

Council highlights

Annual property assessment overview

2025 property assessment notices will be mailed out on January 23rd. The assessments are based on the economic conditions of July 1, 2024 and the physical condition of the property as of December 31, 2024.

Assessments are prepared using mass appraisal techniques, which determine property values by grouping similar properties as of a specific date.

Market conditions continue to be strong, with the average residential single-family assessment being \$680,700, an increase of 10.59% from 2024.

Electronic communications bylaw

Administration presented a draft bylaw for Council's consideration which looks to establish a process for sending property assessment notices and property tax notices electronically. If approved, this would reflect a cost savings to the municipality and provide flexibility to residents who prefer to receive their Town information electronically.

Administration will present the draft bylaw to Council for consideration of first reading at an upcoming regular meeting of Council.

Grandfather tree update

Administration provided an update on the loss of the Grandfather tree and the Town's response to honouring the legacy of this cherished landmark. Currently, the Town is gathering samples to explore the opportunity to propagate the tree. A post box and journal has been erected on site to allow community members to share their reflections and suggestions on how we can honour the legacy of the Grandfather tree. Community members can also

email their ideas to

communityservices@cochrane.ca. Crews are also completing a full safety assessment of area before proceeding with any next steps. Anyone visiting the area is reminded to respect the signage and fencing in the area.

Building safer communities grant update

In spring 2024, Cochrane was awarded \$406,000 through the Federal Government's Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF). The fund is intended to help municipalities prevent gun and gang violence by addressing its root causes.

The goal of the Community Wellness plan is to implement and sustain effective programs that address the root causes of crime and gang involvement, as well as the positive impact on the community's safety and well-being.

The project will include focus groups with youth and the groups/organizations working directly with youth in Cochrane. More information is available on letstalkcochrane.ca.

Commercial sector compost waste program

Resulting from a Notice of Motion brought forward by Councillor Flowers at the July 8, 2024 Regular Council meeting, Council resolved as follows: That Council direct Administration to evaluate the 2024 compost waste pilot program and return with recommendations for a possible program for consideration by January 31, 2025. Administration presented information and options to Council for consideration of what a commercial sector compost waste program could entail.

Cochrane Municipal Policing Committee Bylaw

The Police Amendment Act will take effect on March 1, 2025, bringing transformative changes to

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policing in Alberta. Municipalities with populations over 15,000, including Cochrane, will be required to establish local governance bodies in the form of a Municipal Policing Committee, to enhance transparency, accountability, and community engagement in policing services. This legislation is intended to enhance transparency, accountability and civilian involvement. Key reforms will establish an independent and more straightforward process for complaints against the police, promote more diversity in policing and encourage greater collaboration between police and civilian partners to improve public safety.

Administration will bring forward a draft bylaw for Council's consideration at an upcoming regular meeting of Council.