

Annual Report 2021

Town of Millet

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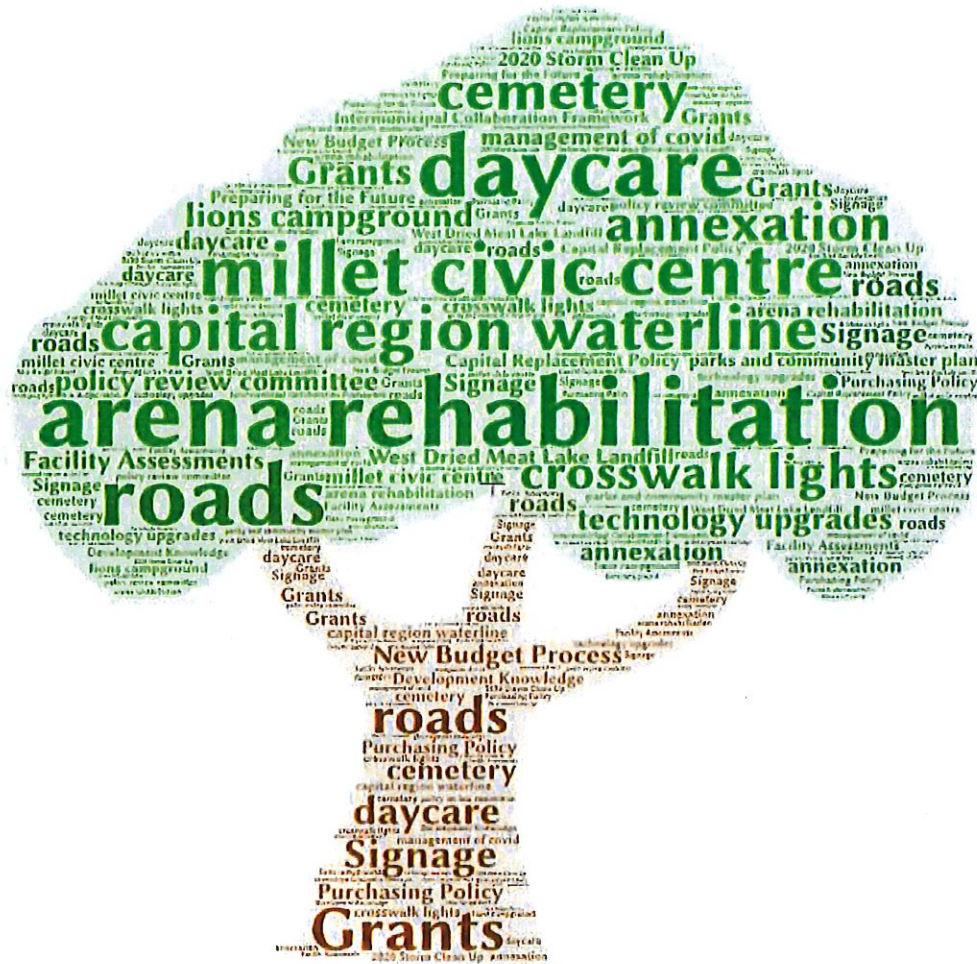
Website: www.millet.ca

Phone: 780-387-4554

4528 - 51 Street

Millet
Proud to be

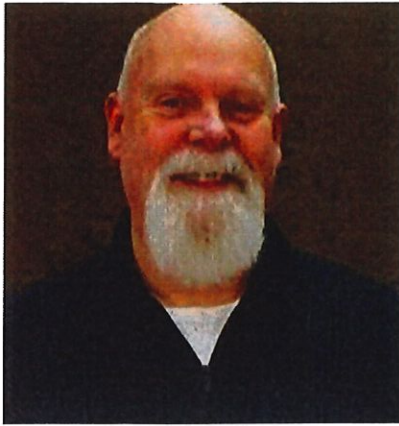
I would like to start off by saying that it was great working with the past Mayor and Councilors. We accomplished so many important things for the Town of Millet. Past Council showed that they all had a talent for municipal politics with foresight and dedication for the Town they all love. A special thank you to the late Mayor Tony Wadsworth, Councilors Pat Garrett, Vicki Pyle, Robin Books, Carol Sadoroszney and Mike Storey for your years of service to the Town.



I know that our new council can accomplish the same and I look forward to working with each one of them for the next term. As your Mayor I welcome you to attend a Regular Council Meeting so that you can stay informed as to what is happening in our Town. **All Regular Meetings are open to the General Public.**

MEET YOUR TOWN COUNCIL 2022-2026

Mayor Doug Peel



My wife Jackie and I moved to Millet in 1995 with our two young children. We were kept very busy volunteering for many of their activities including Millet Scouts, Millet Guides, Millet & Griffiths Scott School Parent Council, Millet Soccer and Millet in Bloom.

I have served on Council for the past eight years and have represented the Town of Millet on the Millet Library Board, the Yellowhead Regional Library Board, JEDI Board and various other boards and committees.

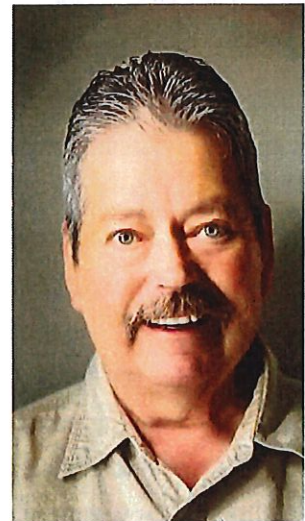
I have a passion for music and the arts and culture. My previous employment included 22 years at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium where I held several positions and in 1995 was promoted to House Manager. The band I play in has performed

three times at the Firefly Music Festival held in Millet.

I currently work full time for Air Canada at the Edmonton International Airport and look forward to dedicating the next four years as your Mayor for the Town of Millet focusing on fiscal responsibility, industrial and residential growth, and a safe and healthy community.

Councillor Michael Bennett

Along with our two children, my wife Sarah (Sadie) and I moved from Newfoundland to Alberta in 1986. I spent my career in the federal government working for Canada Post in various positions. We moved from Calgary to the beautiful town of Millet in 2016 to enjoy small time living. I represent the Town of Millet on the Municipal Planning Commission, Millet Library Board, and the Millet Seniors. I am an active member of the Millet and District Lion's Club. I enjoy spending time with our grandchildren, and I have managed to turn our outdoor Christmas display into quite the hobby. I look forward to the privilege of serving the residents of Millet.



Councillor Gerdie Hogstead



Growing up in Edmonton, I often spent time at my grandparent's farm in Millet, which led my husband and I to move to Millet. My husband and I have lived in Millet for over 43 years now and raised 3 children here. I began my municipal career working in the Finance department at the Town of Millet for 27 years before my retirement. I served for the Communities in Bloom and was involved in a several groups and organizations, such as: Millet Minor Hockey, Millet Minor Ball, PIPS and currently the Seniors Association. When I'm not spending time with my family and chasing my grandchildren around, you can find me walking down the Millet Pipestone Path or swinging golf clubs at the local golf courses. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the residents and business owners of Millet and to serve this town.

Councillor Mathew Starky

Millet has now been home for our small family going on 3 years. Millet has been a perfect choice for my wife and I to raise our two boys. I currently am involved in Millet Minor Hockey and Millet Baseball. I am employed in the Oil and Gas Industry as a Safety Coordinator and Electrician. I look forward to the privilege of serving this beautiful community over the next 4 years.



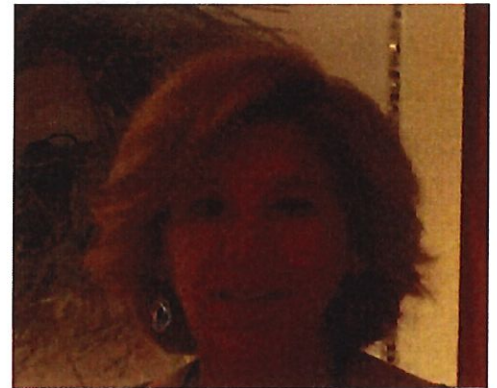
Councillor Charlene Van de Kraats

I was raised on a farm just west of Millet. Although university and my first teaching job took me away, I moved back to Millet as soon as I could and have been happily living in our beautiful community since 2009. I have been actively involved with the Millet Library for the last decade. As an educator, I have a heart for our children and youth. As our town continues to move forward and grow, it is an honour to represent and serve our community. I am proud to call Millet my home!



Councillor Marlene Alberts-Wadsworth

My husband, late Mayor Tony Wadsworth, our son, Tj, and I moved from Leduc to Millet in 1986. I obtained my Masters' Degree in Psychology at the U of R and spent my career in the field of Education, in Saskatchewan, Alberta and the NWT, as a classroom teacher, teacher instructor, life coach and educational psychologist. I hold the positions of Chair of Millet in Bloom, Coordinator of the Community Garden of Hope, Committee member of Millet Healthy Communities, and President of Friends of MiB Society. I represent the Town of Millet on JEDI, Millet & District Historical Society, Risk Management, Municipal Planning Commission, Policy Review, and Personnel Committees. Our family have loved living in Millet and contributing to this vibrant community in any way we can. Carrying on my work and some of the work that Tony did as Mayor are my goals for the next four years.



Councillor Rebecca Frost

I have lived in Millet for 3 years now along with my spouse and our two dogs. I have been a provincial government employee for 17 years split between Alberta Justice and Alberta Transportation. I grew up in a small town and after having lived in Edmonton for a number of years am very happy to call Millet home and look forward to serving the community for the next 4 years.



Message from the CAO Lisa Schoening, CGLM

The past couple of years have been incredibly challenging for everyone, and the Town is no exception. There have been many changes that everyone has had to adapt to.

I am very proud of my staff for going above and beyond to help cut the budget and find ways to save while still providing the same level of service to our residents. Despite all the challenges, we have managed to do more projects in Town than we have in many years.

With this new term starting, we have fresh eyes and ideas at the table, and I am beyond excited to see what lies ahead for our Town.

I hope this update helps to clear up some of the misinformation circulating in the community. The irony of the internet is that it was invented to bridge communication gaps and help keep people informed, unfortunately it has turned into the largest source of misinformation in the entire world.

The truth regarding some of the misinformation:

1) The Town of Millet is "broke".

FALSE - The 2020 Audited Financial Statements show the Accumulated Surplus increased by \$1,104,861 from the prior year, for a total of \$18,750,511, and the Town's reserves at year end were \$2,898,390. Please visit our website where you can view our Financial Statements.

2) The Town wasted money on Distancing Diamonds and solar panels.

FALSE - The Town of Millet received a donation from the John Maude and Susan Quinn Charitable Foundation for the solar panels that were placed at the Millet Civic Centre, as well as the electric charging station. Any additional costs were covered by the grants from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre. This was at NO COST to taxpayers. The Distancing Diamonds were given to the Town by SMILES Nonprofit Society, again this was at NO cost to the Town.

3) Taxes have continued to rise.

FALSE - Since the new administration took over in late 2019, they have managed to cut the budget by 4%, all staff stepped up and found ways to lower the overall budget. In 2020 the only increase was the 1.95% for future Provincial policing placed to the reserve fund.

In 2021 there was ZERO increase in taxes, this was a decision based on the current state of the economy and was achievable due to the arduous work of all staff and Council. Despite another huge increase in Provincial policing costs, we managed to cut enough to freeze taxes in 2021.

2022 brings yet another increase to Provincial policing costs and we are aware that current grant programs will be ending. Part of the 2021 increase was to plan for these future events by placing funds into reserve. In addition, we are looking at a 4.7% cost of living increase. Numerous Town contracts are based on cost of living.

To make up for the tax freeze and the loss in Provincial funding most municipalities are looking at a huge increase this year just to keep operating. This equates to a minimum increase of 3.02% for policing and 4.7% cost of living, for a total increase of 7.72%. Regardless of these challenges the new Council managed to contain the increase to the overall budget to 3.73%.

4) Council gave themselves a raise on their first day.

FALSE - Council remuneration is based on cost of living which is approximately 1.5-2.5% annually. This year the cost of living spiked to 4.7% yet Council has opted out of an increase for two consecutive years.

Past Council resolved to have an option of a Health Spending account for all future members of Council to ensure that they have access to help, if needed. This equates to a total of \$3500 annually. The net effect of not taking the Consumer Price Index (CPI) along with the increase of the health spending account was an overall **decrease** in taxes of 0.3%.

The Town of Millet reminds residents that the current Facebook pages (Millet Rant & Rave, Millet Social etc.) are **NOT** in any way affiliated with the Town of Millet. Any complaints on these sites are not considered official and will not be addressed. If you wish to find information, or file a complaint, please contact the Town directly or watch for updates on the Town of Millet website at www.millet.ca.

Financial Summary

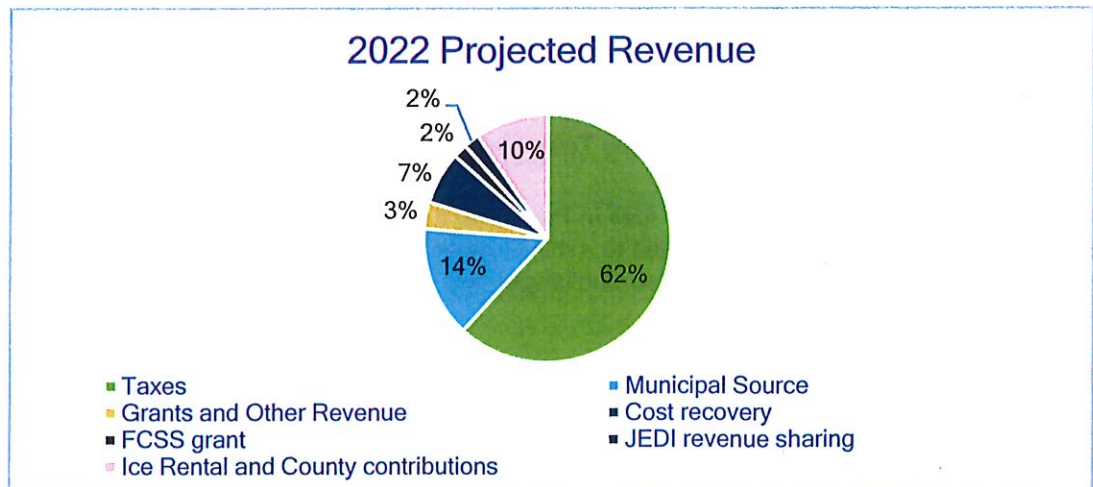
The Town of Millet has been hard at work to provide community services while balancing the costs of those services. The last 3 years the town has managed to keep the tax increases below the increase of inflation, while absorbing these extra costs. For example, our insurance increased by 15% in 2021 and then another 20% in 2022, while other various contracts are tied to inflation. In 2020 the provincial government introduced an added cost for enhanced policing costs, that has been passed onto municipalities to collect on their behalf. The increase for this will continue to grow each year. In 2021 the Town of Millet reduced their budget to absorb the new policing cost to make taxes as affordable as possible to its citizens. As a result, Council has forgone their normal inflation increase for 2 years in a row, and Town staff have seen wages freezes and budget cuts.

Year	Millet Tax Budget Increases	Inflation Rate*	NEW Mandatory Provincial Policing Costs In % of Taxes
2020	1.95%	2.20%	0%
2021	0%	0.72%	1.93%
2022	3.73%	4.70%	3.02%

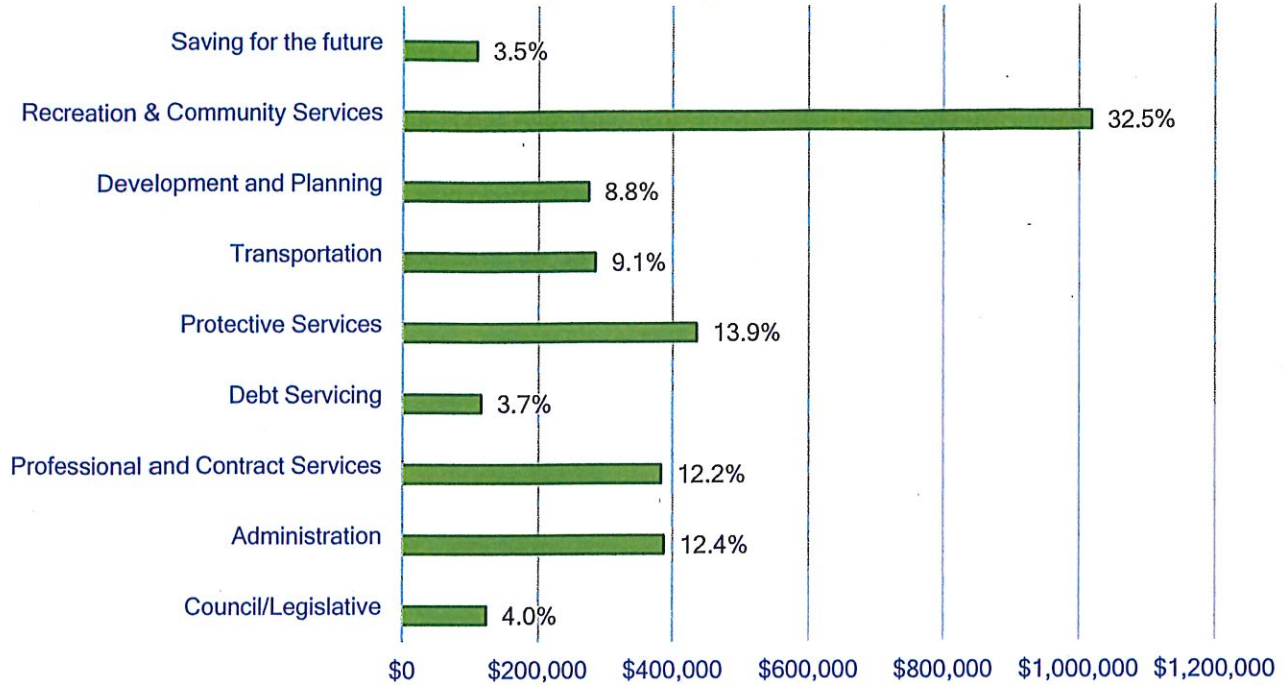
* obtained from Bank of Canada Consumer Price Index as of December 31st from the prior year, except for 2021 used October 31st 2021

The Town has tried to increase the level of service by providing a more spacious area for the library, where children and community can come together. As a result of increased funding the library has been able to offer longer hours of service and to be open for an additional day of the week. From 2019 to 2021 the library annual funding has almost doubled from \$41,614 in 2019 to \$78,099 in 2022.

Revenue



2022 Proposed Expenditures



Funding To Outside Organizations:

Millet Museum	\$64,000
Millet Library	\$78,099
Millet in Bloom	\$32,200
JEDI	\$153,859
Total	\$328,158

2021 FCSS Grant Funding Distribution

Millet Museum	\$8,300
Victim Services	\$2,000
Millet Library	\$6,000
Millet Seniors	\$700
Millet Agricultural Society	\$7,000
PIPS	\$212
Millet Arts and Crafts	\$1,000
Millet and District Lions Club	\$300
Millet in Bloom	\$400
Total	\$25,912

2022 Capital Budget Projects

Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

The Transportation Master Plan provides an opportunity to proactively plan to address current and future mobility needs, develop a common vision, as well as prioritize goals and initiatives. The TMP will develop a plan that prioritizes recommended initiatives to address how people and goods move around the Town. While the TMP has a focus on roads, it is also about guiding investments to provide safe, attractive, effective, and accessible transportation options to meet all mobility needs not only in the short term but also long term.

Millet Civic Centre (MCC) Parking Lot Paving and Sewer Line Replacement

The sanitary sewer line servicing the MCC is estimated to be 70 years old, there are tree roots penetrating the pipe wall and there is some deflection in the pipe. Replacement of this line will be completed in 2022.

The parking lot at the MCC is gravel and there are no lines or delineations for users. The parking lot is remarkably busy especially during school drop off and pick up. The existing gravel surface is also exceedingly difficult for patrons with mobility issues.

Agriplex Security Upgrades

Unfortunately, the Agriplex has been broken into a couple of times over the past couple of years. To address this issue, Council has approved security upgrades as part of the 2022 capital budget. Additional details on this upgrade will be limited due to the proposed type of work.

Ball Diamond Dugout Replacement

In 2021 the dugouts at one ball diamond were replaced. The remaining dugouts at the other two ball diamonds are in poor condition and the damaged metal poses a safety risk. The remaining 4 dugouts will be replaced in 2022.

Capital Equipment Purchases

To effectively manage the Town's fleet of vehicles and the associated costs, a capital equipment plan has been developed to plan to the future for capital equipment replacement. The only purchase planned for 2022 is a lawnmower replacement.

2020/2021 Capital projects

Several projects were completed as part of 2020.

Millet Civic Centre Relocation Expenses

As part of the relocation to the Millet Civic Centre, expenses were incurred for furniture, phone systems, and movers. This work was completed under budget.

Range Road 244 Upgrades

This roadway was in extremely poor condition and at times impassable. The construction project was tendered on the Alberta Purchasing Connection and awarded to Deford Contracting Inc. The project was completed on time and under budget.

Fibre Upgrade to Millet Civic Centre

The former Old School Space required an upgrade to the internet as the internet that was previously installed was only applicable for schools therefore Telus upgraded the new building to fibre at a very nominal cost.

Capital Equipment Purchases

In 2021 the Town purchased a new loader, mower, and utility vehicle. The utility vehicle replaced a MT6 trackless machine which will allow year-round work and a wider variety of uses. The equipment that was replaced was sold at Richie Bros Auctioneers. The Town also took the opportunity to sell several other under-utilized and outdated items at the auction.



Millet Civic Centre Water Line Replacement

The existing water line servicing the MCC required upgrading as it was past its life expectancy.

Facility Changes

Administration Office Relocation

In July of 2021, the Town Administration relocated to the “Old School” which is now referred to as the Millet Civic Centre. For several years, the Old School sat empty costing the Town money for utilities. By relocating to the Millet Civic Centre it provides more space for future growth, and gives a positive perception to customers.

Community Hall

The former Community Hall was in extremely poor condition. There were several items that required repair or replacement, and rather than investing those funds into the old building, Council approved the relocation of the Community Hall to the Millet Civic Centre. This new space has a non-commercial kitchen, bar area, and the capacity for 150 users. The former community hall has been sold and will now form part of the taxable assessment roll.

Arena Rehabilitation

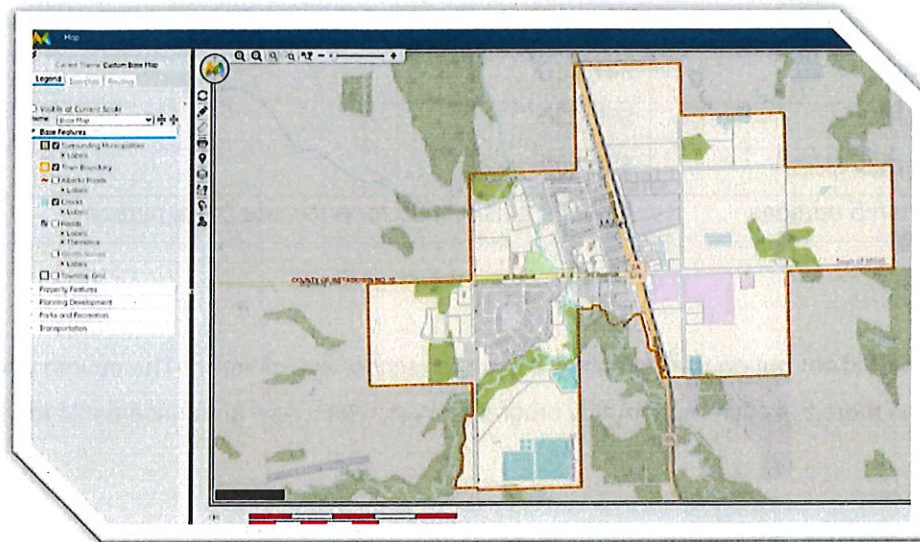
The arena in the Agriplex required significant upgrades to be functional for the 2021/2022 hockey season. The concrete floor with associated plumbing, boards, and some mechanical components were replaced. As well, drainage issues on the exterior of the building were addressed to avoid damage to the structure by storm water.



New Programs

On-line Mapping

The Town has implemented a Geographic Information System (GIS). This allows users to see information associated to properties in a graphical format. This system has reduced staff time significantly on several work processes. To use the GIS please go to the Town's website.



Cemetery

The Town of Millet is in care and control of the Millet Community Cemetery. Improvements have been made to a portion of the roadway in the new portion of the cemetery in 2021 and additional improvements will be made to the roadway in the older portion in 2022.

The Town will also be adding all the cemetery data to the Town's GIS system in 2022 which will allow individuals doing genealogy to access the information 24/7.

New Signage

Signage is being replaced on the east and west entries to the Town on Highway 616. Both signs were outdated and had the Town's former logo. All the entrance signs will now have a uniform appearance.

A directional sign is being placed north of Petro Canada which will direct residents and visitors to facilities around Millet as well as additional signage for the Dog Park and the EV Charger when installed.

2021 Personal Taxes - Free Clinic

The Town of Millet is offering a free tax clinic to the citizens of Millet in the months of March & April. Please contact our office starting January 31st, to be placed on our eligible list and to receive more information. Spaces are limited and will be on a first come bases.

Basic Eligible Criteria:

Family Size	Total family income is under
1 person	\$35,000
2 persons	\$45,000
3 persons	\$47,500
4 persons	\$50,000
5 persons	\$52,500
More than 5 persons	\$52,500 plus \$2,500 for each additional person

Safety Course

In November the Town of Millet put on its first safety course for school age children. The course was well received and the Town plans to put on more beneficial community programs. Watch for future announcements regarding our upcoming programs.

Electronic Work Order System

To effectively capture requests, an electronic work order system was implemented in late 2021. This system is extremely user friendly and will make reporting on change orders easy.

Asset Management

The Town has approved an Asset Management Policy and Framework and will be working to collect data so that condition, costs, and repairs can be tracked and appropriately budgeted for.

Environmental Initiatives

Solar Panels and Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The Town was extremely fortunate to have the John Maude and Susan Quinn Charitable Foundation offer to contribute financially to the installation of solar panels on the newly renovated Millet Civic Centre. Upon receiving their the generous offer the Town was able to apply for grants from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) to cover the remaining cost.

The John Maude and Susan Quinn Charitable Foundation also funded an electric vehicle charging station which will be located at the Millet Civic Centre in 2022.

The impact made by the solar array on the Millet Civic Centre can be seen on the Town of Millet website.



Electric Zamboni

The Town of Millet purchased a new fully electric Zamboni ice resurfacer that that was put into service. As part of the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) Electric Vehicles for Municipalities program, the town was able to purchase and switch out their aging gas powered Ice resurfacer. Switching to an electric vehicle allows a reduction in environmental impact as well as increases the safety of not only our staff but the patrons we serve.



Department Updates

Development

The Development department has been remarkably busy over the past two years. While lumber prices and the pandemic have affected construction starts there has been a lot of work being done behind the scenes to promote development. To cut out red tape, all building, plumbing, electrical and private sewage permits are now issued directly by Inspections Group.

Business Licensing

There have been some amazing business additions to our community including:

- Canton House
- Beef'd Sandwich Bar
- Millet Pharmacy
- The Bluebird Daycare
- SATO Canada - oilfield training school
- Millet Scissors 2021
- Primerica Financial
- P. Hansen Construction
- DC Tinting
- Whispering Pine Creations Inc
- Sam's Kitchen

There have also been many new home based business' that have opened, and we are grateful for your contribution to our community. For a full listing of businesses please visit our website.

Did you know that you can get free courses and webinars to help your business grow and succeed? Please visit: <https://catalog.bdc.ca/> for a wide variety of courses such as starting a startup, how to get financing, cash flow management, marketing, and financial fundamentals.

Public Works and Utilities

Public Works has been working on several priorities this year and is trying different approaches to see if there are better ways to get things done. Old equipment and attachments were sold at auction and scrap metal is being recycled and funds are being realized from that. If there are things to be addressed, Public Works want to hear from you. We are here to help serve the community.

The Town of Millet team is dedicated to ensuring Utility Services are executed and administrated according to the standards defined in Bylaws 2020-31 and 2014-08. Residents in the Town of Millet can be confident that this standard is applied consistently throughout the municipality for these important services.

Snow, rain, or shine, Public Works diligently reads 706 water meters every two months for administration to produce the bi-monthly utility invoices. Utility bills are comprised of the following:

Flat Wastewater rate	Flat wastewater capital fee	Variable water rates
Flat Water Capital	Flat waste collection fee	

We are committed to delivering exceptional customer service to town residents, consequently we place a high priority on ensuring your utility questions and concerns are investigated and resolved in a timely manner.

Parks, Recreation and Facilities

The Parks, Recreation and Facilities team is busy maintaining Town owned facilities such as the Millet Civic Centre, managing all the recreational facilities, and parks and playgrounds. With 65 acres of parkland to maintain subject to mother nature, this department is remarkably busy.

The Town has contracted McElhanney Ltd to prepare a Parks and Community Plan which will help guide decisions related to parks and recreation into the future. An opportunity for public input will be provided prior to the completion of the plan.

Enforcement

In 2021 Enforcement Services has been involved in several community engagements including the Harvest Fest parade, antibullying campaign, Halloween safety, positive ticket program, and freeze patrol. The Town has also implemented a 24-hour dispatch service to ensure complaints can be filed at any time of day, and the follow-up action can be tracked.

24 Hour Enforcement Service (780) 387-4224

