



GOPHER BITES



Town of Eston Newsletter

Reminder - NO WATER WEDNESDAYS

Election - Wednesday, November 13

The Municipal Election will be held on Wednesday, November 13 for Mayor and Councillors. Call for nominations starts Monday, September 16 and the final day for nominations is October 9, 2024. Find election information at eston.ca/2024-election/

Grass and Weeds

This has been a particularly challenging summer with the rain and heat and keeping up our yards. There are a number of properties in town that have an abundance of noxious weeds and these are a big concern. We ask that everyone do their best to look after not only your front yard but also your back yard. We are trying to keep up with sending letters to those who are not looking after them and if the Town needs to mow and trim, they will be billed for this service. Please be a good neighbor keep your yard tidy!

Thanks!

Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who donated to Lenard Ward's Fireworks for the Summer Bull-a-Rama. \$10,933.91 was raised for the event and Lenard used every penny to create the spectacular display.

Thanks & Farewell!

The Town of Eston is saying farewell to Erwil Gan and we thank him for his 6 years of service with us. We will miss his friendly face at the rink and his wave from the Zamboni. We wish him all the best!

Recreation /Public Works

With Erwil resigning, Public works will now be taking care of all green spaces; mowing, trimming and weed control including the recreation grounds. While Recreation will still maintain the diamonds, chalking and more intricate work at the fairgrounds.

Retirement

Eston & District Fire Department, Town of Eston and RM of Snipe Lake No 259 wish Lenard Ward all the best as he retires from the Fire Department. We thank him for his 47 years of service.

Register for Soccer GO!!

Register for soccer. Ages 5-12. Registration \$40. KidSport funding available. **Registration deadline August 23.** Season runs September to mid October.

Recreation Programming Update

This summer we were pleased to offer programming that was requested in our most recent survey.

Library - Tiny Tots: July 22-25 with an average of 9 participants
Sports Camp - July 8-11 - 18 participants

Introduction to Wrestling - July 13-14 - 6 participants

Gymnastics Camp - July 18-20 - 20 participants

Town Office & Library will be closed Monday, September 2 for Labor Day.

This is Us! Save the Date!

The Town of Eston and RM of Snipe Lake No 259 are co-operating in planning a "This is Us" event for Friday October 18. We want to acknowledge all that we have as a community and at the same time introduce newcomers to what we have and to welcome them here. We have an amazing community and we are thankful for each one who is part of it. More plans will be announced-watch our website and Facebook page. With your attendance, this can truly be a community event.

Landfill & Back Alleys

The landfill will continue operating summer hours throughout August and September. Make the most of it! Mon 9-4; Tue 9-1; Thu 12-7; Sat 9-4. For residents the disposal cost is \$0.10/kg or \$100/1000kg (1 tonne). For example, disposing of a couch would cost approximately \$8.50.

This fall the Town is launching an initiative to clean up backyards and alleys. The Public Works crew will start by addressing some of the worst alleys, focusing on dragging, leveling and drainage issues. This is an excellent opportunity to tidy up your back yard and remove any obstructions in the back alley to help facilitate their work.

Be a good neighbor! Keeping areas clean not only enhances appearances but also helps prevent issues with harbouring rats and mice

Summer Sports Camp

August 19- 22 from 1-5pm. Ages 5-7 and 8-10. Limit 20 kids per group. \$60/child. KidSport Funding available. **Registration deadline August 14**

- baseball
- floor hockey
- soccer
- football
- lacross
- swimming
- arts & crafts at the Library



Register at eston.ca/summer-programming

End of Summer Pool Party!

DATE: Saturday August 31; FREE SWIM; Hotdog Lunch \$5

Upcoming Events

Wed Aug 14 - Town Council Meeting - 7 pm Town Office

Thu Aug 15 - Eston Full Gospel Church VBS Pop Up - 1:30-3pm - Henry Hamilton Park

Aug 19-22 - Summer Sports Camp - AGT Community Centre

Aug 20-23- SCUBA Diving into Friendship with God- Full Gospel Church Camp ages 4-12

Sat Aug 31 - End of Summer Pool Party - Eston Lions Pool,

Town Office

Mon-Thurs: 9 am-12 & 1-5 pm; Fri: 10 am-12 & 1-5pm

Library

Mon-Tue & Thur: 2-5:30 pm; Wed: 2-8 pm; Fri: 10-noon & 3-5:30 pm

Landfill

Mon 9 am-4 pm; Tue 9 am-1 pm; Thu 12-7 pm; Sat 9 am-4 pm





Mid-Year Update

Town of Eston 2024 Strategic Priorities Highlights

As of July 2024

Planning

1. Pool: Most of the leaks have been repaired. Once the pool season ends,, we will conduct a core sample to assess the integrity of the concrete. This will assist council in making informed decisions. [In progress](#)
2. In-House Garbage Services: Starting in late fall or early winter, we will begin handling garbage and recycling collection internally. The reasons for the change include rising costs associated with Loraas and the damage caused by heavy trucks on our streets. Additionally, this will create a new job opportunity within our community. Loraas will pick up the collected the recycling from the NW. [In progress](#)
3. Back-Ally Enhancement Plan: We will begin by addressing the most deteriorated back alleys, using box dragging and other materials, and continue this work into 2025. [In progress](#)
4. Street Sweeping Plan: We have purchased brooms for the skid steer and plan to conduct street sweeping every Friday. [In progress](#)
5. We are formulating a five-year sidewalk plan that outlines which sidewalks will be replaced or removed according to the updated sidewalk policy. This plan will be reviewed annually. Exploring alterative approaches for road maintenance and addressing potholes. In progress of testing a few locations. [In progress](#)
6. Landfill: We are developing a plan for utilizing concrete at the landfill. [The concrete will be crushed into a product that can be sold and used internally. Complete](#)

Planning & Infrastructure

7. Finalizing the water meteres/endpoint project, with 20 units remaining for completion. [In progress](#)
8. Proceed with the sewer lining project, with an anjnual estimated budget of \$65,000. The Gas Tax Grant has been put on hold and in negotiations, we received the last payment of \$33,000 which will be allocated to the sewer lining project. [In progress](#)
9. Sidewalk repair and/or replacement at the lodge is planned for 2024. We aim to start in August so residents can enjoy the improvements. [In progress](#)
10. Fairground Project: We are adding two new ball diamonds and implementing an irrigation solution. A Celebrity Dinner is schduled for Saturday, April 13, 2024, to rais funds for ths initiative. [The dinner was a success, rasing over \\$80,000. The Fairground Project is now underway. In progress](#)
11. Investigate the potential need for boiler replacement at the AGT Community Centre. [In progress](#)
12. Landfill: Relocate the EcoCentre at the landfill to the concrete pad nearer to the scale house. [Complete](#)
13. Upgrade equipment in Transportation by replacing the Skid Steer and obtaining an additional mower. [Complete](#)
14. Provide care and attention to the parks, with a focus on improving irrigation system. This has been moved to 2025 due to time constrains, as rain, mowing, and weed control took up considerable time. [2025](#)

Serving the Community, Programming and Events

15. Explore and introduce fresh programming and camps in the recreation offerings. Wrestling, gymnastics, sports camps and a morning for tiny tots were offered this summer with gymnstics programming in the works for Eston. [Complete and always on-going](#)
16. Summer Bull Bash Minor Sports Day & Bull-a-Rama, a combined event with Town of Eston & District and the Rodeo Committee. Friday, June 14, 2024. [Complete](#)
17. Implement after-school programming in conjunction with the Library offerings. [In progress](#)
18. Additional Programming at the library tailored for both youth and adults. [In progress](#)
19. Continue to improve and update the website. [In progress](#)
20. Continue to educate, promote and share information to the community. [In progress](#)
21. Continue to seek and explore grant opportunities. [In progress](#)

Governance and Policy

22. Continue the Joint Governance Committee collaboration with the RM of Snipe Lake to assess joint bylaws. [In progress](#)
23. Evaluate and revise essential bylaws and policies across all departments. [In progress](#)
24. Collaborate on Joint Emergency Measures with the RM of Snipe Lake No 259. [In progress](#)
25. Initiate the revival of the Inter-Agency Group. [There was not enough interest to pursue this. May revisit at a later date.](#)