



RED DEER

YEAR OF 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018



MAYOR

TARA VEER

Community building, civic pride, entrepreneurialism and the extraordinary passion of our citizens is at the heart of the transformative change Red Deer experienced in 2018. This change transformed not only our city and the people who live here, but also the places and spaces in the community we call our home.

In 2018, we celebrated the official openings of a number of facilities in Red Deer including the Servus Arena, Setters Place at Great Chief Park and the Gary W. Harris Canada Games Centre for Health, Wellness & Sport at Red Deer College (RDC), to name a few. These openings signaled growth and transformation in our city that

immediately made way for a number of hosting opportunities. These opportunities include the Canadian Finals Rodeo at Westerner Park, the Hlinka-Gretzky Cup in downtown Red Deer, and the opportunity to host the World Juniors in 2021, alongside a number of others. These opportunities brought and will bring with them, economic opportunities for local businesses and service providers, tourism opportunities and most importantly, the opportunity to showcase our city to fellow Albertans and Canadians who might not otherwise experience Red Deer.

We also celebrated a number of other successes in 2018, including an official announcement that RDC will transition to Red Deer University, and a commitment from the Provincial Government to build a new justice centre where the former RCMP building once stood. But perhaps our biggest success came on the heels of planning for the 2019 Canada Winter Games. I know this annual report is about looking back to 2018, but I simply cannot do that without acknowledging and celebrating our community's hosting of the Canada Winter Games in February and March of this year. The games were remarkably successful thanks to all the hard work and vision of the Host Society, city staff, partners and volunteers in our community.

However, with this year's successes also came significant challenges. Over the last year, we worked to make decisions that drive positive change and respond to the social, economic, and community safety challenges we continue to face largely due to the national addictions and drug crisis. Changes that include funding for 10 new RCMP officers and the implementing of a downtown unit. We have, and continue to pressure the Provincial Government for additional support and funding – for residential treatment, 24/7 emergency shelter, investment in improved needle protocols and clean-up in the interest of community safety.

Today, we are on the precipice of economic stability. We have a new reality that has forced us to re-evaluate how we, as a municipality, plan for and deliver a financially viable and sustainable 2020 budget that respects and balances the needs and wants of our community. In some cases, this means looking at how we allocate funds differently than we have in the past. It means being innovative in how we deliver programs and services; and, in some cases, it means cutting back so that we can minimize tax impacts while maintaining the high quality of life Red Deerians have the right to expect.

On behalf of City Council, I hope you enjoy this year's Annual Report. This report gives you a glimpse into how far we've come in the past year with a snapshot of what's in store for the rest of 2019. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Mayor. ■



CITY MANAGER

ALLAN SEABROOKE

organizing forums for public input to ensure the voices of our community are heard and that together we tackle the issues and support what matters most to residents.

In looking back at this year's annual report, the City's dedication to a high quality of life for its citizens is evidenced by the innumerable community events, facility openings and infrastructure enhancements that took place over the last two years. It has most certainly been a time of change and growth for Red Deer, and I am eager to work through the next budget cycle as we plan for Budget 2020.

I acknowledge the challenges we will face as we navigate the complexities of an upcoming budget amidst political shifts and the changing economic reality. However, with these challenges also come opportunities – opportunities for new conversations about

the need for Province of Alberta to meet and respond to the issue of community safety in our city; opportunities to, once again, play host to exciting national events like the 2019 Canadian Finals Rodeo; and, opportunities to continue delivering the programs and services Red Deerians want and need while working hard to innovate and be increasingly sustainable in the coming years.

Over the next year, I invite you to connect with us at The City of Red Deer. I invite you to be part of our budget processes, to influence decision making through the many public participation opportunities we host on any given issue throughout the year. I invite you to call, ask questions and be engaged in municipal government.

This annual report is just one way we are working to share information with you. It is a snapshot of 2018 and how your taxpayer dollars were allocated, but it isn't a complete picture. I invite you to dive into the stories and details posted online at weareddeer.ca. We want to share more with you, to tell you about the many events, happening, enhancements, programs and services delivered by The City of Red Deer in 2018 and going forward.

Once again, thank you for welcoming me into your city, and I look forward to serving as your new City Manager. ■

First, and most importantly, thank you for welcoming me to Red Deer. I officially signed on as Red Deer's new City Manager in May 2019, and I am already impressed by this welcoming and inclusive city.

As an experienced municipal manager that understands effective governance and City planning, I am committed to supporting, influencing and affecting positive changes in the organization and the community going forward. Your City administration will be

2018

We celebrated a number of milestones in 2018. Here are some of the highlights as we look back at 2018.



THE SERVUS ARENA OPENED

The new Servus Arena opened on January 13, 2018 in downtown Red Deer. Completed ahead of schedule, the Servus Arena (located at 4725 43 Street) was constructed on the site of the former Red Deer Arena. The Red Deer Area was originally built in 1952 and served as a community hub for Central Albertans for over 60 years. For structural reasons the building was demolished in 2016, and the new Servus arena was built. The NHL-sized arena is home to Red Deer Minor Hockey Red Deer Vipers, and many other user groups in Red Deer and the surrounding area. In April 2017, Servus Credit Union signed on as the name sponsor for the arena, making the name Servus Arena. ■



YMCA TO OPERATE THE NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The YMCA is returning to Red Deer after The City and YMCA of Northern Alberta successfully negotiated an agreement that will see the YMCA lease and operate the newly constructed Northside Community Centre for a five-year term. The new facility is expected to open in July 2019. ■

CITY SELLS FORMER RCMP BUILDING AND LAND TO PROVINCE

Construction of a new courthouse is expected to begin in fall 2019 after the Province of Alberta purchased the former downtown RCMP building and adjacent land (4811 49 Street) from The City of Red Deer in January 2018. The proposed new Justice Centre is expected to house 12 courtrooms that will serve Central Alberta. The Province officially took possession of the property, which includes nine parcels of land, on February 1, 2018. The move comes after many years of Council advocacy for a new facility after Red Deer and the region outgrew the current one. ■





GREEN CARTS BEGIN TO ROLL OUT IN RED DEER

Green Carts officially rolled out in February 2018 when The City expanded its waste collection program. Green Carts were delivered to all homes that participate in garbage and blue box pickup. Green Carts are used to dispose of organics, such as yard waste, all food and kitchen scraps, and pet waste for year-round, regular pickup and composting. Green Cart collection officially started the week of April 9, 2018. In the spring of 2019, residents then received Blue Carts for recycling and Black Carts for regular garbage collection. ■

RIVER BEND ENHANCEMENTS

Enhancements at River Bend Golf and Recreation Area were complete in 2018 with the widening of selected trails, renovation of the biathlon range and the addition of a media and timing cabin and a stadium area for spectators. ■

RDC BECOMES RED DEER UNIVERSITY

Red Deer College received degree granting status from the Government of Alberta in 2018, allowing more Alberta students to study closer to home. While RDC historically offered a number of degrees in partnership with other universities, students often had to move to other cities in order to complete their programs. Allowing RDC to develop and offer comprehensive degrees means that students will be able to complete their education in central Alberta, while staying in the region to find employment. This transition will help create a diverse workforce and stronger regional economy. ■

SETTERS PLACE AT GREAT CHIEF PARK OFFICIALLY OPENS

Hundreds of Red Deerians celebrated the opening of Setters Place at Great Chief Park in January 2018. Setters Place now features a three storey modern pavilion building overlooking the Red Deer River and brand new synthetic sports field regulation sized for both soccer and football. During the winter months, a 400m outdoor speed skating oval is constructed on top of the field. Other enhancements include outdoor event space, a new maintenance garage, additional lighting and improvements to the parking lot to allow for bus drop-off. In December 2017, JT Setters and Sons Construction Ltd. signed on as the name sponsor for this new area within Great Chief Park, making the name Setters Place. ■



NEW DOWNTOWN POLICE UNIT

A new four-person RCMP unit dedicated to Red Deer's downtown core was made possible after City Council approved funding for 10 additional RCMP member in January 2018. The new unit enables increased patrols that facilitate building relationships with the residents and business owners in the core. As part of the initiative, officers now patrol downtown streets on bicycles, personal transportation vehicles (Segways), on foot and in vehicles. The addition of the downtown policing unit enhances existing measures already in place to reduce crime in the downtown, including increased policing and visibility. ■



BLUE AND BLACK CARTS ROLL OUT

Residents received their blue and black carts in March 2019 as the final phase of The City's expanded cart collection program. Full cart collection began the week of May 6, 2019 with the collection for blue and black carts taking place every other week, on alternating weeks. That means garbage is collected one week and recycling collected the next week. Green Cart collection remains weekly. Residents also received a colour coded calendar to make keeping track easy. ■

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NOTIFICATIONS

reddeer.ca/notifyreddeer



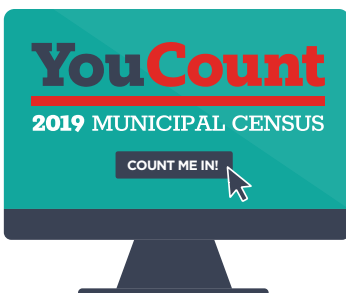


2019 ...SO FAR!

We are already well into 2019 and working towards budget planning for 2020. But there are still some exciting things that lie ahead for the remainder of the year.

CENSUS 2019

Red Deerians were counted as part of this year's Municipal Census in April 2019. Citizens were asked to identify the number of people living in their household, gender and year of birth, and for residents 16 years old or older, what is their primary mode of transportation. The municipal census is a snapshot of a community's population at one point in time. Keeping an accurate count of Red Deer's population helps ensure The City receives its fair share of grant funding from the provincial and federal governments. This money is used to support growth, programs, and services in the community. For 2019, The City estimates it will receive approximately \$249.47 per person in grant funding. The last municipal census was taken in 2016, and Red Deer's population was 99,832. ■



RED DEER HOSTS CANADA WINTER GAMES 2019

February 15, 2019 marked the beginning of community history-in-the-making when Red Deer hosted the 2019 Canada Winter Games. The games ran from February 15 until March 3, 2019 with 3,600 participants competing in 19 sports. Red Deer hosted over 150 events and welcomed more than 20,000 visitors to our city.

It truly was "our moment" with local athletes standing on the podium and receiving numerous gold medals. Seven records were broken on the outdoor speed skating oval at Great Chief Park, Team Alberta took home a record breaking number of medals, and more than 5,000 volunteers came out to help in every way possible.

Red Deerians filled the stands and downtown streets every day. You celebrated diversity at the first ever Pride Days at a Canada Games, and with your standing ovation of the Orontes Guitar Quartet, a band that fled Syria. You came together, oozing with pride, sportsmanship and a huge sense of accomplishment as we celebrated with all of the athletes, coaches, families and volunteers. Thank you Red Deer for being a part of our moment in hosting the 2019 Canada Winter Games. ■



COURT HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



THE CITY OF RED DEER
4914 - 48 AVENUE (BOX 5008)
RED DEER, AB, CANADA T4N 3T4

reddeer.ca    