



2023 IN REVIEW

Report to: **Members of Council**
All Members of the Administration
Residents of Three Rivers

Dated: **March 2024**

I am pleased to say once again that this last year in the Town of Three Rivers has been exciting, eventful, and productive.

Three Rivers' new Council finished its first full year together and have shown dedication and spirit in their new roles. Discussions and decisions have been thoughtful and timely.

Three Rivers welcomed several fresh faces to the administration and public works teams in 2023. Mr. John Jamieson joined the team as the new CAO in October. Mr. Jamieson brings a wealth of experience in government and human resources. We thank the Managers of Community Services Dorothy Macdonald and Corporate Services Danielle Herring for stepping in as interim leaders. Their hard work to keep projects moving forward was greatly appreciated. We also welcomed Victoria Veinot as our new Recreation and Events Liaison Officer and Adam Harding and Derek Thacker to our public works team.

Staff made application to CUPE for union status in February 2023 and are working with management toward a new collective agreement. We look forward to 2024 with a well-rounded and enthusiastic team behind us.

A milestone event for the Town of Three Rivers occurred in 2023 with the final approval and adoption of the Official Plan and Development Bylaw in March. These documents will guide development throughout the Three Rivers area for years to come. Much work was done to get to the finish line, and we thank all staff and Planning Board members past and current for their time and efforts.

Council approved an updated Code of Conduct bylaw which sees increased accountability by way of stricter attendance rules for Councillors per the Municipal Government Act. New flag and proclamation policies were adopted in September with a standard procedure to follow to ensure consistency with respect to flags flown at municipally owned facilities, and a standard for which proclamation requests are received and processed. We continue to strive for the highest professional standards and regular updating of policies and bylaws is essential to that goal.

Planning for the town continues to grow. A total of 215 planning applications have been received in the 2023/2024 period, comprising primarily of Development Permit applications with 129, followed by Subdivision with 67, Demolition with 11, Signage with 5, and Rezoning with 3. Additionally, there have been 89 new residential units approved and residential growth continues to dominate the planning department workload. There has been a surge in sustainability-focused initiatives, particularly in renewable technologies, with 18 applications mainly for ground mounted solar arrays. The 2024 year has commenced on a highly positive note, witnessing a significant increase in application numbers compared to previous years, with 41 new applications received since January 1st, marking a 141% rise from 2022 and over 215% increase from 2021.

Other projects approved or started in 2023 include Montague Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, a renewable energy feasibility study, an update to the Brudenell Extension project phase II, a day marina in Georgetown, improvements/adjustments to Emergency planning and reception centre operations, equipment purchases, and a new paving stone pathway at the Georgetown waterfront. The MacDonald ball field in Cardigan was renamed to Presidents Field to honor all the Three Rivers Ball Association presidents past, current and future and show continued recognition for their valuable impact to ball in the community.

In September, Council approved a transfer of land to Habitat for Humanity to support affordable housing efforts in the community. We look forward to seeing the results of Habitat's efforts and the positive impact to families in Three Rivers.

I want to thank each Member of Council and the staff of Three Rivers again personally for their cooperation and hard work throughout 2023. I am proud to work with such a talented and professional group.

On behalf of Council and staff, I extend a thank you to all residents for giving us the privilege of serving you and wish you a healthy and prosperous 2024.



Mayor Debbie Johnston