

Community Services Department Update  
**DECEMBER 2023**

## **PARKS**

- Swans are in winter quarters
- Plows, blowers, and salter implements are installed on trucks and tractors
- Staff are continuing 2024 annual flowerbed designs

## **PARKS CAPITAL**

- Nothing currently

## **CEMETERY**

- Staff continue with:
  - Customer sales and service
  - Casket and cremation interments
- Irrigation system at cemetery has been winterized

## **CEMETERY CAPITAL**

- Nothing currently

## **TRANSIT**

- All fleet disinfected nightly
- Hand sanitizer placed at front doors for customers to use when entering bus
- Gloves/surgical masks/disinfectant still made available to staff
- Plexiglass driver barriers will remain in place

### **Weekly Ridership:**

2023 Monday-Friday	Ridership	Saturday ODT	2022 Monday-Friday	Ridership	Saturday ODT
Nov 19-Nov 24	10,216	222	Nov 20-Nov 25	11,840	168
Nov 26-Dec 1	10,802	250	Nov 27-Dec 2	11,842	234
Dec 3-Dec 8	11,991	195	Dec 4-Dec 9	12,215	230
Dec 10-Dec 15	11,427	182	Dec 11- Dec 16	11,110	249

## **TRANSIT CAPITAL**

- **Approved** Projects for 2023 (ICIP)
- Accessible shelters (Project underway)

- Bus wash replacement (RFP scheduled for Winter 2024)
- Bus Storage/Facility Upgrades (Project scheduled in 2024)
- 40 ft. Hybrid Electric/Diesel Conventional Buses (2) (Production start date of Spring 2024)
- Magnuscards Mobile App (Project underway)

## PARALLEL TRANSIT

### Weekly Ridership:

<b>Weekly 2023</b>	<b>Ridership</b>	<b>Weekly 2022</b>	<b>Ridership</b>
Nov 19-Nov 24	422	Nov 20-Nov 25	378
Nov 26-Dec 1	429	Nov 27-Dec 2	367
Dec 3-Dec 8	432	Dec 4-Dec 9	371
Dec 10-Dec 15	469	Dec 11- Dec 16	394

- Pre-pandemic ridership was typically four hundred per week
- Continuing to surpass weekly ridership

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING

- Santa's Parade of Lights was a success, despite the weather, with the participation of 53 Floats and 3 Bands.
- 9 Indoor Events occurred at the Rotary Community Hall this past month.
- Staff have started to receive 2024 Spring/Summer Special Event Applications.
- Staff are underway with updates to the special event application from paper based to an online form for 2024.
- Updates to the Special Event Application are underway. The paper-based application will now be available as an online fillable form for 2024.
- The 2023 tournaments at the Agriplex Fieldhouse wrapped up on December 16 and the 2024 tournament season will begin on January 13.
- Staff are planning the Holiday Break Day Camps and are looking forward to welcoming youth 4-13 over the 7 days.
- Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association held a successful Annual General Meeting at the beginning of December, and the Association continues to provide a variety of programming to the 55+ community. Current membership sits just under 700 which is a substantial increase from last year.

## **FACILITIES**

- The Stratford Skating Club hosted the annual Provincial Series Skating Competition on December 15-17 at the Rotary Complex. There were more than 800 registrants registered for the event.
- To support the Lights on Stratford event, the exterior washrooms at City Hall and the Boathouse Washrooms will be available for use for an extended time period until 10 p.m. The exterior washrooms at the William Allman Memorial Arena will also be available from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. These hours of operation will be in effect from Thursday to Sunday during the event from December 15<sup>th</sup> through to January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- On December 15<sup>th</sup> the opening of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremonies of the William Allman Memorial Arena commenced. A ceremonial puck drop was held at the start of the Stratford Warriors Hockey Club game with Mayor Ritsma and representatives from all regular user group organizations.

The next scheduled event to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the William Allman Memorial Arena is scheduled from January 27, 2024. This event will consist of games and exhibitions showcased by organizations including Stratford Rotary Hockey, Stratford Minor Girls Hockey Association, Stratford Minor Hockey Association, Stratford Skating Club, Stratford Fighting Irish, and the Stratford Warriors Hockey Club. There will also be community meals and a lounge held in the Upper Lobby during this event.

## **FACILITIES CAPITAL**

- Nothing currently