



2024 IN REVIEW

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

Dated: January 2025

2024 has been a year of significant progress and achievements for the Town of Three Rivers, marked by advancements in community services, human resources, and infrastructure.

We have made significant strides in property and development. Four lots were transferred to GADC, and several new development projects have begun, continuing the growth from last year. A notable business development is the three-year lease on Cardigan Station signed with Cork Dork Hospitality, bringing new business to our community.

In terms of community and health, we have approved funding support for a walk-in day clinic in Montague, enhancing healthcare access for our residents. The Brudenell Water and Sewer extension project is now completed, and our Georgetown office is back to full hours, making it easier to access services.

Infrastructure and upgrades have been a major focus this year. The King's Playhouse has received significant improvements, making it an even better venue for events and performances. We have updated several bylaws, including those for street vendors, companion animals, procedural, and development regulations. Upgrades to the WWTP Pumping Station have been approved, and the Montague paving stone path project is underway, enhancing our town's walkability. Complementing these infrastructure improvements, we also focused on sustainability through projects like SEA's remediation of the Old Mill Trail. Additionally, Three Rivers has taken over the management of the Cavendish Farms Wellness Centre, ensuring it continues to serve our community well.

In community services, we are negotiating the transfer of ownership of the Georgetown Civic Centre to the Georgetown Fire Department. We have also approved loan assistance for the Cardigan Fire truck replacement and approved the transfer of the Lorne Valley Church and Cemetery to a community organization. The Brudenell School has been sold, opening new possibilities for the site.

This year we strengthened our team with several new staff hires, Dawn Arsenault as Assistant Manager of Corporate Services, Deandra Mills as Planning and Development Clerk, Courtney Foote as Accounting Clerk, Noah McCabe as Utilities Technician, and Aaron Bedour as Wellness Centre Arena Manager. Additionally, two administrative positions were reclassified to Accounting Clerks and Public Works 1 reclassified to Utilities Technician.

We have also made changes to the Planning Board membership and successfully conducted Mission, Vision, and Value workshops to guide our future.

Finally, in housing and community planning, we have approved a Housing Needs Assessment, setting the stage for future housing initiatives. The Development Bylaw revisions have been completed and sent to the Minister for review. Council and staff did their utmost to provide evidence-based advice that incorporated input from Planning Board and the public. The draft bylaw was revised several times as input was considered and incorporated into the final draft of the document.

While the bylaw review process sparked some public debate, misinformation on social media posed challenges. Despite this, our Planning Staff and Board maintained professionalism and transparency, addressing concerns thoughtfully. I commend the Planning Board and Planning Staff for maintaining their composure and professionalism during these challenging meetings.

In 2024, we achieved considerable progress in enhancing our community through thoughtful investments in infrastructure, services, and development projects. These accomplishments were made while maintaining fiscal prudence, ensuring that we responsibly managed resources to deliver maximum value to residents.

These accomplishments reflect our collective efforts to make Three Rivers a better place to live, work, and play. I want to thank each Member of Council and the staff of Three Rivers personally, for their cooperation and hard work throughout 2024. 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 2025.

Mayor Debbie Johnston