, CP Holiday Train, and Hometown Hero's night with the Blackfalds Bulldogs!

Our School Resource Officer continues to be engaged with our school youth, and we are looking forward to the opening of the new High School.

Blackfalds experienced a decrease of **15.8%** in **BREAK AND ENTER OFFENSES** in comparison to the previous year - going from 38 in 2022 to 32 in 2023.

There was a **6.9%** decrease in **MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS**, which is 2 less thefts than in 2022.

THEFT UNDER \$5,000 increased by **23%** (14 more thefts in 2023 than 2022).

In total **PROPERTY CRIME** saw an increase of **11.5%**.

Other **CRIMINAL CODE** files were up by **12.4%**.

We did experience a **11.7%** increase in **CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON**.

MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS increased by **7%** going from 165 in 2022 to 176 in 2023.

3 INJURY COLLISIONS, 1 FATAL MVC and **152** reportable **PROPERTY**.

DAMAGE COLLISIONS were recorded.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONT...

Fire Department

The Blackfalds Fire Department currently has a roster of **2** full time staff and **26** paid per call members and is currently looking for residents that are interested in becoming a paid per call member.

During 2023, the Fire Department responded to **248** emergency incidents which is a **1%** increase over 2022. **47** of these events were in Lacombe County. Most of the incidents responded to were for **ALARM RESPONSES** which made up **48%**. **MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS** at **16%**. Responses for **MEDICAL CALLS** were up **12%** in 2023.

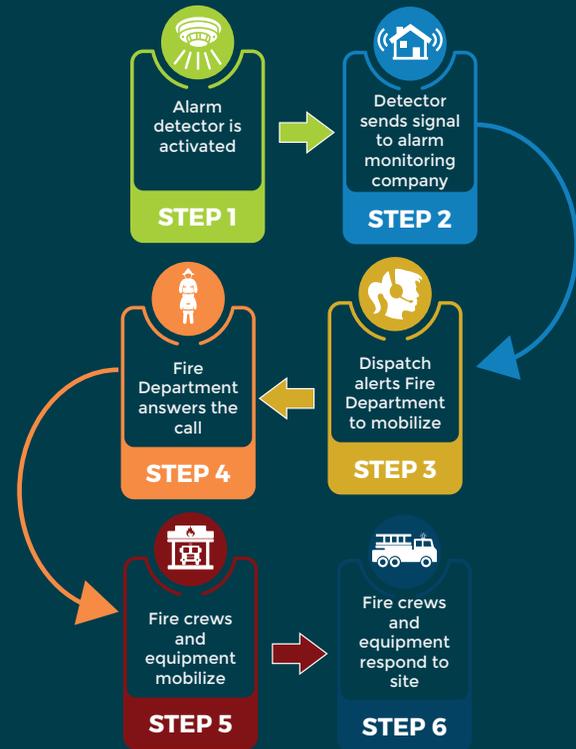
Our members are trained to the NFPA 1001 Level I and Level II standards, with vehicle extrication and first aid. Our training also

included Hazardous Goods Training to meet the NFPA 472 Standards.

We hosted the NFPA 1001 Level 1, Hazmat, Elevator Rescue Course, and an Electric Vehicle Courses.

The Fire Department takes part in numerous events throughout the year from Winterfest, Blackfalds Days and numerous firehall tours.

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 overwhelming with **4272 POUNDS OF FOOD** collected and **\$1003 IN CASH DONATIONS** over the two evenings.



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

PARKS:

Parks staff manage the maintenance and operations at the following throughout the year: Trail and park parking lot snow clearing, outdoor rinks, pond skating surfaces, wildlife issues, equipment maintenance, Vesta Energy Bike Skills Park, Community Gardens, horticulture and arborist practices (within our teams knowledge, skills, and training), open space and facility turf mowing and trimming, cemetery, Optimist All Wheels Park, Pine Crescent Skate Park, playground maintenance and repairs, Tayles Water Spray Park, Light-up Blackfalds display, and Blackfalds Bark Park.

- Hired **10** summer staff to support spring and summer operations.
- Eagle Builders Centre parking lot and Border Paving Plaza landscaping.
- Womacks Road realignment

landscaping.

- Painted pickleball lines on Willow Park and Pine Crescent outdoor rinks.
- Addition of trees to Bark Park and Paramount Crescent.
- Yearly annuals, hanging pots, and flower bed install and maintenance.
- Parks staff supported the Jump Jam BMX Showcase event at the Vesta Energy Bike Skills Park in August.
- Installed additional garbage receptacles, benches, and picnic tables throughout the community.

FACILITIES:

Facilities staff manage all the maintenance and operations in all Town facilities (repairs, preventative maintenance, and custodial services at

COMMUNITY SERVICES Parks & Facilities CONT...

the Blackfalds Operations Centre, Protective Services, Civic Centre, Community Centre, Abbey Centre, Wadey Centre, Sterling Industries Sports Park, Eagle Builders Centre (arenas and library), and Support Services Centre.)

- Arena #1 ice pad installed at the end of July and Arena #2 installed at the beginning of September.
 - Blackfalds Bulldogs spring and fall camp as well as the two-week minor hockey camp at the EBC in mid August.
 - Sterling Industries Sports Park hosted Ladies provincials in Mid July and a four day Ladies Western Canadian Fastball Championship first week of August.
 - Hired **3** summer staff to support spring and summer Sterling Industries Sports Park and EBC operations (tournaments, Minor Ball, Minor Soccer, Town slo-pitch league).
 - EBC Arena #1 lighting repairs.
 - Sterling Industries Sports Park hosted **13** events.
- PROJECTS:**
- Completed Prairie Ridge playground project.
 - Asphalt overlay projects completed at Abbey Center, 2A Pond, and north end of Willow Park.
 - Support Services facility shingle replacement.
 - Installed electric overhead door between EBC Banquet Room and EBC Arena #1 concourse.
 - Purchased **2** used trucks for Parks and Facility operations.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Abbey Centre



- Like all other swimming pools, we introduced the **Lifesaving Society swim lesson plan** this year after Red Cross discontinued their swim class offering.
- **SuperKids Triathlon** returned after a three-year hiatus with Eagle Builders being our title sponsor.
- We are grateful to have had **8** volunteers between our Aquatic and Camp Curious Volunteer programs over the summer. We appreciate their efforts and time greatly.
- The Aquatics team performed **24** water rescues this year. Thankfully, we had **zero** aquatics based major medical or emergency procedures this summer.
- PolyLevel Alberta completed our **pool deck lifting capital project** this fall. This project addressed some safety hazards such a deck drops, toe catchers and operational items such as inadequate sealing and draining.
- Central City Asphalt became a new **10 year banner sponsor** for the Field House.
- We expanded our C'Amped days and Red Cross Babysitters courses to include PD days for Wolf Creek Public Schools as well as Red Deer Catholic Schools.

POLICY CHANGES

- Starting January 1, we required paid access only for the field house and aquatic centre. Supervisory wristbands are now only available for the Indoor Play Space.
- 2023 was our first pool season guided by our new **Aquatic Centre Closure Policy**. This policy gives concise direction and circumstances when the Outdoor Aquatic Centre needs to be closed for things such as

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Abbey Centre CONT...

low air quality index or cold air temperatures.

- A fee review was completed by the Recreation, Culture & Parks Board in the fall with Council passing the final amended bylaw in October. Changes to facility rental fees went into effect January 1.

NEW INITIATIVES

- January 1 saw the start of our new complimentary Senior Plus (75+) and fee based Toddler (1-2) age categories.
- Our first **Summer Solstice** event was held June 21, 2023. Despite cooler weather, the youth attending had fun with games, prizes, races, and a water walkway to name a few activities.
- We had our first ever **Summer Pass** memberships available which offered a membership for the entirety of the pool season (109 days for the cost of 90).

- A partnership with Sabrina's Pizzeria was established which allows us to offer a hot lunch program for Camp Curious during the summer and for C'Amped days during the school year.

- **3** picnic tables were added to the Abbey Centre grounds this summer thanks to sponsorship support from the Blackfalds Ag Society and 30 community minded individuals.

- Starting mid October youth under 18 must wear an identifiable shoe tag in the Fitness Centre and Running Track as proof of an orientation attendance.

- The **Community Care** initiative launched Dec 1 allowing the public to contribute to or utilize from an account designed to assist those who are needing a little help (day pass specific).

2023 STATS

Quarter	Day Admission Visits	Member Visits
1	11,205	24,660
2	11,487	26,031
3	17,572	24,681
4	4,533	20,371
Total	44,797	95,743

140,540 visits which doesn't include rentals, supervisors, child minding, spectators etc.

As of December 31, we had:

- **556 annual members**
- **473 monthly members**
- **1944 punch pass holders**

The 9 weeks of Camp Curious saw a final fill rate of **99%**.

Our PD day camp C'amped saw a final fill rate of **95%** for the year.

There were **1063** rentals held in the Abbey Centre in 2023 with the most popular spaces being the Servus Program Room and Field House 3.

Swim Lessons for the 2023 season had a **70%** fill rate with the Summer 1 session being the most popular with a **78%** attendance.

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 2023, **328 VOLUNTEERS** stepped up and worked a total of **2092 HOURS**.

Out of a total of **53 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: Cliff Soper

Gloria House Mentor: Robert Saunders

Outstanding Group (Adult category): Blackfalds & District Ag Society

Leaders of Tomorrow (Elementary):

Kyle Smith

Leaders of Tomorrow (Junior High):

Jessie Gunsch

Leaders of Tomorrow (High School):

Kayla Gutfriend

Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award:

Kayla Letendre

Heartfelt thanks to the **GENEROUS DONATION** of **\$3,000** from our friends at MEGlobal and received **\$600** from the Volunteer Alberta grant.



SNOW ANGEL PROGRAM

Thank you to the **38 VOLUNTEERS** who assisted with the snow removal of **23 RESIDENTS** who access the program.

50+ PROGRAMMING

Funding: Lacombe County FCSS Additional Project Funding **\$4000**.

Donation: Blackfalds & District Agricultural Society **\$6000**.

WALKING CLUB:

109 people participated and attended 1942 times.

42 dates offered (2 during Seniors' Week).

As a group they walked **64533 laps** (9219 kms).

REGISTERED CLASSES:

238 participants attended Fit & Functional classes held Tuesdays after Walking Club, Yoga classes on Wednesdays and Chair Yoga on Fridays .

It's More Than Just a Movies: **54** participants attended 242 times.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

56 TAX RETURNS were completed free of charge for people with a low to modest income and a simple tax situation in the Town of Blackfalds.

This ensures community members receive the benefits and credits they are entitled to.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Family & Community Support Services CONT...



WINTER COATS FOR KIDS

151 CHILDREN accessed this program and received a brand-new winter jacket!

With the generous time and yummy goodness from several local bakeries and donations from local artisans and restaurants during our annual dessert auction, the Winter Warmth Fundraiser, we raised **\$10,000!**



We are thankful for our major partnership with **MOUNTAIN WAREHOUSE** who provided us with spectacular pricing and set up an in-office store for the convenience of our Blackfalds residents.

CHRISTMAS BUREAU

The Christmas Bureau program continued to touch lives, **including 271 CHILDREN, 127 WOMEN, and 65 MEN** accessed the Christmas Bureau.

124 HAMPERS were distributed, assisting **103 FAMILIES, and 21 SINGLE/SENIORS.**



FCSS VISITORS

In 2023, FCSS Staff welcomed **1,883 VISITORS** in our new location!

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Family & Community Support Services CONT...

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.

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

936 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Program cost for 2023 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.

TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Thanks to our community's support, we were able to support **165 CHILDREN** who accessed the program and received school supplies. **72 UNIQUE FAMILIES** participated.

\$31,206.51 FCSS grant funding was allocated to:

- **Iron Ridge Elementary**
- **Iron Ridge Junior Campus**
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe & District**



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Blackfalds Youth Crew saw **781** attendees - numbers include our NEW BYC Homeschool program.

Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safely was offered **10** times and saw **135** youth participate.

Youth Cooking Club offered **2** sessions throughout the year and had full registration (**30** youth).

Youth Night Out was held twice and saw **304** youth in attendance.

Expressive Arts saw **48** youth registered.

New partnerships with St. Gregory the Great - Self-Esteem/Coping Skills Group is a group created by SGTG School Wellness Worker and facilitated by FCSS Youth Programmer. All **10** participants expressed their appreciation for the Youth Programmer and the program.

Mock Interviews at SGTG: Youth Programmer was invited to Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School to participate as an interviewer for mock interviews.



 **EAGLE BUILDERS
CENTRE**

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