

Town of Saltcoats

Information Packet 2025

This information packet includes the results of the 2025 Public Information Questionnaire and other remarks.

Please feel free to take a copy from the Town Office or you can find a copy on our website as of Tuesday, October 21st, 2025.



Photo of Saltcoats School & Town Hall, 1915

Communication Committee
Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025
Presenter: Councillor Chad Waloschuk

Good evening, everyone.

As Warren and Cindy mentioned, tonight's meeting is all about **transparency, community engagement, and shaping the future of Saltcoats together.**

I'm **Councillor Chad Waloschuk**, and I chair the **Communications Committee**. Our committee's goal is simple — to make sure important information about your town is shared clearly, consistently, and through the channels that work best for you.

We're responsible for how the Town connects with residents — everything from notices, bylaws, newsletters to social media and general community updates.

If you're ever looking for the latest happenings, announcements, or event information, you can find them posted on the Town's official website or the **Town of Saltcoats Facebook page**.

However, it's important to note that these platforms are for **information sharing only**. The Town does not engage through online comments or social media messages. If you need to contact someone, ask a question, or report an issue, please do so **by phone, by email, or in person** at the Town Office. This ensures your inquiry is received properly and responded to by the right person.

We're also tasked with finding better ways to listen to your feedback and keep two-way communication open between Council and the public — but always through the proper and respectful channels.

Community Feedback Survey

Ahead of tonight's meeting, we sent out a community questionnaire asking three main things:

1. What topics you'd like to hear about tonight
2. What future developments or initiatives you'd like to see
3. How you prefer to receive Town updates going forward

Here's a quick summary of what you told us:

Common Topics of Interest

It's clear that residents want updates on **Town projects and financials**, improvements to **parks and green spaces**, and more **clarity around property maintenance and bylaws**.

Several people also asked about **lake development, regional park repairs, and recreation options** around town. All these topics will be expanded upon this evening by members of Council to answer your questions.

Community Priorities

Many respondents emphasized continued efforts in **beautification** — trees, trails, and maintaining public spaces – while also encouraging all residents to maintain their own properties to keep Saltcoats looking clean and beautiful.

It's also great to hear that there is a strong interest in **waste reduction, recycling options, new community events**, and the ever-important **volunteer opportunities**.

Preferred Communication Methods

It's encouraging to see that the most popular channels for receiving information are **email and Facebook**, followed by the **Town website**.

This committee, along with the Town Office staff, has worked hard over the past several years to improve these digital forms of communication - and it's great to see them being used.

This gives us a clear direction moving forward:

We'll continue strengthening our **online presence** while still providing **paper options** for those who prefer them. With the recent instability of standard mail delivery, it's good to know there are other alternatives for receiving information.

Waste and Recycling Services

Another key topic that came up in feedback was **waste and recycling**.

Council recently passed **Bylaw 03-2025**, which set the updated rate that took effect **July 1st, 2025**.

Here's a brief overview:

- **Residential:** \$21 per quarter for recycling and \$39 per quarter for waste collection.
- **Commercial:** \$39 per quarter for recycling, with waste collection rates ranging from \$39 for small businesses to \$425 for larger facilities such as care homes.

In addition to curbside collection, the **community waste bins** on High Street remain available for **large-item waste** (no household waste) and **scrap steel**.

Please ensure that all materials are placed inside the designated bins — **steel in the steel bin** and **big items in the waste bin**. If you need assistance in placing your items inside the bin, please contact the Town Office as we are more than happy to help.

Please note that **construction materials and tree branches are not permitted** in these bins.

Continued or deliberate misuse may result in their removal and/or fines being issued.

During the summer months, an **additional large-item bin** is placed in this area to help with **grass clippings, garden waste, and seasonal cleanup**.

As a direct result from the survey, Council is also discussing the possibility of introducing a

garden and yard debris pickup program. Details of this will be shared once more information is available.

These efforts are aimed at keeping our community **clean, safe, and accessible** for everyone, while maintaining efficient waste management practices.

Closing Remarks

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey or attend tonight's meeting. Your feedback directly shapes how we communicate and plan for Saltcoats' future.

Our committee will continue working on ways to **improve communication, increase engagement, and ensure every resident's voice is heard.**

If you have ideas or want to get involved with a **volunteer committee**, please come speak to one of us after the meeting or contact the Town Office — we'd love to have your input.

Thanks again for coming out tonight.

Next Councillor:

Finance and Cemetery

Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025

Presenter: Mayor Kirby Buchinski

Finance

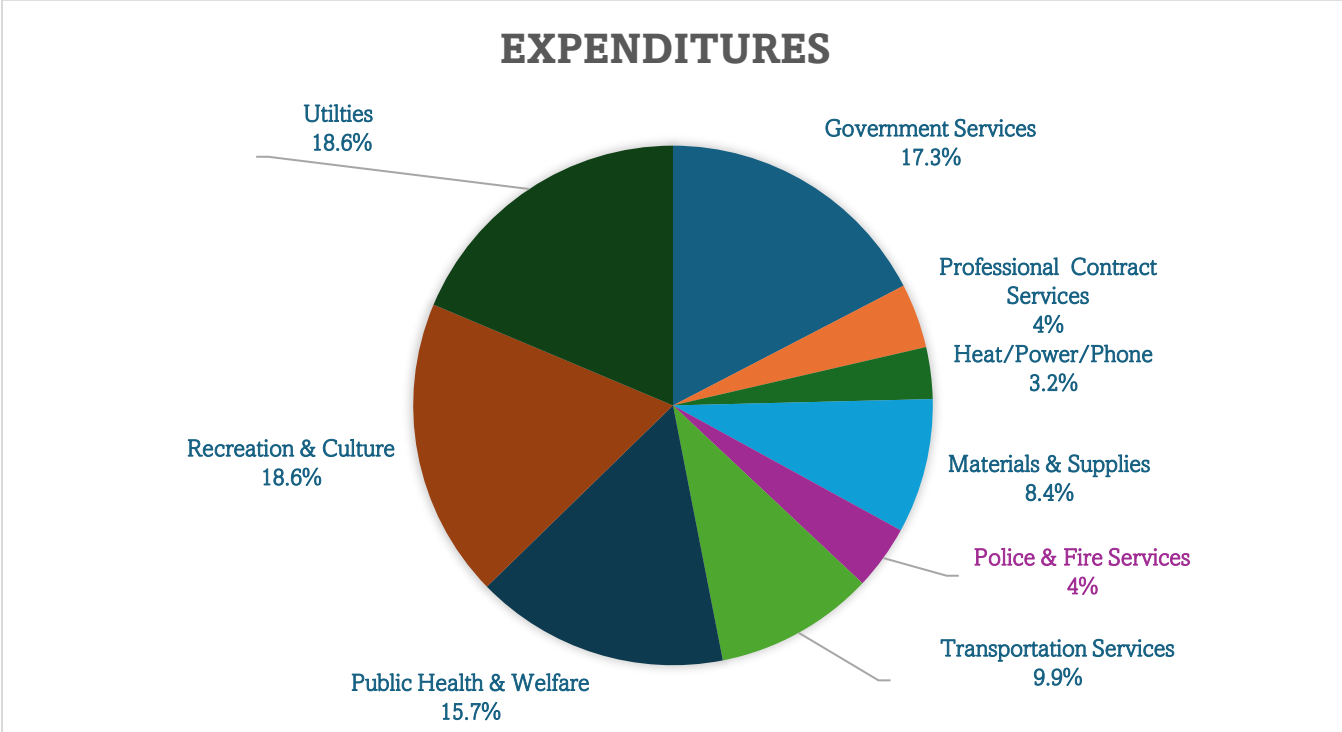
My first topic for the evening is finance. With this, I wanted to give a quick explanation on taxes and the process in which taxes are determined.

SAMA (Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency) provides each property with an assessed value. The Town has no control over this value. As a resident, if you don't agree with your assessed value, you are able to appeal it within the legislated time to have it reviewed. The Town sets a **mill rate** and a **base tax** each year by developing a bylaw to meet the Town's financial needs. Once this bylaw is developed, the mill rate is applied to the taxable assessment. This, along with the base tax, is what creates your **municipal taxes**.

The **school tax** works the same as the municipal mill rate; however, the Town does not set this rate. It is provided by the **provincial government**, and once applied to the taxable assessed value, the school tax is determined.

The second part of my finance discussion is to give everyone a bit of understanding of what tax dollars go towards, and what other income the Town has.

The chart provided show the percentage breakdown of the Town's expenditures.



Just to explain a few of these:

Government Services & Professional Contract Services include:

Administration wages, CPP, EI, Workers' Compensation, SUMA fees, SAMA fees, insurance, legal fees, tax enforcement, office and computer supplies, advertising, and auditor fees.

Utilities cover the costs to operate our water distribution, treatment and wastewater systems, training as per WSA, including heat and power, and the loan payments for the water treatment plant and lagoon.

Heat, Power and Phone cover the cost for all Town-owned and operated buildings, except the rinks, fire hall, and water plant.

Transportation Services includes wages (Administration and Public Works), vehicles, fuel repairs, road materials, road salt, annual paving, O.H.&S. training, and the shop loan.

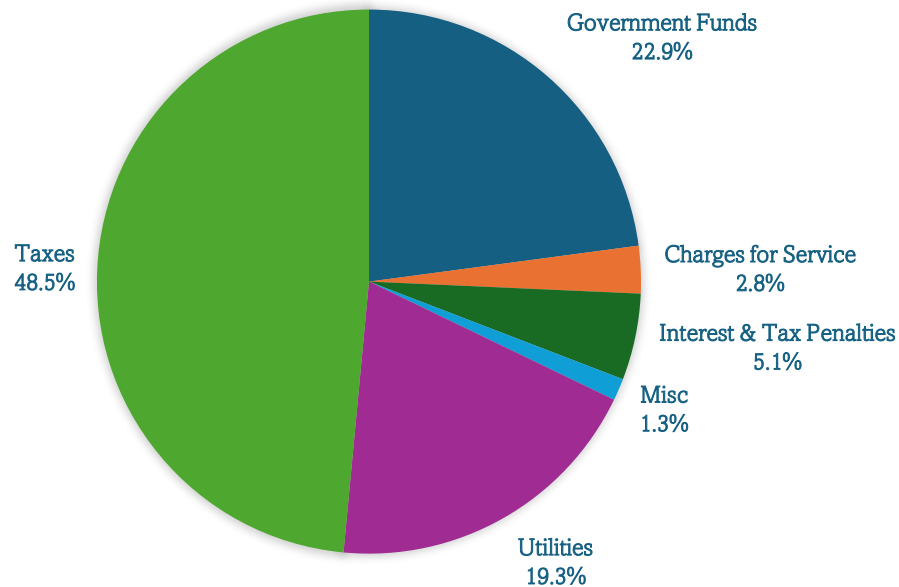
Police and Fire Services include everything from the RCMP contract costs to training courses for our Volunteer Fire Department members.

Revenue

As for revenue, the large majority comes from **municipal taxes and utility accounts**.

The chart shows a breakdown of where the Town's revenue comes from.

REVENUE



As you can see, more than **77% of the revenue** is generated from taxpayers, while **23%** comes in the form of grants, revenue sharing, gas tax, and rebates. Also included in that 23% are contributions from the RM for building insurance and their portion of the Fire Department's costs. There is also a **\$10,000 contribution** from the RM of Wallace for providing fire services in their area.

Budget Overview

From an overall budget standpoint, the Town's operating revenues are **\$1,366,909**, and the budgeted expenses are **\$1,324,556**, leaving a **projected surplus of just under \$40,000**.

At the end of the year, when the books are audited, the actual surplus is transferred into reserves. The amounts that go into each reserve are determined by a motion of Council. This is where we consider items such as **RO membranes, Town equipment, and infrastructure needs**. During 2024, with the paving project, the Town received the loan funds in one lump sum. While the paving project wasn't fully completed until earlier this month, that money has been in our bank account in a redeemable term, collecting interest. This interest helped drive our **2024 surplus more than \$150,000**. Some of that money will be transferred to reserves, while a portion helped fund the paving of Tupper Street.

Current Loans

- **Paving:** Paid off in 2039
 - **Water Treatment Plant:** Paid off in 2046
 - **Lagoon:** Paid off in 2044
 - **Town Shop:** Should be paid off in about 8 years
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Town of Saltcoats Cemetery

After not hiring a designated groundskeeper, Public Works has taken over cemetery duties. This is done through the hiring of an additional seasonal position, which also assists within the Town as needed throughout the summer.

The **Cemetery Advisory Committee** has been busy fundraising for improvements and has completed many projects over the past few years. One of the current issues is the **need for water**. Volunteers currently plant, water, and maintain the gardens, but obtaining water remains a challenge. The Town currently provides water in containers each week; however, we are looking at alternate methods to help ease this burden on the volunteers.

The main income for the cemetery is **donations and plot sales**. Plots cost **\$500** — of which, **\$150** is put into reserves for future work and development, and the remaining **\$350** is used for upkeep and maintenance. Any costs above this are covered through the Town's annual budget. Prior to the sale of the Town pasture, a portion of the land was **subdivided** to allow room for future expansion, should the need ever arise.

Saltcoats Historic Cemetery Rejuvenation Fund

The Cemetery Advisory Committee recommended an ambitious program of **cemetery rejuvenation** in 2019 and received Council approval to proceed. Despite COVID and several changes in Town administrative staff, a financial campaign was launched. A goal of **\$40,000** was set and to date is sitting at **\$31,268.26**.

The **“old round house”** has been repaired and repurposed to be a **Visitor Centre**, new mapping was completed, and ten area maps will be installed in early spring of 2026. Serentiy Park has been enlarged and trees planted. **Many of these trees are designated as memorials**. Serentiy Park serves as a scattering garden (for ashes following cremation), but also as a **place for quiet contemplation and for remembering**.

Personnel/Office Committee
Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025
Presenter: Councillor Shirley Pearson

Good evening, everyone and thank you so much for coming.

Tonight, I'm going to share some information about the folks who look after our Town.

I have a chart I want to show you which displays the formal organization for the **Town of Saltcoats**.

It shows your **elected officials**, which are the **Mayor** and **Councillors**.

It also shows the people who are **employed and paid by the Town**, including:

- the **Chief Administrator Officer (CAO)**,
- the **Town Foreman**,
- the **Administrative Assistant**,
- the **Assistant Foreman**,
- our **Public Works Labourer**, and
- our **Community Caretaker**

However, what this chart **does not show** are the many others who also work tirelessly for the good of our community.

The folks who **volunteer their time, energy, and resources** to make the **Town of Saltcoats** a better place to live.

Did you know there are **nine volunteer groups** registered with the Town?

And did you also know there are **ten committees** appointed by Council ?

Beyond these 19 formal groups, there are many others who contribute in meaningful ways.

Groups such as:

- the **Lake Town Leaders**,
- **Laketown Players**,
- the **students and teachers** from our local school, and
- the **many local businesses** who come to help – bringing their **machines, equipment, and employees** to support community projects whenever needed.

All of these groups and individuals **play an important role in the life of our town**, helping make Saltcoats the welcoming and vibrant community that it is.

And then there are the folks who may not be part of any specific group but are **always willing to lend a hand** whenever help is needed.

This is our team — the team that works together to make the Town of Saltcoats a great place to live, work and raise our families.

It is truly an honour and privilege as councillors to be a part of this incredible team.

Thank you to everyone for all that you do.

Saltcoats District Regional Park
Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025
Presenter: Councillor Shirley Pearson

Did You Know?

Back in 1962, the RM of Saltcoats No. 213, the Town of Saltcoats, the RM of Wallace No. 243, and the Town of Bredenbury applied to the Province of Saskatchewan under the *Regional Parks Act of 1960* to establish and operate a regional park. The application was successful, and the park was to be known as **Saltcoats District Regional Park (SDRP)**.

The original Park Authority (Board) was formed with representation from the four municipalities. Those forming the first authority were **William John Neal, Joseph Laycock, Wilford Thorsness, Andrew T. Louney and Samuel Keith Thorsness**.

Over the years, the four founding municipalities have decreased to **two participating municipalities** — the RM of Saltcoats No. 213 and the Town of Saltcoats.

The Regional Park is located on **NW 36-23-02 W2nd** in the RM of Saltcoats and is **owned by the Town of Saltcoats**.

Each year, by the end of January, the Town of Saltcoats appoints **five members** to the Park Board, and the RM appoints **two members**. Both municipalities contribute **\$6,000 per year** for park operations.

In my earlier presentation on Personnel and Office, I deliberately did not include the park as one of the appointed boards — even though it is. The reason for this, is that the relationship between the **Town** and the **Park Authority** is somewhat different than any other group or committee. This relationship is one of **Lessor and Lessee**.

The Park Authority **leases** the Regional Park from the Town. The current lease is for a term of **21 years**, which will be up for renewal November 1st, 2045.

Last 18 Months Improvements at the Park

The objective of the Park Authority is:

"To encourage the appreciation and use of the park with a view to making the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Saskatchewan available to the public."

Over the past **18 months**, four major undertakings have taken place:

- 1) A **new water well** was constructed and is operational, meeting all public health requirements.
- 2) The **parking lot** has been built up and water drainage improved, keeping it dry all summer, even after severe rain. I do need to express a special thank you to all who donated towards this project, as a total of **\$2,630 dollars** was raised because of your incredible generosity.
- 3) All **playground equipment** was inspected, and most of the risk-reduction recommendations have been implemented. Please note the playgrounds are **unsupervised** and are posted as such.
- 4) **Upgrades to the concession** which are currently underway include new LED lighting, major painting and cleaning and improved pest control. All will be completed before the park opening in **Spring 2026**.

These upgrades and improvements could not have happened without the help of **committed board members, local businesses, and volunteers**.

A sincere **thank-you** to all of you.

Community Involvement

Over the course of the years, both former and current Park Authorities have been approached by different community groups with new ideas for the park.

The latest group to approach the Park Board was the **Senior Ball Diamond Committee**. This committee came with a proposal to rebuild the senior diamond with the intent to bring ball back into the community. The plan presented was at **no cost to the park**, and the proposal was accepted unanimously.

The **Senior Ball Committee** organized their own fundraising events, secured sponsorships, and worked with local businesses to construct the diamond, sound booth, bleachers, and beer gardens.

If you visited the park this past summer, you would have seen the fruits of their labour — a **state-of-the-art senior ball diamond**, now known as **High Angle Field**.

This field operated as home to the **Saltcoats U18** and the **Senior Lakers** teams and was proud to host the **AA U18 Provincial Tournament**.

The Park Authority sincerely thanks the **Ball Diamond Committee** for their foresight, determination, and hard work in creating the beautiful **High Angle Field**, along with the sound booth, bleachers, beer gardens, and more which are now part of the **Saltcoats District Regional Park**.

Water Quality and Lake Concerns

Several survey questions were raised regarding the **water quality of Anderson Lake**.

The Park Authority itself has very limited control over the lake. The **Water Security Agency (WSA)** holds authority over the lake, and any plans that involve it must go through WSA for approval.

The Park Authority is always open to plans that can enhance the lake. If there are individuals or groups with the **time, resources, and interest** to develop a proposal and spearhead it, please bring it forward to the Park Board.

We welcome all ideas - just as we did with the Senior Ball Diamond Committee — while keeping in mind that the **financial and labour resources** of the Regional Park are extremely limited.

Boat Launch and Future Plans

One other question from the survey was regarding the **boat launch**. Yes, there is a plan to repair or replace it, but again this will depend on funding availability.

As a final note, the province has introduced a new **Regional Parks Sites Grant**, which the SDRPA has made application for.

If successful, this funding will be used to:

- Increase our number of **campsites by eight**, and
- Expand the park's **electrical capacity** for future development.

Closing Remarks

If you have any other questions about the **Saltcoats District Regional Park**, please feel free to ask me — I will do my best to provide answers.

Thank you for your time this evening.

Public Works: Equipment, Paving, Sidewalks, Ditching & Parking

Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025

Presenter: Councillor Braden Issel

Equipment

Public Works has received several complaints regarding the backup beeper on the payloaders. We understand these concerns; however, as per **Saskatchewan O.H.S regulations**, all **Powered Mobile Equipment (PME)** must be equipped with backup beepers — also called automatic audible warning devices — to protect workers and others from reverse movement.

Employers must ensure PME is equipped with a suitable warning device that automatically activates when the vehicle moves in reverse. This warning must be clearly audible above

workplace noise and provide workers and others with enough time to avoid the danger of moving equipment.

Paving

With the end of the 2025 summer season, Council is very pleased to announce that the **town-wide paving project** is now complete.

Public Works worked diligently with **Fedorowich Construction** during the project to identify areas that were in better shape than expected during the quoting process. The savings from those adjustments, along with interest collected on the project loan and an additional \$12,000, allowed the Town to pave the final street in town — **Tupper Street**.

As many may have noticed, the sign along High Street showing the total project total of **\$2.25 million** is the **final amount spent**, including interest over 15 years.

Sidewalks

Council and Public Works have been working to repair, remove, and replace sidewalks around town.

Council applied for an **SGI Grant** — the same grant previously used for the sidewalk in front of the school – but unfortunately was not successful this time. Sidewalk work was temporarily paused during the paving project, but plans are in place to repair the Town's portion of the sidewalk in front of the units along High Street.

During budget time, Council will be assessing additional areas where sidewalks require attention

Ditching

With the completion of the new streets in town, Public Works and Council can now move forward with additional **ditch maintenance and drainage improvements**.

The new streets allow water to run off the roads properly, and now we can focus on improving the flow of water through the ditch system around town

Parking

The Town has addressed the narrow driving lane on Commercial Street by switching from **angled parking** to **parallel parking**.

The change has proven successful, with the driving lane being much wider.

There are still a few areas in town where vehicles are not utilizing the reclaimed shoulders for parking. Council would like to remind residents that it's important to **park as far off the driving lanes as possible** to ensure appropriate access and safe travel throughout the community.

Recreation and Culture
Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025
Presenter: Councillor Valerie Brooks

For small communities like Saltcoats to not only survive but thrive, **recreation and cultural activities - and the infrastructure needed, play a crucial role.**

Communities that nurture and support art, sports, and leisure activities tend to have citizens who feel a stronger sense of belonging to the community and are therefore more active and engaged in their community.

This is very true for Saltcoats and is evidenced in the way the community comes together to host major cultural and sporting events and fundraisers.

To name a few:

- the recent improvements to the **Regional Park Ball Diamonds**,
- the **Annual Autumn Summit Cross-Country Race**, and
- the **Laketown Players Dinner Theatre**.

Our community boasts several facilities giving people the **opportunity to read and play** at the **local public library**, **learn to skate & play hockey**, or **join a curling league**.

We have several **volunteer boards and committees** that oversee these facilities and programs. Without this volunteer base, a town of 450 people would never be able to support a **Skating Rink, Curling Rink, Regional Park, Minor Ball Association, Library, Dinner Theatre**, and town **beautification projects**.

This is a **special community** with much to offer, and although we have many dedicated volunteers, these boards and committees are always happy to include more - **many hands make light work**.

Please consider volunteering in some way if you can, because without volunteer labour and contributions, many of these programs and facilities would not exist.

Here's a short breakdown of each:

Skating Rink

Last year was a particularly busy season due to the Yorkton Kinsmen Arena closed for renovations.

In a four-month season, the rink hosted **over 10 games** and **approximately 100 hours of practice time**, which increased both kitchen revenue and exposure for our facility.

Did you Know?

- The **7 or 8 rink board volunteers** give **over 1,000 hours** of their time to improve and maintain this facility.
 - The **Skating Rink** runs a **balanced budget**, with expenses and revenue very closely balancing out each year.
-

Curling Club

Number of curlers:

- 40 Seniors
- 20 Men's League
- 16 Ladies League
- 36 After-School Curlers

Six bonspiels were held last season:

- Senior Bonspiel (18 rinks)
- Men's Bonspiel (15 rinks)
- Ladie's Bonspiel (12 rinks)
- Christmas Fun Spiel (12 rinks)
- Two School Bonspiels (12 rinks each)

Did You Know?

- Curling Club volunteers support the **Laketown Players Dinner Theatre** by running the bar as a fundraiser for the Curling Rink.
-

Library

The **Saltcoats Public Library** is a hub of activity.

It has **one paid staff member**, Librarian **Joan Michael**, along with **three substitute librarians** when needed. It is governed by a **Board of 10 Volunteers** and funded by the Town, with support from **two major fundraisers each year** and **grants** from the **Community Initiative Fund** for special programming.

It offers programs for all ages - shelves full of books, magazines, DVDs, audio books and video games — and activity play areas including a **new game table** purchased with funds from the **Saltcoats School Staff donation**.

Did You Know?

- The library hosts a **weekly coffee time** and **monthly adult events**, including a book club.

- It partners with the **Saltcoats Daycare** to provide books and host visits for the preschool children.
 - It hosts **FREE summer programs**, with **77 children enrolled** this past summer!
-

Beautification Committee

The **Beautification Committee** is a volunteer group of **10 members** who volunteer their time and talents to **plant and prune trees, plan, plant and maintain flower beds**, and work to make Saltcoats an aesthetically pleasing community.

Did you Know?

- The Committee was asked to do a segment on **CTV Yorkton local news** regarding their "**Historical Walking Tour**" held this summer that highlighted the **Metal Silhouette Project** — a project they spearheaded over the past few years - that displays the vibrant history of the Town of Saltcoats and surrounding area to residents and visitors accessible through the "**Pocket Sites**" app.
 - The funds used for many beautification projects comes from the **annual plant sale** held in conjunction with the **Town's Community Garage Sale** each June.
-

Minor Ball

Minor Ball had enough registrations to have **two Rally Cap Junior teams** and **one Rally Cap Senior team** this year, with a total of **34 players registered**.

The association purchased additional team equipment and played games against other local teams.

Did you Know?

- Many **local businesses** donated **time and money** to upgrade the **Regional Park Ball Diamonds** to create a ballpark that is now able to host high-level games and tournaments.
-

CP Rail/Fire Services

Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025

Presenter: Councillor Jared Bilan

Railway Crossing Concern

A concern that was brought forward to Council was the condition of the railway crossings entering and leaving town.

Council would like to inform citizens that CP rail performs seasonal and crossing surface maintenance. **CPKC (Canadian Pacific Kansas City)** is responsible for maintaining the crossing surface and warning systems to meet regulatory standards.

Residents can contact **CPKC** to report concerns about the condition of a crossing or to report unsafe conditions near a railway.

This is not maintenance that, as a Town, we can perform - but we can inform to get these issues resolved.

Fire Department

A small town's heart beats strongest in the selfless dedication of its citizens, and nowhere is that more evident than in our **Volunteer Fire Department**.

These individuals are not paid professionals; they are our neighbors, our friends, and our family. They are the essential safety net in our community.

- They do more than fight fires. - they are involved in safety education, community events, and fundraising efforts that knit our town closer together. They embody the spirit of service.
- They provide a crucial, high-level service that our small tax base might not otherwise afford. Their time and dedication are a gift that directly translates into a safer, more stable community for all of us.
- They host various events to raise funds, including **pancake breakfasts** and **vintage snowmobile races**. Every donation, no matter how small, helps purchase vital equipment - from turnout gear to updated communications systems.
- Along with the fundraising efforts from volunteers, the **Town and RM** have allocated necessary funds to **upgrade and repair the existing roof** on the Fire Hall.

This year, our Volunteer Firefighters have responded to three fire calls and **five motor vehicle accidents** in efforts to keep our community safe.

They have also been participating in extensive training, in efforts to have each volunteer reach specific skill levels.

This year the department has also received a **set of Jaws of Life** from the neighboring **Carrot River Department**, to get qualified and acquire the necessary equipment for **vehicle extraction operations**.

Thank you.

Bylaw Enforcement
Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025
Presenter: Councillor Miles Hutchings

The *Saskatchewan Municipalities Act* is the provincial legislation that provides the basic framework for the governance of most municipalities in Saskatchewan. It grants them “natural person powers,” allowing municipalities to act like a business unless legislation prohibits it. This Act enables municipalities to pass bylaws for purposes such as providing good government and services, controlling land development, setting local taxes, and maintaining public spaces — all while ensuring public participation and accountability.

Several other Acts also guide municipal operations, including *The Construction Codes Act* and *The Planning and Development Act*.

Together, these Acts allow Council to enact bylaws that serve as the foundational governing rules and regulations for municipalities. They establish operational procedures, decision-making structures, and member rights to ensure smooth, efficient, and consistent functioning.

Examples of Bylaws

- Zoning Bylaw
- Building Bylaw
- Nuisance Bylaw

Bylaws must be approved by the province before Council can enact them.

Bylaws also need to make sense — and be enforceable

Enforcement

Enforcement can be challenging. It is most effective when approached as a **collaborative process**, allowing Administration to remain reasonable and not “heavy-handed.”

A collaborative approach to enforcement — such as dealing with overgrown yards — can serve as a good example.

When considering enforcement, both the **extent** and **duration** of the infraction are taken into account:

- How long is the grass?
- How many days or months of growth is considered “too long”?

Grass that is a foot long or more, and has remained that way for a month, would generally be considered an infraction.

Enforcement Process

1. Initial Letter:

The Town first sends a letter requesting compliance. The letter advises that the grass length violates the bylaw and requires attention. A reasonable time frame — typically 15 days — is provided for the owner to take action.

2. Order to Remedy:

If compliance is not achieved after 15 days, an *Order to Remedy* may be issued.

Administration must allow a **minimum of 15 days** for the owner to either comply or appeal.

3. Appeal Period:

If appealed and the appeal is unsuccessful; the owner has **30 days** to appeal further to a court of law.

4. Town Action:

If the owner does not appeal, the final step would be for the Town to have the grass cut and bill the property owner for any costs incurred.

Doing work on a property due to non-compliance is always a **last resort**.

Conclusion

A collaborative, fair, reasonable, and legally sound approach can take **60 days or more** to resolve — even for a relatively simple infraction. More complex cases naturally take longer.

It might sometimes appear that infractions are being ignored or that no progress is being made — but that is rarely the case.

Proper bylaw enforcement simply **takes time**.

Community Development/Tax Enforcement **Public Information Meeting: October 21st, 2025** **Presenter: CAO Cindy Larson**

Community Planning and Development

I'd like to talk to you about **community planning and development** — specifically, opportunities for new businesses and residential construction.

Did you know that Saltcoats has a **bylaw providing tax incentives** for new construction of both business and residential properties?

If a developer approaches Council with a solid business plan for a new development, Council will work with them to secure suitable land. Once the business is built, the Town's **Tax Incentive Bylaw** provides a **50% reduction in municipal taxes the first year** and **25% the following year**.

This is how **Deer Creek Services** obtained the property on which a new shop will be erected next year, located on the former pastureland by the cemetery. This new business will help expand the local tax base.

The **Town of Saltcoats** currently has **five vacant properties for sale** within its boundaries. Anyone wishing to build a new home may come to Council with a reasonable offer and development plan for any of these properties. Even proposals for **multi-unit residential or seniors' housing complexes** would be welcomed, as Council is committed to supporting responsible growth that expands our tax base.

While Council prefers not to use municipal tax dollars to build apartments or multi-unit complexes directly, **private developers are encouraged** to pursue these projects — and would also qualify for the **two-year tax incentive** under the bylaw.

Tax Enforcement

Let's talk about **tax enforcement**.

Did you know the Town Office has worked very hard over the past five years to collect outstanding **tax arrears**?

In **2020**, arrears totaled **\$45,601.32** across **19 properties** — all of which were collected by **February 2025**.

As of today, the Town has **\$18,517.96** in outstanding taxes, spread across **just six properties** from the past three years.

The municipality must follow **The Tax Enforcement Act**, which outlines several time-sensitive steps to recover unpaid taxes:

1. A **List of Arrears** is presented to the Head of Council. Council has one opportunity at this stage to remove properties from the process if the arrears are less than half of that year's taxes.
2. The list is **advertised for 60 days**.
3. A **Tax Lien** is registered on the property through the Land Titles Office.
4. After 60 days, a **Six-Month Notice** is sent to the property owner.

5. After six months, a **Consent to Request Title** is submitted to the **Provincial Mediation Board**. They then work with the property owner to arrange payment. If no payments or arrangements are made, the Board may give consent for the Town to take title.
6. A **30-Day Final Notice** is issued.
7. The **Title** is transferred into the Town's name, and the property must be offered for sale by **tender or auction within one year**.

Since 2020, the Town has taken over **two properties** through this process. One is currently available for sale, and the other has been purchased — the new owner is in the process of cleaning it up and renovating.

If you're interested in any lots for sale, please call or visit the **Town Office** — we'd be happy to provide more information.

Thank you.