

## Town of Grand Coulee

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**From:** Town of Grand Coulee <grandcoulee.cap@sasktel.net>  
**Sent:** December 12, 2024 9:58 AM  
**To:** grandcoulee.cap@sasktel.net  
**Subject:** November and December have come to Town, bring on the winter !

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### TOWN OF GRAND COULEE

*YOUR FRIENDS LIVE HERE*

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### Message from the CAO

As we reach the end of 2024, the administration and staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all residents for your ongoing support, input, and

participation in our community. This year has brought several changes, including new staff in the Public Works Department and the retirement of our long-serving foreman, Jim. We are deeply grateful to Jim for his many years of dedicated service to our town. Thankfully, he continues to serve as our fire chief.

A special thank you goes to Whit and James for their excellent work in the Public Works Department—taking care of our roads, water, and parks. We also want to recognize our recreational coordinator, Crystal, who, along with our volunteers, has brought a variety of events and activities to our town. This year, we successfully ran a summer program for the first time in a long while, and our annual hoedown received wonderful feedback.

Our office assistant, Allison, deserves a big thank you for her outstanding work at the front desk, ensuring that utility bills are managed, phones are answered, and the office runs smoothly. Her support has been invaluable.

We also want to thank our council members, both new and departing. A special thanks to Ken for his dedicated service on the council, a role that requires significant responsibility and care for the community. To all council members who participated in the 2024 election, thank you for your commitment and energy in helping guide our community.

As I finish my third year as the CAO of Grand Coulee, I reflect on my deep connection to this town. Born and raised on a farm near Pense, not far from Grand Coulee, my father often spoke of his time spent here, and I have other relatives in the area. Working here keeps me close to home, and I am committed to ensuring our community thrives amidst an ever-changing economy and social landscape.

While we face challenges with roads, drainage, and growth, I see much positivity emerging from our community. Looking ahead to 2025, we have a wonderful council open to conversation and a dedicated staff. I encourage all residents to

continue providing feedback and thoughts. We plan to conduct another survey in the spring and greatly appreciate your input.

Regarding our roads, at the December 10th meeting, the council voted to proceed with a referendum. My task now is to finalize the details. Please stay tuned for dates and times in the early part of the new year, ensuring you have the opportunity to voice your opinions. We hope for a strong community response to guide us clearly.

Once again, have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

## Council meeting update

During the most recent Council meetings, several key items were discussed:

1. Roads, Referendum was approved, watch shortly for updates
2. Rink Park Issues: Council discussed ongoing issues at Rink Park, including cracking walkways and the seating bench pulling away from the path. A meeting with the associated engineers (AE) will be requested to address these concerns and seek long-term solutions.
- 3.. Puck Board for Skating Rink: Council agreed to install a puck board around the skating rink to assist with ice flooding and protect the rink structure from damage during use.
- 4.. Winter Garbage Placement: As part of winter preparation, residents are reminded to place their garbage bins on the road itself to avoid damage to the edges of the roads from the garbage pick up truck

5. Snow fencing - to be placed on the North of Saskatchewan Avenue and snow ridges to be used in the other areas. To be reviewed on the effectiveness, snow fence is to use best practices as presented by Council Ramsay. Policy is being rewritten and brought to the January 28th , 2025 meeting
6. Council remuneration - Public notice is being given that Council remuneration bylaw will be discussed at the January 14, 2025 meeting.
7. CHIF Grant - Council approved the CAO to contract AE to apply for the Grant to help upgrade our lagoon system, for growth of our town in line with the Strategic Plan
8. RFP going out for Garbage and Recycle curbside service for the town as the contract with Loraas is done in March 2025
9. Policy was passed for the security camera and monitoring at the Rink Shack.

## **Protecting Our Sewer System: The Hidden Dangers of Improper Disposal**

During the first week of December, our town experienced a significant sewer backup that required immediate attention. Our foreman was called out late at night to address the issue, which led to the need for our sewer line to be jetted and the lift station to be hydro-vacuumed again. This incident highlights the critical importance of proper disposal practices for all residents.

### **The Cost of Improper Disposal**

The after-hours call, additional hydro-vacuuming, and potential for further damage are costly. These expenses are ultimately borne by every household in our town. Moreover, improper disposal can lead to the breakdown of lift station pumps, further increasing maintenance costs and the risk of sewer backups. Depending on the severity, costs can range from \$2,000 for a call-out to over \$10,000 for pump repairs or replacements.

## Common Culprits

Items such as bacon fat, grease, lard, cooking oils, and other fat renderings from meats, when poured down the sink, solidify in the sewer lines. These substances act like glue, attracting hair, skin, and food particles, which can accumulate and cause blockages. In the recent sewer main backup, arm-length collections of grease pockets were found to be the primary culprit.

Additionally, adult diapers, cloth, and other unusual items have been found in the sewer drains. These items can clog the grinders at the lift station, requiring the station to be shut down for maintenance. Removing these blockages is time-consuming and costly, potentially leading to more severe issues if not addressed promptly.

## How You Can Help

To prevent future incidents and reduce costs, please follow these guidelines:

- **Dispose of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) properly:** Let them cool and solidify, then dispose of them in the trash.
- **Use strainers in sinks:** Catch food particles and dispose of them in the trash.
- **Avoid flushing non-degradable items:** Items like wipes, paper towels, adult diapers, feminine products, and cloth should never be flushed down the toilet.

By adopting these simple practices, we can all contribute to a healthier, more efficient sewer system and avoid unnecessary costs and disruptions.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping our town's sewer system running smoothly.

**Garbage and Recycle Calendar**

### **CUSTOMER PORTAL!!!!**

We are pleased to inform you that starting in September, you will be able to access

your utility bills, receipts, and tax notices online through our new Customer Portal. This new service will allow you to easily view and manage your municipal documents at your convenience. You can also begin now, if you so choose.

If you have already signed up to receive eNotices for your utility bills, receipts, or tax notices, you are automatically registered as a user on the Customer Portal. However, the first time you access the portal, you will need to register as a new user to set up your login information.

**To get started:**

1. Visit our Customer Portal LOGIN page. [Click here to go to the customer portal](#)
2. Under "NEW CUSTOMERS REGISTER HERE," enter the following information:
3. Name : (your name)
4. Customer Number
5. Email (this must be the same email address you used to sign up for eNotices)
6. Create a password (minimum of 8 characters) and re-enter it to confirm.
7. Click the REGISTER button to complete the process.

Once registered, you will be directed to your Customer Portal Dashboard. Going forward, you can access the portal by simply entering your email and password under "RETURNING CUSTOMERS SIGN IN HERE."

If you forget your password, you can reset it using the "FORGOTTEN USERNAME OR PASSWORD" utility at the bottom of the LOGIN page.

We will notify you via email whenever a new bill or notice is available for you to review, similar to notifications from SaskPower.

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**Upcoming  
Regular meetings**

January 14, 2025

**Town Council**

Council is Always interested in hearing your thoughts about our community.

January 28, 2025

**Current office**

**hours** : 8:30 am to  
4:30pm

**CLOSED**

Doors to the office  
will be closed on the  
following dates:

**Closed for  
Christmas**

Office is closed  
December  
24, at noon  
December 25, 26 &  
27th  
January 1, 2025

Contact us : <https://grandcoulee.ca/home/contact-us/>

Mayor Lee-Ann Ross : [Mayor@grandcoulee.ca](mailto:Mayor@grandcoulee.ca)

Councillor Walter Botkin:

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Councillor Doug

Ramsay: [dougramsay@grandcoulee.ca](mailto:dougramsay@grandcoulee.ca)

Councillor Makenzie Peters:

[mpeters@grandcoulee.ca](mailto:mpeters@grandcoulee.ca)

Councillor Ryan

Harkness [rharkness@gradncoulee.ca](mailto:rharkness@gradncoulee.ca)

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