



NANTON NOTIFIED

March-April 2024

Mayor: Jennifer Handley
Councillors: Dave Mitchell, John Dozeman, Ken Sorenson, Kevin Todd, Roger Miller, Victor Czop

Council Meetings

First and third Monday of the month @ THRC Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 7pm. Regular Meetings are open to the Public.

Town Office

OPEN
8:30am-4:00pm
Monday to Friday
1-877-365-3901
Closed on statutory holidays

Website

www.nanton.ca

Garbage & Recycling

Monday mornings

Yard Waste

Yard waste area will be closed until further notice.
Dump Gump operates the Recycling Centre on Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Fees may apply. Contact them at 1-877-336-5012.

Licences

Dog & Business Licenses are now **past due**. If you no longer have your dog or don't require your business license please call the Town Office at 403.646.2029.

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TownofNanton/>

Office Closures

March 29, 2024

Level 3 (Critical) Water Restrictions — what happens if this is declared?

Why might it happen? The Town is experiencing severe drought, a very low reservoir, serious leaks/breaks or a combination of all of these. Level 3 means that reduced water consumption — by all users — needs to be reduced.

How could it get worse if consumption is not reduced? The Town might not be able to maintain supply to the entire community and would need to take steps like brining in emergency tankers, prioritising remaining water reserves for fire protection, medical facilities, and senior homes and so on.

Likely measures taken at Level 3? All outdoor watering is immediately and automatically prohibited. The Town has no choice but to begin compliance and enforcement activity — violations could result in ticket fines ranging from \$250-\$1,000. For some households, it is important to remember that filling a pool is also outdoor watering.

Non-residential users may be directed to reduce their consumption and the Operations Department may reduce water pressure throughout town to lessen flow.

Special metered rates for Level 3 will automatically be brought into place after 14 days to deter waste and excessive use in a critical period for the Town. For residential users who consume more than 45m³ in a billing period, the rate will automatically increase to \$3.95/m³. For commercial and industrial users who consume more than 45m³, the rate will automatically increase to \$3.50/m³. Those rates will apply to that whole billing period.

As a community, we all need to work together in this situation.



Message from the Chief Administrative Officer

As you will note below the Town is approaching the critical community feedback phase on the replacement Land Use Bylaw. This is a much smaller document than its predecessor, but can still be overwhelming to review. I strongly encourage you to look at the document and ask yourself:

- How does the existing bylaw apply to my property/ neighbourhood?
- How does the new bylaw apply to my property/ neighbourhood?
- Is this bylaw change improving the rules around land use and development in Nanton?

You will also note that we're spending quite a bit of time with water conservation messaging. We unfortunately anticipate a challenging year, like much of the province. If we hit Level 2 or 3 restrictions, enforcement and compliance will have to be increased in an area of regulation that the community has not seen exercised in a long time. We are going to do our best to get the information you need out there. Please think twice about your water use whether you are a large or small water user.

Neil Smith

Chief Administrative Officer

Land Use Bylaw Project Update

Thank you to everyone who has provided their comments and valuable feedback as the Town works with ISL Engineering and Land Services to draft and refine a new Land Use Bylaw (LUB). An updated version of the Bylaw can be found on the www.nanton.ca/414/Public-Participation page.

Key updates:

- The Development Officer duties expanded to include decisions on discretionary uses that do not require a variance.
- Specified penalties for offences up to \$1,000, as well as the ability to fine \$1,000 for second and each subsequent contravention.
- Development not requiring a permit to include Changes of Use from a Permitted Use to a new Permitted Use in the same District; Solar Collectors mounted on Roof/Wall (Section 4.18); Home Based Business Type One (Section 4.12).
- The name and description of the Land Use Districts has changed overall with Residential Districts categorized by parcel size rather than by density, and more specific non-residential Districts for special areas.
- The Permitted Uses in each District are more inclusive than the previous LUB.
- Secondary Suite (External) (Section 4.16) is a listed Discretionary Use in Residential, Large Lot, General and Narrow Lot Districts and will require the provision of 1 additional parking space.

In Phase 4, the draft LUB will be refined, circulated to appropriate approval authorities, finalized, and put forward for adoption. The public will have the opportunity to provide any additional feedback on the final draft LUB at the Public Hearing.

Please review the draft bylaw to see how it might specifically impact properties that you own or have interest in. Inquires can also be made to develop@nanton.ca or contacting the Town Office.



New Utility Rates—Effective Jan 1, 2024

These rates (included in the Fees and Rates Bylaw #1381/23) are part of the Town's 5-year plan to ensure the sustainability of the Town's water and wastewater infrastructure. The new rates that will come into effect are as follows -

Water Rates:

Residential

\$62 flat fee +
\$0 on 0 to 18 m³ consumption
\$2.25/m³ on 18 to 36 m³ consumption
\$2.75/m³ on 36 to 45 m³ consumption
\$2.95/m³ over and above 45 m³

Commercial/Industrial

\$62 flat fee +
\$0 on 0 to 18m³ consumption
\$2.25m³ on 18 to 36m³ consumption
\$2.80/m³ on 36 to 45 m³ consumption
\$3.00/m³ over and above 45 m³

Wastewater Rates:

Residential

\$78 flat fee +
\$0 on 0 to 18 m³ consumption
\$2.25/m³ on 18 to 36 m³ consumption
\$2.75/m³ on 36 to 45 m³ consumption
\$2.950/m³ over and above 45 m³

Commercial/Industrial

\$78 flat fee +
\$0 on 0 to 18m³ consumption
\$2.25/m³ on 18 to 36m³ consumption
\$2.75/m³ on 36 to 45 m³ consumption
\$3.00/m³ over and above 45 m³

Stormwater Rates \$4.36

Solid Waste Rates \$17.67

Recycling Rates \$13.33

Spring is on its way!

The Town of Nanton has a donation program for the purpose of enhancing your public places such as park spaces, playgrounds and pathways. Contributions may be used for the purchase of trees, playground equipment, benches, etc. and will be acknowledged with a plaque placed on the donation wall located in the southeast corner of the Westview park. For further information, please contact the Town office or visit <https://www.nanton.ca/355/Sponsor-or-Donate>

Message from the Nanton Chamber of Commerce

With spring on the horizon and a new board of directors in place, the Chamber will be busy executing two grants it was successful in receiving. Both the Community Foundations of Canada and Fortis Alberta grants are for projects to enhance community spaces in town, with the intent of encouraging visitors to stop and spend more time here and check out our businesses and attractions. Remember that when you're looking to shop local, there is a directory of businesses as well as a Chamber member directory at www.visitnanton.com.

Utility & Tax Accounts

***** IMPORTANT *****

Please contact our office to ensure we have your current phone numbers and mailing address on file. When paying your utility and tax levies, please ensure you have listed your correct account number. This is ***important*** for us to identify which account to apply your payments.

Waste Reminder

Bylaw 1293, sect. 6.5 states that; All waste shall be bagged prior to depositing in an automated collection container. No loose waste is to be placed in waste collection carts. One main reason for this is when a cart of loose waste is being emptied in windy conditions, the loose waste is then blown away which is not controllable by the Waste truck operator. ***Remember to have your recycling & waste bins out by 7am Monday mornings***

Message from the Mayor

For several years, the Town has actively pursued the creation of what we term "shelf-ready projects." This involves identifying projects we foresee as crucial in the future, even if current resources are insufficient for immediate initiation. By conducting conceptual research, design work, and proactively preparing these projects, we position ourselves to capitalize on opportunities as they emerge. Whether through structured grant programs or community-driven initiatives, our aim is to have already invested time and resources, ultimately saving both time and money. This proactive approach enables us to swiftly advance these projects or apply for relevant grants, rather than hastily tailoring a project to fit a grant opportunity when it arises. Simultaneously, we consistently contribute to our reserves, ensuring that when opportunities arise, we possess the funds to match grants or support community groups in moving projects forward.

Recently, we have successfully moved several of these projects "off the shelf," advancing them with confidence. The peace of mind and pride derived from this approach is immeasurable. Embracing a proactive rather than reactive approach has been our modus operandi for over a decade, leading us to establish numerous policies and procedures aligned with this philosophy. While we acknowledge that not everything can be predicted, our focus is on understanding the condition of our assets, implementing preventative maintenance measures, and strategically planning and budgeting for their inevitable replacement. We have shifted away from the era of "farmer fixes" aimed at keeping things going temporarily. Instead, we prioritize investing in proper repairs now to extend the overall useful lifecycle of items, recognizing the long-term benefits of such an approach.

Here are some of the projects that have been on the shelf for a while, with many either beginning or on the verge of starting, contingent on factors such as grants, Provincial budget announcements, and other variables beyond our control. The funding sources for each project are highlighted in bold.

- **Brand new A.B. Daley School (k-6):** This school will be situated in the J.T. Foster school yard, replacing the current baseball diamond. Simultaneously, a modernized J.T. Foster (7-12) will be relocated inside the existing A.B. Daley school. Drafts of the school designs are available on the Livingstone Range School Division website. **Funding for construction is anticipated to be announced in the spring Provincial budget.**
- **Modernized and expanded Community Health Center:** After nearly 20 years in development, the project has finalized designs and plans ready for tender. **Funding for this initiative will come from the M.D. of Willow Creek, M.D. of Ranchlands, and the Town of Nanton. Repayment will occur through an AHS lease, with construction beginning upon receipt of the signed lease.** A temporary clinic and lab will be set up next to the post office.
- **Treated water line from the Town of High River to Nanton:** A grant application has been submitted to the **Provincial Government for a water for life grant** to support this project. Once approved, this water line will ensure a reliable source of treated water, providing certainty in quality and quantity for years to come.
- **Maximizing unused space at the recreation centre (THRC):** Plans drafted years ago include a new council chambers and relocating town administrative offices to the upper level of the THRC. A grant from the province in 2021 facilitated the construction of the new council chambers. Plans for relocating the town office are on hold until a decision is made regarding the existing town office — **selling it or securing a long-term tenant** will help fund the new offices.

In other updates, the budget for 2024 will commence with a committee of the whole meeting on Feb 26. Anyone interested in this year's taxation budget is welcome to attend the meeting in person or watch the live-stream online, with the recording available on YouTube or Facebook. Discussions are ongoing about options for branch and compost collection, with plans to reopen in the spring. With the potential for a severe drought this summer, water conservation will be a primary focus in the coming months. Lastly, Coffee with Council is set to resume this spring, and dates and locations will be announced soon. Stay tuned!

Stay well,

Mayor Jennifer Handley