



Annual Report

2017-2018

Introduction

The Town of Edson annual report is designed to provide some information on the programs and projects that have taken place over the last year. Transparency and communication are very important to our organization. Please take the time to go through the information provided and if there are any questions please contact us.

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Edson Town Council I'm pleased to present to you the 2017-2018 Edson Annual Report. It's been a year of changes including a new Council eager to get to business and represent our residents to the best of our ability.

As you will see in this report, we've made great strides forward in 2017 as we improve services, increase communication, and try out new processes, all while keeping the bottom line in mind.

Our Council is committed to fostering great relationships with our municipal partners and working towards many regional initiatives, including a new multi-use facility. By working closely with our neighbours towards common goals, our entire region will benefit.

Please read through this document and feel free to reach out to our Council or staff with any questions.

With a new hospital, new school, beautiful parks and trails along with plenty of great business, recreation and cultural opportunities, Edson is a great place to live, work and play.

Thank you for your interest in the Town of Edson!

-Mayor Kevin Zahara

Message from the CAO

On behalf of staff it is my pleasure to reflect on another eventful year in the Town of Edson. Another election is in the books and it brings some fresh faces and fresh ideas as we move forward. Administration welcomes new Mayor Kevin Zahara, new Councillors Krystal Baier, Jacqui Currie, and Troy Sorensen, as well as returning Councillors Trevor Bevan, Gean Chouinard, and Janet Wilkinson. Staff looks forward to working with Council to review our existing Strategic Priorities and working hard to implement their renewed vision for our community.

In the meantime, Council's existing Strategic Priorities continue to guide administration as we move forward. This is a high level document that helps shape what type of projects and decisions Council and Administration make moving forward. The document can be found at www.edson.ca/town/mayor-council. With this in mind, we have moved forward with a number of projects over the last year aimed at growing our community and improving services for our residents. You'll read about many of those projects in this report.

On top of the department projects, we've made a number of changes over the last few years to improve our organization, strive for better transparency and accountability, and better our governance practices. Some of those changes include the introduction of a new purchasing policy, increased communications through various channels, and adjusting various policies/bylaws to make them easier to understand and more accessible to the public.

Another busy year is upon us with more exciting changes coming. Many will see the start of a new curbside waste collection program, live streaming of council meetings will be introduced soon, a new public participation policy is being developed, and progress is being made on a multi-use recreational facility, a top priority for Council and administration. Town staff are committed to working hard to build the best Edson; a clean, safe, healthy and thriving community.

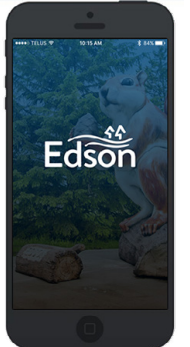
-Mike Derricott, CAO

Communications

Our goal is to continually improve transparency, giving the public better access to information and to streamline communications between the public and our staff. With this in mind, we have been working to increase the Town of Edson's presence, both in traditional media and digitally. We truly believe in keeping our residents informed and engaged.

Mobile App / Website

We have made great strides in communication through use of our website and mobile app for Apple and Android devices. The app has a variety of great tools. The Report-a-Problem section allows our residents to easily and directly report issues to the Town. The app also features a news section (with push notifications), Garbage collection calendar, events calendar, business directory, facility info and schedule, as well as trail maps and info. It's a great way to stay up to date on what happening in your community!



Entrance Signs / Highway Banners



2017 saw the addition of our new entrance signs. The signs were refurbished to match our new branding and improves aesthetics as people enter our community. Another part of this process is introducing highway banners. This project is expected to be phased in starting this summer and will feature local photography and the ability to promote our facilities and events.

Live Streaming

Now that the municipal election is in the books, we look forward to implementing some new features with regards to Council Meetings. We are bringing in live streaming for our Council and Committee meetings. Live streaming and posting recorded video eliminates geographic and time barriers which may prevent the public from attending Council meetings, allowing for greater transparency and public confidence in the integrity and accountability of the decision-making process.

Community Services

Recreation & Culture

We have worked to increase the types of programs offered to different populations, such as seniors fitness classes and child and youth and adult arts and culture programs. Adjustments and removal of certain programs offered in the past were made in order to make room for new ones within the same budget constraints. With the addition of the Recreation and Culture Programmer, Ali Broda, Community Services became more engaged with the Arts and Culture community, executing several free community events that support diversity and inclusivity. Among these are Arts on Fire, Alberta Culture Days, National Indigenous Peoples Day and Rotary Art in the Park. 2017 was highlighted by ongoing Canada 150 events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the confederation. Community Services received \$10,000 from the Government of Canada Celebrate Canada grant, matched by the Town of Edson, in order to put on celebrations outside of Canada Day. Over 3000 people participated in these events.



Eddie's Big Run, led by its committee and Krysta Hawboldt, Recreation and Culture Coordinator, had its largest participation in the Kid's Fun Run 1km, with over 100 child participants and 375 registrants overall. Step It Up Edson's 10th event saw its largest participation, over 500 individuals.

A new adult-focused recreation program was also introduced in 2017: Out on the Town Edson. This program invites those over 18 to attend free to low cost activities to meet new people, socialize with friends and try new things.

Youth programs continue to be successful, under the guidance of the Youth Interagency. Youth Interagency has also adopted a new mandate: The Youth Interagency Committee is devoted to fostering empowerment and having a positive impact in the lives of youth within Edson and surrounding communities.

It was a big year to overall improvements to our communication within Community Services. With the use of Instagram and Facebook, we have doubled our audience from 2016. Our brochure is now created in house and we have the opportunity to be as creative as we need to be in order to get our programming to the community.



Family Community Support Services

In 2017, FCSS said goodbye to their longstanding ParentLink Coordinator, Carol Eberharter retiring, and we welcomed Sarah McDonald, the new FCSS/ParentLink Coordinator. Dana Tattersall also joined the team as the FCSS/Parentlink Programmer. The Family/ParentLink Centre has been thriving under the influence of our new staff, and have registered over 100 new families who are now attending programming. They have added new programs including family fun nights and Dad-urday, expanding services to evenings and weekends, resulting in more inclusive programming driven by the 5 developmental domains.



FCSS is working towards applying the asset based community development model (ABCD) in all that we do in community services. Community gatherings such as Family Day Unplugged, green shack block parties and Feel the Spirit Christmas Dinner provide opportunities for individuals and families to connect with one another deepening their sense of community and increasing community engagement.



FCSS restructured program delivery for the income tax program, coordinated Senior's Week activities, and represents the Town at the Community Engagement Action Team, Edson Interagency and Early Childhood Matters Coalition meetings.

In 2017 we were fortunate to receive an unexpected increase in ParentLink funding from the province, which allowed us to enhance programming for families and hire a summer student, Sarah Bowman, who helped tremendously through the relaunch of Block Parties, the launch of Community Green Shacks initiative, Park Play, Community Passports and helped with Community Services events such as Canada Day, Rotary Art in the Park and Eddie's Big Run. This addition to the team was a huge asset, allowing for programming that would not happen otherwise, and also provided a wonderful learning opportunity for our local youth.



Parks

2017 was a busy year for the Parks Department. An additional employee was added, and 2016/2017 saw the Parks Department assume the work and the cemetery from Public Works. This included taking over grave thawing, digging, back filling, ground maintenance and all columbarium and associated duties. It was a seamless transition and added a valuable skill to the parks dept team with the addition of backhoe/hoer operations.

Snap shot of successes for the Parks Department in 2017 season include:

- A total of 51 trees were removed by Parks staff through 2017 with a combination of felling and/or limbing and bucking. Many of these were in the trail system, however six trees were removed that had fallen on roads or public areas after major storms.
- Black top of trail section from both entrances on 10th Ave, as well as a joining trail section through Doug White Park. These sections all met with existing trail black top through Hillendale connector. Three other smaller sections were added to the trail system with the 6th Ave round-about trail and side walk connector, a small connector to Hillendale from the 40th St trail head, and the Skate Park/ Rotary Park sidewalk connector.
- Landscaping and seeding of the pump track in the Skate Park.
- Drainage Ditch added to the soccer pitches to reduce water build up and retention.
- Hillendale Phase II Park was constructed, landscaped and completed.
- 11 sites in the Wilmore Park overflow area were landscaped and graveled.
- Lifting of tree crowns in the cemetery which allows greater total viewing of and through the cemetery.



- Set up/take down and staffing of all community services events, including Sundays in the Park, Eddies Big Run, Christmas lights on Edson streets, Seniors Breakfast and driving of the Town of Edson Christmas Parade float.
- Take over and maintenance of Vision Park. This resulted in an addition of 37 hectares of maintenance area with weed whacking, mowing, weed control and the addition of 24 extra ball diamonds for maintenance.
- Parks Department also assumed the role of highway ditch maintenance and associated cutting from Public Works. The large tractor and 20 ft rough cut is used to complete this task and added a further 200-220 hectares to the parks cutting duties. This includes the highways (Bear lake Rd, Hwy 16 east and west, over pass), right-of-ways to wells, utility right-of-ways, the land fill, and associated town owned property in the surrounding area.
- Parks staff completed an intermediate tree felling course (chainsaw qualification) furthering their skills and competencies.
- A Parks member attended and gained the Canadian Certified playground Inspector (CCPI) designation allowing for the Parks Dept to conduct certified inspections of town owned Playgrounds and Equipment.



Corporate Services

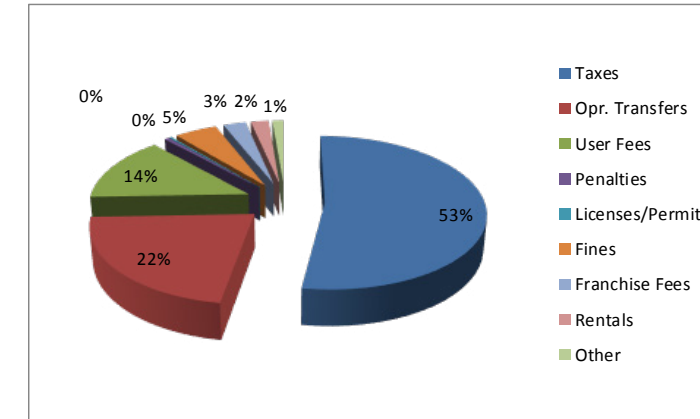
The Corporate Services Department provides a range of financial and administrative services to Town staff and residents. Through sound accounting, forecasting, and financial planning, the Department preserves the long-term sustainability of the municipality and underpins the delivery of all public services. Its specific responsibilities include financial services (taxes, utilities, and accounts payable/receivable), policy development, IT, asset management, insurance, grant applications, and records retention.

In early 2017, a new Purchasing Policy was introduced which sets standards of competitive, fair, and open procurement throughout the organization. Not only has this enhanced accountability and transparency in the use of taxpayer dollars, it has helped to reduce costs across all operational divisions.

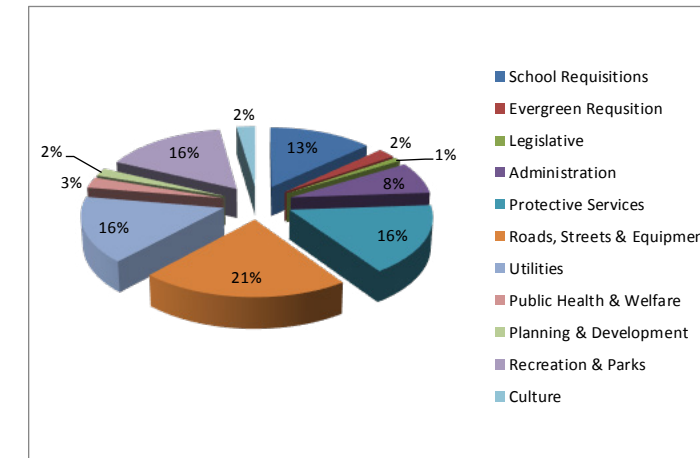
Significant progress was also made on an Asset Management Plan which will guide the future repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of local infrastructure. This initiative reflects the cutting edge of municipal practice and will encompass everything from deep utilities to recreation facilities to equipment. This comprehensive view of municipal assets will facilitate strategic, integrated, and evidence-based decision-making, reducing the occurrence and costs of infrastructure failure while simultaneously bolstering Edson's competitiveness in grant applications. 2017 saw the development of a detailed asset inventory, age-based condition assessments, and a preliminary AMP decision matrix.

Corporate Services has also positioned itself to capitalize on the opportunities of the digital era. In 2017, a review and rationalization of all customer accounts was conducted in preparation for the rollout of Virtual Town Hall. This online platform will allow residents to access municipal services and pay bills from the comfort of home, and represents a major step forward in the Town's customer service framework.

Revenue Breakdown - 2017



Expense Breakdown - 2017



**These are not audited final numbers. The 2017 audited financial statement will be available on our website soon.*



Town of Edson
2018 Budget Recap

2018 Budget	
REVENUES	
Net taxes for municipal purposes	11,504,090
Operating Transfers	7,480,475
Sales and user charges	5,012,187
Returns on investments	101,000
Penalties and costs on taxes	120,000
Licenses & Permits	79,500
Fines	1,488,500
Franchise Fees	897,956
Rentals & Leases	774,520
Other revenues	92,221
Customer Contributions	100,000
Total Revenue	27,650,449

EXPENDITURES	
Legislative	316,000
Administration	2,368,846
Protective services	4,657,806
Roads, Streets & Equipment	4,355,511
Utilities	3,622,772
Public Health & Welfare	720,158
Planning & Development	591,733
Recreation and parks	4,295,628
Culture	601,956
Total Expenditure	21,530,410

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	6,120,039
Funds to be used from Reserves	1,537,476
Funds to be transferred to Reserves	(6,864,257)
Debenture Principal Repaid	(793,258)
NET EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	0



TOWN OF EDSON
2,018
PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

ADMINISTRATION	
Highway Banners	\$ 30,000.00
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	
Fire Training Structure	\$ 200,000.00
SCBA Air Sets (5)	\$ 50,000.00
Unit V126 Replacement	\$ 55,000.00
COMMON SERVICES	
Vehicles & Equipment	\$ 395,000.00
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION	
2017 Street Rehab	\$ 583,000.00
Bridges & Culverts	\$ 212,000.00
WATER & SEWER SYSTEM	
Waterwell Exploration	\$ 318,000.00
Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$ 9,506,308.00
PARKS	
Kinsmen Park Playground Resurfacing	\$ 150,000.00
RECREATION	
Park Trails	\$ 81,778.00
Multi Use Facility - Prelim Site Selection/Conceptual Design	\$ 250,000.00
TOTAL:	\$ 11,831,086.00



For more budget and financial information go to our website at www.edson.ca/budget

Planning

The Planning team is responsible for land use planning and development through community engagement. We translate the vision of Council and our residents into actions that shape the way we grow. This is accomplished through Provincial legislation, our Land Use Bylaw and statutory plans/policies, as well as ongoing initiatives. Our day to day operations include development permits, subdivisions, Land Use Bylaw amendments, certificates of compliance, and various other services that significantly impact the lives of local residents.

In 2017, the Town of Edson and Yellowhead County worked together to review and update our Inter-Municipal Development Plan. This is an important decision making tool that manages growth in our urban fringe area. During the 2018 year, we will be reviewing our Land Use (zoning) Bylaw. This bylaw directly affects our citizens and we urge everyone to join us at the public input sessions that will be scheduled this year to express their ideas and concerns. Planning for the future of our green spaces, trails, and enjoyable public spaces always remains in the forefront of everything we do.

We also held workshops in 2017 to discuss beautification and get ideas for moving our community forward. We will keep working on that initiative, incorporating the feedback we received.

The Planning Department continually reviews our policies and procedures to make sure we are approachable, transparent, and understandable. Our goal is to have strong, sustainable growth, and we need involvement and engagement from our citizens to help Edson grow as a safe, enjoyable and thriving place to live.



Engineering

The Engineering Department is constantly striving to improve and maintain the infrastructure of roads, bridges, streets and water ways in the Town of Edson, ensuring that our core infrastructure and community assets are evaluated and upgraded.

Projects completed in 2017:

2017 Deep Utilities Upgrade / Replacement and Related works, comprising watermains, sanitary and storm mains and associated appurtenances and complete road build at:

- 16th Avenue: 49th to 51st Street
- 17th Avenue: 48 to 49th and the cul-de-sac by Edson drive
- 11th Avenue: 49th to 51st Street and
- 12th Avenue and 48th Street Intersection
- Upgrade sanitary sewer mains at the intersection of Highway 16 West and 48th Street intersection

2017 Street Paving and Related works, comprising:

- 5th Avenue: 49th to 52st Street
- 52nd Street: 5th Avenue to 6th Avenue and
- 10th Avenue and 56th Street Intersection

2017 Culvert Upgrade and Replacement Program comprising:

- Replacing Culvert on 1st Avenue, by Sanjel Corporation and Yellowhead County offices

2017 Well Exploration Program comprising:

- Integrating Wells 26 and 27 into the distribution system
- Exploration for new wells to drill and develop

Projects expected to be completed in 2018:

2018 Street Paving and Related works, at:

- 16th Avenue: 49th to 51st Street
- 17th Avenue: 48 to 49th and the cul-de-sac by Edson drive
- 11th Avenue: 49th to 51st Street and
- 12th Avenue and 48th Street Intersection
- 2018 Bank Stabilization works on Bench Creek (Between 1st and 2nd Avenue) by the RCMP Building
- 2018 Wells Exploration Program
- New, Upgraded Mechanical Waste Treatment Plant
- Street light LED conversion program

Studies expected to be completed in 2018:

- 2018 Master Servicing Plan
- 2018 Revised Offsite Levy Rates:



Operations

Public Works/Landfill

In an effort to improve communication with our public, two new digital sign board trailers were purchased. These can be used during snow removal, community events, road/lanes closures, etc.

Public Works also completed shoulder pulls on all town gravel roads to improve drainage and stability. A new high grade road was constructed at the landfill, as well as a new scrap steel cell. A new piece of equipment has also been purchased to help maintain back alleys and a new spray patcher has been added to our equipment pool to better seal our roads.

One substantial change in 2017 was the way our snow removal is done. Rather than plowing snow to the side of the road, crews are now windrowing the snow to the middle of the road and hauling it right away. This change was made to save time and reduce costs. It's hoped with new equipment being delivered in 2018, this will make the snow removal process even more efficient.



Airport

The efficiency of the entire facility has seen substantial improvement due to revised practices and amendments to mandated systems. The introduction of new equipment such as the Compact Jet Sweep contribute greatly to this success. We are constantly striving to offer more services provided to a better standard. A number of projects took place at the airport in 2018, including;

- The car park extension has decongested the short stay area in front of the terminal. Future plans involve paving the surface.

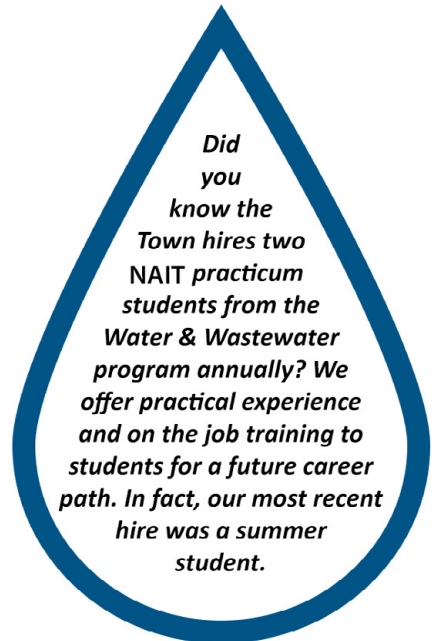
- With the facility evolving to LED lighting the power bill has been reduced by one half.
- New events are being introduced such as Aircraft show, car boot sale, drive in movie and school tours to increase public interest and education.
- We also introduced power receptacles; tie down points for our long term parking, plus options to enter land lease agreements for erection of aircraft storage hangars. This should see Edson airport elevate its desirability as a destination within the aviation community.

Utilities

Another busy year for the Utilities department. Over the course of 2017, Utilities responded to and repaired 10 water breaks and replaced four main line valves. Unfortunately, the booster station was lost due to a leak in an unsafe work zone and Engineering is working on a plan for that facility.

The end of 2017 also saw the loss of one of our two storage reservoirs, which amounts to 40% of Town water storage capacity. Under direction from Engineering, two additional wells were added to the system, and Glenwood reservoir was also put back in service after cleaning and inspection. An assessment and plan for the damaged reservoir is still in the works and more details should be known soon.

On a positive note the hydrant cleaning and painting program continued in 2017 and a new operator was hired to replace a staff members that moved away.



Protective Services

In 2017, the Protective Services Department continued to move forward with some significant structure changes.

These changes involved our Director of Protective Services, Al Schram, removing the position of Fire Chief from his portfolio. This change allows him to focus on the overall vision and management of the Protective Services Department, which includes the following areas:

- Fire Department
- Enforcement Services
- Emergency Management
- RCMP Support staff
- Photo laser Program
- Regional 911



Deputy Fire Chief, Tyler Robinson was promoted to the position of Fire Chief with this structure change.

Fire Department

With the structure changes of the Fire Department, Captain Steve Farkas was promoted to the position of Deputy Fire Chief. This new position is a volunteer position which Steve has embraced with enthusiasm.

The Fire Department continues to provide quality emergency services to the residents of the Town of Edson. In 2017, our fire fighters responded to 162 emergency calls. The most significant event was the down town fire which seen our members perform at the highest levels to ensure public safety. This event was supported by our Mutual Aid partners of Yellowhead County and the Town of Hinton. Their assistance was greatly appreciated and welcomed.

Our greatest asset is the Fire fighters, we currently have 38 Volunteers who step up and provide excellent service to our community. In 2017 our members provided 4094 hours on Emergency scenes and training. WHAT A COMMITMENT!!!

With some members moving or stepping down, a recruitment class was held in the fall of 2017 with great success. Six new members came on board at that time and another recruit class in planned for spring 2018.

The Fire Department also hosted the SCOTT Fire Fit challenge in 2017, which had firefighters from across the Province compete in this high level competition.

Enforcement Services



The Enforcement Services department continues to work out of the Protective Services Building (Fire Hall). Enforcement Services works under the philosophy of Education, Information and Enforcement. This proactive approach is designed to create a system where we can be sure our residents are informed of our current Bylaws and have the knowledge to ensure compliance.

Our Enforcement officers are Amir (AJ) Jawad and Mikaela Kuefler. Both officers are appointed by Town Council as Bylaw officers to enforce Municipal Bylaws. They are also appointed by the Alberta Sol-Gen office to enforce certain Provincial legislation.



Emergency Management

Emergency planning and training is critical for making sure we are prepared should a major event happen. Our team participated in a Regional Wildfire exercise in 2017. This exercise involved the Town of Edson, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Yellowhead County and area partners such as RCMP, Alberta Health and Alberta Infrastructure.

Regional 911 and Dispatch

The Town is a regional partner with the Town of Hinton and Yellowhead County for the 911 Dispatch center. The center is managed by Yellowhead County with input from the partners. This partnership provides quality service to our residents as well as supporting our Enforcement Services.

RCMP Support Staff

The Town of Edson provides the RCMP with support staff to assist with the day to day operations. Our staff are responsible for tasks such as:

- Front Counter operations
- Answering in-coming calls
- Court Liaison Officer duties

We must always remember these staff members are the support team for our front line RCMP members



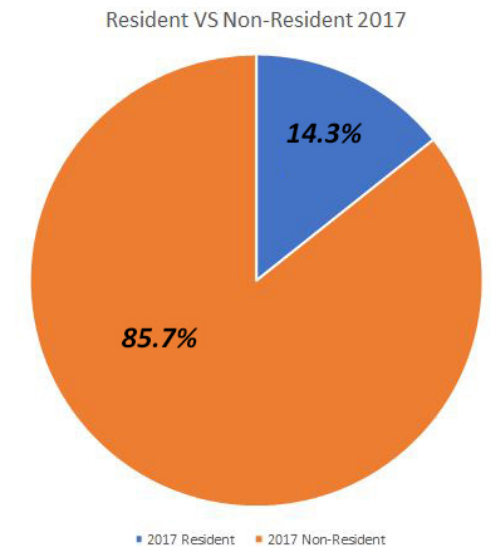
Photo Enforcement Program

Our Photo Enforcement program for 2017 saw a slight decrease in violations as compared to 2016. This is hopefully the result of a change in driving attitude of the public.

In 2017, the majority of the violations were from non-residents of the Town of Edson:

Non-Residents	85.7%
Residents	14.3%

All revenues generated through our Photo Enforcement program are used to off-set the costs of providing policing to our community.



Galloway Station Museum

2017 was an unparalleled year for the Galloway Station Museum, Travel Centre and Archives. There was an increased number of visitors (both local residents and travelers) stopping to take advantage of the Galloway and RCMP Centennial Park this year, as well as increased gift shop sales, and record number of events and rentals.

Galloway staff continue to estimate how many individuals make use the facility in its many roles. They make a concentrated effort not to over or under estimate these numbers, but rather give a true idea of the Galloway's use and usefulness. We do know that visitors continue to increase.

Summer 2017 – 8320
Summer 2016 – 6030
Summer 2015 – 5796
Summer 2014 – 5041
Summer 2013 – 4831
Summer 2012 – 2609



It was an exemplary year for commission sales in the gift shop; with talented local artists receiving more than \$10,000 in 2017. Twenty-two new artists added their wares to the gift shop last year.

Museum admissions exceeded budgeted amounts in 2017 and continuous rentals of the multi-use room and board room were at the highest levels staff have experienced. A new projector/screen/speaker system was installed in June 2017.

The Edson & District Historical Society (EDHS) is a registered charity and is the governing body of the Galloway Station Museum, Travel Centre & Archives. The facility is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers.

The EDHS and Galloway Station Museum partnered with several organizations including the Town of Edson, Yellowhead County, the Leaman Exchange and many more in the larger community to help celebrate Canada's 150th with well-attended events throughout the year. Some of those events and partnerships include; partnering with the Wild Mountain Sheep Foundation, hosting CKUA Radio Network's Backstage concert, a National Canadian Film Board screening, hosting English as a Second Language tours, Arts Alive festival for youth, Rotary Sundays in the Park events, Aboriginal Day events, and much much more.

Collections and Archives

During 2017 a total of 175 artifacts were accessioned into the EDHS collection and 40 items into working collection. The Edson and Area Archives were well utilized by the public as well. Thirty- five inquiries were answered totaling more than 90 hours recorded.

The museum collection and archives are invaluable when conducting research, telling rich and hardy stories of the Edson area's past, and sharing that journey with residents and visitors to the region.

Upcoming Projects

Projects for 2018 include partnering with the Yellowhead County to tell the story of the Rosevear Ferry, which will include a semi permanent display in the museum, publishing a coffee table book, and sharing the history of that important McLeod River crossing.

Other projects include; a temporary barber display, a temporary agricultural display, hosting Mystery at the Museum, an escape the room event, basement tour, graveyard tour and more.

Scheduled bus tours will also be stopping at the Galloway for a coffee and tour of the museum every Monday from June to October. On top of this, staff, board and volunteers have already been working on events for 2019 surrounding the centennial of Wilfred 'Wop' May's historical landing on First Avenue.

Edson and District Recycle Depot

The Edson Recycling Depot collects recyclable waste from residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional activities, and provides responsible disposal options for electronic waste, used oil, and other hazardous materials. The Depot hosts the Toxic Roundup, Seniors Day, Environment Week, and other events that give citizens the opportunity to take environmental action together, as a community. Edson residents have keenly practiced consumer-liable separation of recycling since 1991, and currently boast landfill disposal rates (149 kg per capita) that are nearly half the provincial average (289 kg per capita).



New Projects

In 2017, the Edson Recycle Depot added 26 kW of grid-tied photovoltaic cells (solar panels) and a 10 kW off-grid system as part of an initiative to demonstrate the feasibility of solar power in Edson. In total the depot has the capacity to produce 45 kW of energy, or enough to power 5 houses!

In response to growing demand for local food solidarity, the Edson Community Garden was opened by EDRS in 2015. The Garden includes raised beds, compost heaps, and a rainwater collection system. In 2017, the Garden added 6 new plots and an interpretive centre geared towards the engagement of youth in local permaculture.

The EDRS has also embraced an education role and developed a state-of-the-art educational program, including landfill and depot tours, garden work bees, and public seminars. A total of around 2,000 students accessed the programs sponsored by the EDRS. A mobile education trailer has also been designed to educate on renewable energy and is planned to be displayed at local events and schools in 2018.

Take it or Leave it Building

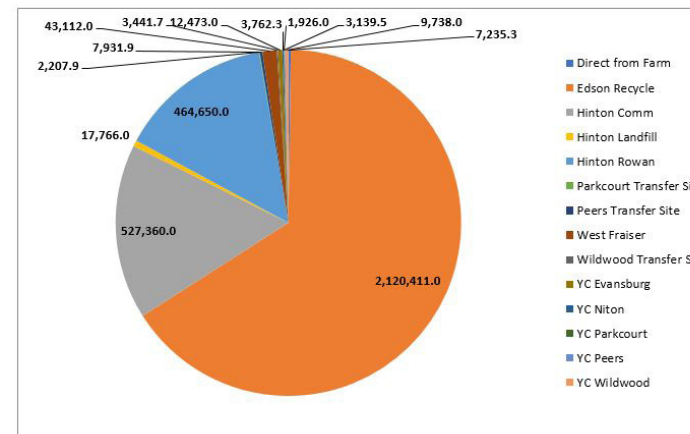
Operated by the EDRS since 1997, the Take It or Leave It is the reuse centre for Edson and area. Each month 120 metric tonnes of unwanted items find new users. In 2017, the Take It or Leave It also added a storage container dedicated to seasonal items such as holiday decorations.

Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Waste Initiative

Waste from ICI sources comprises 40% of waste materials generated in Alberta. In 2017, EDRS collaborated with the Town of Edson to identify sources of institutional waste and barriers to reducing or diverting them. Following an audit of Town offices and affiliates, EDRS developed green consumption strategies in line with best practices and is working to implement these strategies also in the commercial sector.

In 2018, the EDRS hopes to partner with Clean Farms to educate municipalities and golf courses on hazards of herbicides and improve disposal options. Yellowhead County became one of four counties to pilot recycling of polypropylene bale twine.

Sources of all materials received by Edson & District Recycling Depot



Recyclables from Edson and Yellowhead County marketed by the EDRS

Recyclables	Total Weight(kg)	Data Count	Total Count
Ag Plastic	21,644.0	1	1
Ag Twine	0.0	0	0
Batteries	6,750.0	3	3
Electronics	44,010.0	11	11
Glass	47,000.0	2	2
Hard Plastics	99,932.0	5	5
Mixed Waste	303,387.0	15	15
Newspaper	78,681.0	5	5
OCC	1,299,169.0	67	67
Office Paper	71,458.0	4	4
Oil	49,266.0	23	23
Paint	13,920.0	11	11
Soft Plastics	60,354.0	3	3
Tin	24,840.0	1	1
Waxed OCC	0.0	0	0
TOTALS	2,120,411.0	151	151

Edson and District Public Library

Another year of growth for the Edson and District Public Library. 2017 saw a large increase in users and some very successful programs. We thank everyone that has made the effort to come out and support the library.



	<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>Percentage increase</i>
<i>In person visits</i>	<i>100,284</i>	<i>63,366</i>	<i>36.82%</i>
<i>Virtual circulation</i>	<i>11,191</i>	<i>8,883</i>	<i>20.63%</i>
<i>Workstation sessions</i>	<i>13,832</i>	<i>12,984</i>	<i>6.14%</i>
<i>Program attendance</i>	<i>9,079</i>	<i>8,526</i>	<i>6.1%</i>
<i>Physical collection</i>	<i>34,343</i>	<i>33,295</i>	<i>3.05%</i>
<i>Total direct circulation</i>	<i>85,797</i>	<i>85,009</i>	<i>0.92%</i>

