

2016 Year in review

 The City of
SPRUCE GROVE



VISION STATEMENT

OUR VISION

As outlined in Building an Exceptional City, the City's 2015–2035 Strategic Plan, the vision for the future of Spruce Grove is that it is the best place to live, to raise an active, healthy family and to grow a strong, successful business.



Where people choose to live:

A dynamic city with an exceptional quality of life

Through high quality municipal services, Spruce Grove is a safe, dynamic urban centre with an exceptional quality of life and is a welcoming regional gathering place



Where people choose to raise a family:

A leading leisure, recreation and sports community

Spruce Grove provides exceptional, diverse and high quality leisure, recreation and sports opportunities, complemented with a respected arts and culture environment



Where people choose to grow a business:

A strong, diversified regional business

Through innovative and supportive business development, Spruce Grove is a prosperous, self-sustaining regional economic home to competitive, successful commercial and industrial companies

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to build an exceptional city through innovation, leadership and committed public service.

OUR CORE VALUES

These values guide our commitment to moving forward as an organization to realize our vision for the future of Spruce Grove:

- Leadership
- Openness and responsiveness
- Service excellence
- Accountability
- Honesty and integrity

OUR UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- Sustainability through sound economic development
- Leadership in affordable quality service delivery
- Affordability through prudent fiscal management
- Leadership in collaboration to ensure best value for all
- Building a complete community for all

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Stuart Houston



Spruce Grove is a city that I am not only proud to represent as your mayor, but I am also very proud to call home. And I know that my colleagues on Spruce Grove City Council feel very much the same way. It's why our 20-year strategic plan for the community focuses on how we can build an exceptional city. It's our vision for the future of Spruce Grove, which is that we are the best place to live, to raise an active healthy family and to grow a strong, successful business.

In our annual Year in Review, you'll be able to see some of our many accomplishments from last year that are moving us closer to achieving this vision for Spruce Grove. But you don't have to just take my word for it. We'll also be introducing you to three local families and sharing their stories about why they have decided to live and work in Spruce Grove.

First, we have our newcomers to Spruce Grove – the Camilleri family. They recently moved here from a smaller northern Alberta town and have quickly settled in to the rhythm of life in our city. With two school-aged children and a toddler, they are enjoying the range of what Spruce Grove has to offer. They truly believe Spruce Grove is the best place to live.

Then we have our new parents, Matt and Kate Romphf. These two have lived in Spruce Grove for most of their

lives and when they decided to start a family, there was no doubt in their minds about where they would raise their children. With a busy toddler and a new baby on the way later this year, they firmly believe Spruce Grove is the best place to raise a family.

Local business owner Ken Turlock, who is one half of the duo behind Perks Coffee House, thinks Spruce Grove was a perfect spot to open up shop. Through hard work and with the support of the community, he has been able to expand his business, while also supporting a variety of local events and causes. He knows Spruce Grove is the best place to grow a business.

These three stories show that we are doing what we set out to achieve with the City's strategic plan. We also know there are many more stories like this in our city and we are very proud of all of them, for they are truly our motivation to continue moving forward.

There's no question that building an exceptional city is a lofty goal, but we are already seeing results as we work towards our long-term vision for Spruce Grove and I am confident we will continue to move forward with purpose, intention and commitment in creating a community we are all proud to call home.



CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Robert Cotterill

On behalf of the City of Spruce Grove, I am pleased to present our 2016 Year in Review, which highlights many of the City's accomplishments and our financial position from last year.

As a municipality, we align all our projects, initiatives and even our day-to-day operations with the vision that is outlined in our strategic plan, Building an Exceptional City, which is that Spruce Grove is the best place to live, to raise an active, healthy family and to grow a strong, successful business. This strategic plan is intended to guide and inform the City's future for a 20-year planning horizon, but it's also used on an annual basis so we can move forward with purpose and intention. Spruce Grove City Council developed and approved this plan only a few years ago, and already we are seeing the benefits of this approach.

Despite the challenges that have come with the current economic situation, we are experiencing growth and continue to provide residents with quality service levels. We are managing our resources in a way that has allowed us to open new facilities like the Border Paving Athletic Centre (see page 52), make enhancements to our transit service (see page 55) and work on revitalizing our city centre (see page 68), without putting unreasonable pressure on our ratepayers.

This success comes from the collaborative and respectful working relationship that exists between council members and City Administration. Council sets the big picture vision, which Administration uses to create the annual corporate plan, which is our guiding document for governance, community development and service delivery. In a sense, it's our "how to" manual for taking council's vision for Spruce Grove and applying it to everything we do, from major construction projects, like building a new water reservoir (see page 57) or our first modern roundabout (see page 54) to the daily tasks of operating a city, such as street sweeping and waste collection.

I am both continually impressed and very proud of the work that has been done to implement council's vision for Spruce Grove. A selection of these accomplishments is highlighted in this Year in Review and I would encourage you to take a look at what we achieved in 2016.

And while it's important to recognize our successes, I'm also looking ahead to what we have planned for 2017 and I'm excited about what's on the horizon. With the leadership and support from council and the dedication and expertise of our staff, I am very confident that we will achieve great strides on our journey to make Spruce Grove a vibrant, innovative and exceptional city.

CITY PROFILE

The City of Spruce Grove is a vibrant, dynamic community of more than 34,000 people. Located just 11 kilometres west of Edmonton, the City offers housing options for everyone, excellent schools, sports, culture, and recreation facilities and a mix of businesses ranging from national retailers, locally owned shops, restaurants and professional services.



The City's plans, services and ongoing operations are carried out by a workforce of more than 300 employees who are overseen by three general managers and a Chief Administrative Officer who reports to Spruce Grove City Council.

Mayor and Council

The City of Spruce Grove is governed by an elected council of a mayor and six aldermen. Spruce Grove City Council is responsible for identifying the overall vision for the community and developing a long-term strategic plan for the city. Council also reviews and approves new or amended policies, procedures, and bylaws and approves the annual corporate plan, which is the City's principal guiding document for providing residents with a high quality of life at an affordable rate, while also staying the strategic course of municipal economic sustainability.

Corporate Office

The Corporate Office includes the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) who is responsible for the overall administration of the City of Spruce Grove and provides a key administrative leadership role to the organization. The CAO acts as a liaison between Spruce Grove City Council and Administration and ensures the implementation of City policies and programs. Corporate Communications and Economic and Business Development are also part of this area. Corporate Communications leads communications planning and consulting, branding and visual identity, writing and editing, issues management and media relations for the organization and supports the communication needs of other departments within the City. Economic and Business Development is responsible for facilitating programs and services intended to help local businesses prosper and grow, and attract new business and investment to Spruce Grove.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services is comprised of several areas: Asset Management, City Clerk's Office, Corporate Planning, Finance, Human Resources and Information Systems. The focus of Corporate Services is legislative and policy administration, information management, insurance and legal administration, election/census administration, financial and capital management, budget and reporting, corporate planning administration, asset management coordination, customer service

program coordination, website/database/City network administration, technical support, GIS administration, human resource management, labour and employee relations.


Community and Protective Services

Community and Protective Services is comprised of several areas: Family and Community Support Services and Social Planning, Recreation Services, Cultural Services, Protective Services and RCMP administration. Responsibilities include preventative social programming, counselling, indoor and outdoor facility management, open space planning, community events, Horizon Stage, volunteer development, Enforcement Services and integrated Fire/EMS. In addition, Community and Protective Services works as the City's administrative liaison to the Spruce Grove Public Library, RCMP Officer in Charge, TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre, Specialized Transit Service, Yellowhead Regional Library and Allied Arts Council, and facilitates a number of boards and committees including the Community Police Advisory Committee, Horizon Stage Theatre Advisory Board and the Joint Use Committee.

Planning and Infrastructure

Planning and Infrastructure is responsible for approvals and permits relating to construction of homes and businesses, urban planning, relations with the land development industry, long-term capital works planning, project management and construction, the monitoring of construction of new infrastructure by private interests, and the ongoing maintenance of most of the City's traditional servicing infrastructure and physical assets. It also manages long-range planning, community visioning, and defining and implementing the City's Sustainable Development Initiative. Furthermore, it is responsible for providing a number of primary services through contact arrangements, including commuter transit service, solid waste and recyclable materials collection, and all building, plumbing, electrical and gas inspections for new construction.

2016 SNAPSHOT



POPULATION
33,640

TOTAL
HOUSEHOLDS:
12,650

ONE YEAR
POPULATION
GROWTH:

5%

94%
OF RESIDENTS
WOULD
RECOMMEND
SPRUCE GROVE AS
A PLACE TO LIVE

**33.3
YEARS** AVERAGE AGE OF
SPRUCE GROVE
RESIDENTS

301
GARBAGE
RECEPTACLES



CURBSIDE COLLECTIONS (TONNES)

ORGANICS: **2,889**
RECYCLING: **2,384**
WASTE: **6,883**

1,482 KITCHEN
CATCHERS
DISTRIBUTED

ANNUAL
INCREASE
IN TRANSIT
RIDERSHIP:
4.3%

6
NEW
TRANSIT
BUSES

90,371 
TOTAL TRANSIT RIDERS



SPRUCE GROVE
ENFORCEMENT SERVICES
RESPONSES:

8,354



INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO BY
SPRUCE GROVE FIRE SERVICES
(WITHIN SPRUCE GROVE):

2,560



405,435

WEBSITE
VISITS



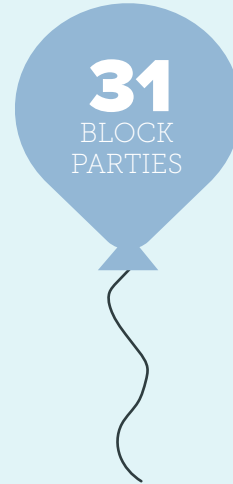
6,047 FACEBOOK FANS



5,035 TWITTER FOLLOWERS



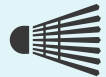
490 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



31
BLOCK
PARTIES

TOTAL HOURS OF DROP-IN
RECREATION PROGRAMS

526



325

TREES PLANTED

1,124

FIRE HYDRANTS

399

GARAGE SALES PROMOTED
THROUGH THE
CITY'S GARAGE SALE
ADVERTISING PROGRAM



HOUSING STARTS: **380**

TOTAL BUILDING PERMITS: **812**

TOTAL BUILDING PERMIT VALUE: **\$114M**

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS: **783**

TOTAL SAFETY CODE PERMITS: **2,878**

ACTIVE BUSINESSES LICENSED: **1,368**

9,873

TICKETS SOLD FOR
HORIZON STAGE
SEASON PERFORMANCES



Where people choose to live



Meet the Camilleri family

After living in a small town in northern Alberta for more than a decade, pulling up your roots and planting them in a new, larger city can be an intimidating prospect.

But after moving to Spruce Grove from Fox Creek less than a year ago, Brandi Camilleri says her family feels right at home in their new community.

“We have always loved the feel of Spruce Grove,” says Brandi, who lives in the Lakewood neighbourhood with her husband Erick and children Janelle, Jeremy and Julia. “We feel like we are still in a smaller community, but with all the amenities of a city, which is a perfect fit for our family.”

When they started looking for a new place to call home, Erick says that Spruce Grove quickly checked off many of the boxes.

“I have family who live in both Stony Plain and Edmonton and Brandi would be closer to her family, who live in Coronation, so Spruce Grove was definitely ideal in terms of location,” he said. Plus, they are still close enough to Fox Creek where their oldest son Jesse, who graduated last year, continues to live.

They also liked the educational and recreational opportunities that were available for their children. Brandi says they specifically decided to move over the summer months so both Janelle, 15, and Jeremy, 13, could start the school year in Spruce Grove – especially with Janelle entering high school.

“I’ve made a lot of new friends and have really enjoyed the extra options that were available to me at school, like a sports medicine class I took,” says Janelle, who

“ We really enjoy living in a city that provides all the things we need and want, without losing that feeling of community. It’s truly the best of both worlds. – Brandi Camilleri ”

attends Spruce Grove Composite High School. She also joined a rugby team, which was a totally new experience for her.

Jeremy, who started Grade 7 at Greystone Centennial Middle School, quickly got involved in many school sports, even playing hockey as an option at school.

“There are so many cool things to do here,” says Jeremy, “both at school and when I’m with my family and friends on the weekend.”

And, of course, there are all the amenities that come with living in a larger, urban centre.

“There are so many options here,” laughs Brandi. “Coming from a smaller community, we had less choices and we had to travel for many things. Now, we love the variety of stores, restaurants, services and entertainment options that are literally outside our front door.”

A favourite destination for the family is the TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre.

“We love it there,” says Erick. “We can all go together, but do what we enjoy, whether it’s working out, playing basketball, skating, swimming or attending an event.”

The local movie theatre is also a popular spot for a date night for Brandi and Erick, or an evening out for Janelle and Jeremy with their friends.

This past winter, the family made good use of the outdoor rink in their neighbourhood and also enjoyed skating under the lights at Central Park.

“We’re an active family and Spruce Grove has such a great variety of parks, trails and playgrounds,” says Brandi. “We love getting outside and going for a walk or bike ride.”

Brandi has also enjoyed participating in a local fitness program for moms with Julia, who is just 18 months old, and plans to enroll her in dance and swimming lessons when she’s a bit older.

This summer, the family is looking forward to checking out local markets, garage sales, community events, and



exploring more of the surrounding lakes for camping and fishing.

“We truly feel Spruce Grove is a great place to live, and raise a family, because of the choices that are available for our children and the close proximity we have to so many great amenities,” says Brandi.

“We really enjoy living in a city that provides all the things we need and want, without losing that feeling of community. It’s truly the best of both worlds.”

RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS



84% rated Spruce Grove as an excellent or very good place to raise a family

81% said Spruce Grove offered an excellent or very good quality of life

94% said they would recommend Spruce Grove to others as a place to live

The survey was conducted by Banister Research on behalf of the City of Spruce Grove. A total of 400 telephone interviews were conducted from Oct. 24 to Nov. 5, 2016, with residents aged 18 or older.

Hot chocolate with a cop

Program connects local youth and law enforcement

A cup of hot chocolate is helping to dissolve some of the barriers between area youth and local law enforcement.

The Lions Log Cabin Youth Mentorship Program began hosting the Hot Chocolate with a Cop program in 2016 as a way to bring the two groups together to connect and meet in an informal and friendly setting.

Held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Log Cabin, it's an opportunity for members from the local RCMP detachment and Spruce Grove Enforcement Services to hang out with youth at the cabin, enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and help break down some of the stereotypes that can be associated with law enforcement.

"The youth get to see us as more than just a uniform," says Spruce Grove RCMP Const. Shelley Nasheim. "This is our job, but we are also people who are part of the community and we are here to help."

The Log Cabin, which is located in Central Park and operated by Spruce Grove Family and Community



RECREATION + RESOURCES

Border Paving Athletic Centre opens to the community

A space to meet, connect, learn and get active, the Border Paving Athletic Centre opened its doors to the public and celebrated its official grand opening last year.

Since then, the multi-purpose facility has become a vibrant hub for community development, city-wide recreation and leisure, and has attracted national tournaments and international athletes to its state-of-the-art gymnasium, which is home to the Aerials Gymnastics Club.

And, with the City's Recreation Services office space now located on its second floor, the centre also allows for extended service hours and community development assistance.

Facility highlights:

- A Community Resource Centre (Rec Hub) that provides an environment for sports, recreation, and non-profit organizations to access resource information and connect to other organizations in the community.
- A satellite library collection with resources that focus on board and volunteer development, and sports interest. Topics include strategic planning, governance, business planning, how to run a board and more.
- Meeting and multi-purpose rooms that are available to rent for programming, meetings, clinics and workshops.
- Community group opportunities to lease administrative, storage or program space.
- Two murals have been installed on interior walls of the centre. The larger mural pays tribute to the city's name by depicting a grove of trees, while the other focuses on the athleticism of community sport and recreation.



Support Services (FCSS) staff, also plays an important role in facilitating those connections.

“This is a very non-threatening environment and, in many ways, it’s less intimidating because we’re coming to them on their turf,” says Const. Nasheim. “It allows us to have those one-on-one conversations in a place where everyone can relax and be themselves.”

“It’s a great opportunity to present and share information in a more casual setting,” adds Spruce Grove Enforcement Officer Tom LeDrew. “They understand where I’m coming from, and I understand where they are coming from.”

And that, says Brendan Kronewitt, is really the goal of the Hot Chocolate with a Cop program.

“We wanted to help facilitate those connections and provide a place to build the relationships between youth and law enforcement,” says Kronewitt, who is the City’s FCSS Youth Mentorship Program Facilitator.

“The Log Cabin is a place for any youth to come and build genuine relationships not only with their peers, but with adults who care about the community.”

It’s also a chance for law enforcement to get to know the youth who spend time around the Log Cabin.

“These kids are all laid back, easy to talk to, approachable and genuine,” says Const. Nasheim. “By talking to them, you start to understand and realize what they need in terms of programs, mentors and other supports.”

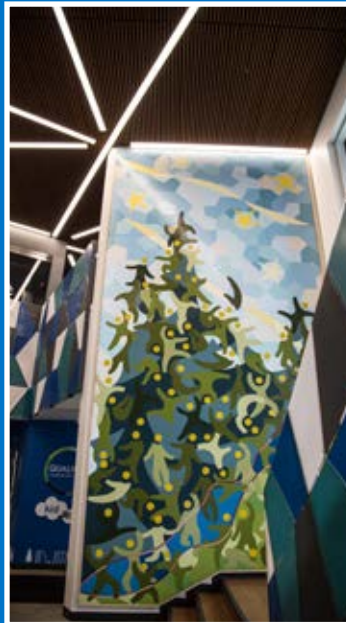
Over time, it also allows real connections and relationships to form.

“They start to open up about their own lives and that dialogue just continues,” says Officer LeDrew. “It’s about

“ We wanted to help facilitate those connections and provide a place to build the relationships between youth and law enforcement. ”
– Brendan Kronewitt

building mutual respect and helping to raise the next generation of good public citizens.”

The summer version of the program, called Scoops with a Cop, will run on July 4 and August 11, 2017, and the hot chocolate will be swapped out with a cool treat instead.



For more information on the facility visit www.sprucegrove.org/BPAC.

Round we go

New modern roundabout constructed in Spruce Grove

Drivers were introduced to a new-to-Spruce Grove traffic enhancement last year with the construction of a modern roundabout at the intersection of McLeod Avenue and Nelson Drive.

This circular intersection, which allows for free flow traffic at a reduced speed, was introduced to help manage traffic in the growing area around the McLaughlin neighbourhood.

Work on the project started in May 2016 and the roundabout officially opened later that year.

Additional roundabouts are now being planned for other intersections around Spruce Grove, including on Grove Drive and along Pioneer Road.

Why build a roundabout?

- Roundabouts allow for improved traffic flow, while also increasing intersection safety.
- Vehicles are not forced to stop, which reduces delays, congestion, noise and fuel consumption.
- Their design allows them to meet long-term traffic demands and accommodate vehicles of various sizes.
- There is less ongoing maintenance and related costs, as no traffic lights are required.
- Roundabouts continue to function during power failures.

When coming up to a roundabout, keep these four steps in mind:

- 1. APPROACH.**
Slow down and choose your desired lane.
- 2. YIELD.**
Look for oncoming traffic, as vehicles already in the roundabout have the right-of-way.
- 3. PROCEED.**
Watch for a safe opportunity to enter the roundabout.
- 4. EXIT.**
Use your right turn signal to indicate you are leaving the roundabout.

Did you know?

A modern roundabout is safer than a signalized intersection, as traffic moves through the intersection at a slower speed with fewer conflict points for pedestrians and drivers. The circular design reduces the number of head-on or right-angle, commonly referred to as T-bone, collisions. At a four-way intersection there are at least 32 possible vehicle-to-vehicle conflicts, while at a four-way roundabout there are only eight.



System enhancement

City enters agreement to accept U-Pass on transit service

Local college and university students saw a big incentive to start using Spruce Grove's transit service last year.

The City entered an agreement with Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) and other participating municipalities and post-secondary institutions in November 2016 to begin accepting the U-Pass on all Spruce Grove transit routes on Jan. 1, 2017.

The U-Pass provides eligible students with unlimited travel on all partner transit systems, including ETS, allowing students to seamlessly transfer from Spruce Grove's transit system to a neighbouring system with no additional cost.

"We heard loud and clear from area students that they wanted to be able to use their U-Pass on our system," says Patrick Inglis, Senior Sustainability Advisor with the City, "so when an opportunity came up to enter an agreement with the existing U-Pass partners, we were thrilled."

In addition to ETS, students with a U-Pass also have unlimited access to the transit systems in St. Albert, Strathcona County, Leduc and Fort Saskatchewan. Both Leduc and Fort Saskatchewan joined Spruce Grove as new partners in the U-Pass program.

The U-Pass is currently provided to students attending the University of Alberta, MacEwan University, NAIT and NorQuest College who pay a fee along with their tuition in exchange for the pass.

"We want to provide all our residents with an affordable, reliable and convenient mode of public transportation," says Inglis. "Accepting the U-Pass is definitely a step in that direction and we're looking forward to making future enhancements to the City's transit service."



Total transit riders
in 2016:

90,371

September and November were the busiest months for Spruce Grove transit with an average boarding of more than 600 people per day.

72% of riders live in Spruce Grove

62% of riders use the service
to commute to work

18% of riders use the service
to attend school

www.sprucegrove.org/transit



Artist rendering

Time to expand

Renovation approved for Protective Services building

A project to renovate and expand the City's current Protective Services building was approved by Spruce Grove City Council last year.

Located at 460 King St., the existing building is home to the City's Fire Services/EMS and Enforcement Services staff, as well as the RCMP detachment.

The \$21 million project will be done in a phased approach and includes an expansion on land east of the current facility, providing room for new administrative offices, equipment bays, dorms and training space.

Once the expansion, which will add another 3,300 square metres of space to the building, is complete, staff will move into the new area to allow renovations to be completed in the existing facility.

Site work will begin in 2017, with construction expected to start in the spring of 2018, followed by renovation work in early 2019. The entire project is anticipated to be complete in late 2019.

Fire/EMS and Enforcement service levels to the community will not be impacted during the construction and renovation phases.

In 2016, Spruce Grove Fire Services responded to a variety of incidents, including:



28	GARBAGE OR GRASS FIRES
28	FIRES CAUSING DOLLAR LOSS
81	PUBLIC HAZARD CALLS
214	FALSE ALARMS
163	MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS
3,784	MEDICAL CALLS

In 2016, Spruce Grove Enforcement Services responded to a variety of calls including:

870

PARKING COMPLAINTS

84

DRIVING COMPLAINTS

482

PROPERTY BYLAW COMPLAINTS





Digging deep

The construction of a new water reservoir

To meet the water needs of the growing community, in early 2016 work started on the construction of a new reservoir for Spruce Grove. Work on the reservoir, which is located south of the rail tracks, between Golden Spike Road and Century Road, is scheduled to wrap up by the end of September 2017. Once complete, this site will be the fourth cell in the City's overall reservoir system, which will service the community to a population of 75,000 residents.

Reservoir at a glance:

- The new reservoir is approximately the same length and width as an NFL football field.
- It is six metres deep, or about the same height as an adult male giraffe.
- When filled, it will hold 19,000 cubic metres of water, which is the equivalent of 4.75 million 4-L milk jugs.
- To prepare the site, approximately 11,000 truckloads of material was moved to make the hole.



Did you know?

The average Spruce Grove resident uses 180 litres of water per day within their own home.





Where people choose to raise a family

Meet the Romphf family



With a framed picture of the Canadian flag hanging on the wall in their living room and the iconic striped Hudson's Bay blanket draped over the arm of their sofa, you quickly get the sense Matt and Kate Romphf are proud of where they live.

"We're definitely patriotic people," says Kate – and that passion extends not only to their country, but to the city they have called home for most of their lives.

"I can't think of anywhere else we'd rather live than Spruce Grove," adds Matt, as he prepares a snack for their almost two-year-old son William. "It has absolutely

everything we want and need in a place to raise our family."

Matt grew up near Spruce Grove, while Kate's family moved to the area when she was 11, so when the high school sweethearts were looking for their first home together, it was an easy decision to purchase a house in Spruce Village.

Then, when they found out Kate was pregnant with William, they decided the timing was right to look for their forever home. The first piece of criteria they gave their realtor?

“This is where we want to raise our children. I have great memories of my own childhood in the city and I want the same for our kids. – Matt Romphf”

“There was no question in our minds,” says Matt. “We knew we wanted to stay in Spruce Grove.”

Today the Romphfs are clearly settled in their home in the Deer Park neighbourhood, which they also share with their two dogs, a Yorkie named Duncan and a Cairn Terrier named Paddington.

And with a second baby on the way in November, they are feeling even more certain about their decision to raise their family in Spruce Grove.

“Spruce Grove has a quiet charm about it, but with the benefit of having all the amenities of a large city,” says Kate. “It’s a proper city, but with small-town values.”

They love taking William to the nearby playgrounds and parks, or going for a walk with their pups in the Heritage Grove Park trail system.

“That’s one of our favourite things about Spruce Grove,” Kate says. “You really feel like you are in the forest.”

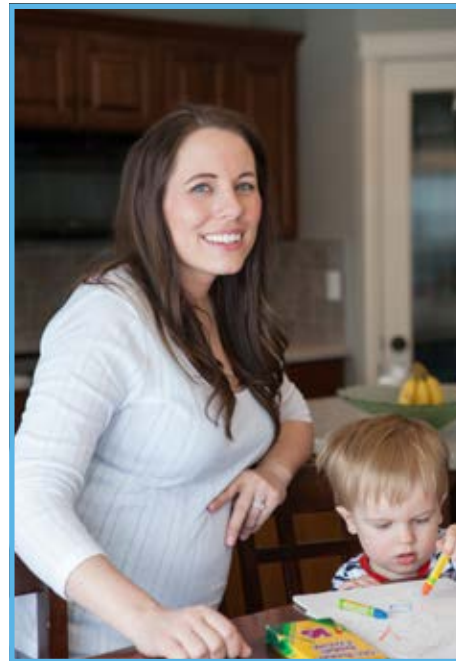
The variety of shops, restaurants and entertainment options is also very appealing to the young family.

“Since I’ve lived here for so many years, I remember when getting our first big box stores in Spruce Grove was a big deal,” laughs Matt. “It’s been exciting to watch the community continue to grow and become more diverse and now we’re at a point where you have everything you need right here.”

Combined with local events and festivals, like the Canada Day Celebration and Christmas in Central Park, Kate says you have the perfect mix.

“We have friends who live in Edmonton who come out here for our events because they are so fantastic.”

Spruce Grove has also remained the community of choice for many of their friends, some of whom they’ve known since junior high school.



“We’ve been able to keep many of those connections and maintain those relationships because we all want to stay in this community,” says Matt. Kate even managed to convince her sister to move to Spruce Grove and has no shame in her love and enthusiasm for the city.

“I’m always trying to recruit people to move to Spruce Grove,” she laughs. “I’m proud of our community and I want to share it with as many people as I can!”

For now, however, their focus will be on getting ready to share their home and their city with their upcoming new addition as their family grows by one more.

“This is where we want to raise our children,” says Matt. “I have great memories of my own childhood in the city and I want the same for our kids.”





Social sustainability

City completes plan to ensure long-term social prosperity

Identifying ways to meet the long-term needs of Spruce Grove's current and future residents is the goal behind the City's recently completed Social Sustainability Plan.

“This plan will help us anticipate and respond to the changing social needs that result from a rapidly growing city.”
– Janine Peter

Presented to Spruce Grove City Council in May 2016, the plan examines the connections between the economy, the environment, and society and how they can work together to ensure a continued quality of life for residents.

“We are a community that cares,” says Janine Peter, Director of Spruce Grove Family and Community Support Services. “This plan will help us anticipate and respond to the changing social needs that result from a rapidly growing city.”

The plan outlines eight key areas for action that will help the City proactively identify and address social issues as they arise, preserving the health and resiliency of residents and the larger community.

The key areas are:

1. Homeless population
2. Family and domestic violence
3. Public transportation
4. Housing
5. Access to programs, services and supports
6. Community engagement
7. Spruce Grove as an inclusive city
8. Civic governance and administrative practices

“Developing this plan was the first step in identifying ways to make Spruce Grove a place where residents can prosper in a supportive and healthy environment,” says Peter. “We are looking forward to bringing an update on the plan to city council in the fall of 2017.”

The full plan is available online at www.sprucegrove.org/socialsustainability.

A socially sustainable Spruce Grove:

Our community builds and sustains the necessary community based resources to support working together to meet the basic needs of all residents. We have strong relationships with municipal partners who are committed to contributing to our social sustainability goals and outcomes.

The City and community work to increase education and awareness of the social issues and opportunities in the community and help to build the capacity and individual and community resilience to anticipate, respond to and recover from changing economic, environmental and social conditions and situations.

In our community residents are active in their neighbourhoods and the city as a whole and the City works to provide meaningful opportunities for engagement and networking that enable all residents to articulate, and be responsible for, sustaining our quality of life and community wellness.

The vision and mission of the City reflect the value of and commitment to individual and community wellness and opportunities for all residents to see themselves involved in enhancing our quality of life.

Community social wellness is a critical criteria, used by the City, when providing current and future based direction and when making decisions on actions and financial allocations that will impact the social wellness of residents. We invest now to prepare for our future.



Excerpt from the Social Sustainability Plan

2016 CENSUS FINDINGS

Each year, the City of Spruce Grove conducts a municipal census to determine an official door-to-door count of the number of people living in Spruce Grove.

Overall population: 33,640



5% increase in population from 2015

49.9% are male and 50.1% are female

44% of households have three or more people in them

Average number of people per household: 2.66

47% of households completed the 2016 census online

26.5% are employed within Spruce Grove

Average age of Spruce Grove residents: 33.3 years

Occupied residential addresses: 12,650

Top three largest age groups in Spruce Grove are:

1. 30 to 34 years
2. 35 to 39 years
3. 0 to 4 years

www.sprucegrove.org/census



Up we grow!

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

157 single detached
152 semi-detached
24 multi-family (for a total of 47 units)
327 residential improvements
82 garages

Total = 742 residential building permits in 2016

Total residential building permit value = \$93.5 million

91% of total building permits issued in 2016 were for residential construction

HOUSING STARTS

380 total housing starts in 2016

150 single detached
146 semi-detached
78 rowhouse

Top 5 neighbourhoods for housing starts in 2016:

Harvest Ridge: 15%
Spruce Ridge: 19.1%
McLaughlin: 11.1%
Kenton: 12.2%
Greenbury: 14.4%

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

159 single detached
155 semi-detached
5 multi-family
230 improvements/alternations
17 garages

Total = 566 residential development permits in 2016

www.sprucegrove.org/permitactivity

Trash talk

City completes residential waste audit

Results from two waste audits completed last year showed that while Spruce Grove residents rock at recycling, there is room for improvement when it comes to using their green organics carts.

The audits, which were completed in June and November 2016 by consultant S-Cubed Environmental, involved collecting and sorting all the waste items from waste carts, organics carts and blue bags from a sample of 200 houses in Spruce Grove (100 houses per audit).

The findings showed 51 per cent of total waste was being diverted, but there was still a significant amount of materials being put in the wrong container. If everything had been properly sorted that diversion rate could have been as high as 77 per cent.

“What we found is that while residents are, for the most part, putting the correct items in blue bags for recycling, there are still a lot of recyclable materials that are being put in the trash,” says Caitlin Van Gaal, Environmental Coordinator with the City. “We’re glad to see the blue

bags are being used properly; we’d just like to see more of them on the curb each week.”

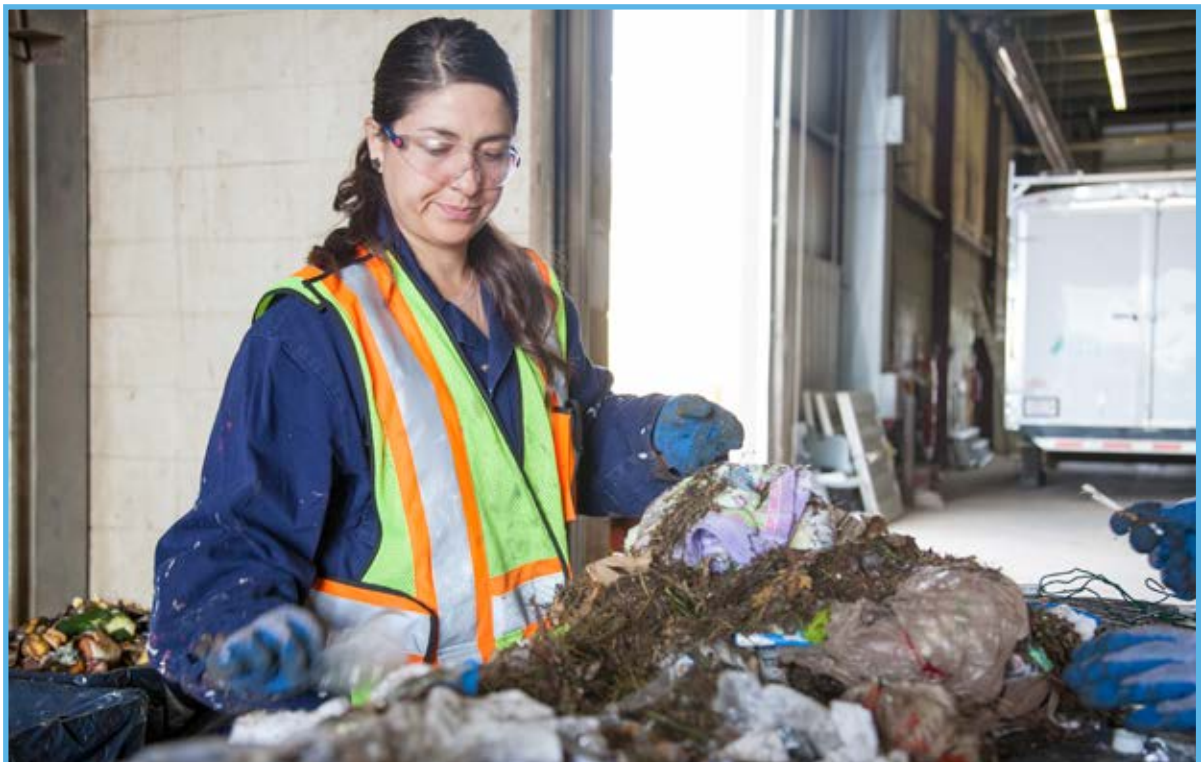
The audit showed 13 per cent of all waste items were being placed in blue bags, but, if all waste had been properly sorted, that number could have been 20 per cent.

The biggest opportunity for improvement, however, is tied to the green organics cart.

The audit showed that just 38 per cent of waste was being placed in organics carts and that number could have been closer to 56 per cent.

“With the exception of yard waste, residents are throwing other organics materials right in the trash,” says Van Gaal. The biggest offender? Food waste.

According to the waste audit findings, almost 90 per cent of food waste is being thrown into the garbage stream instead of being placed in a green cart.



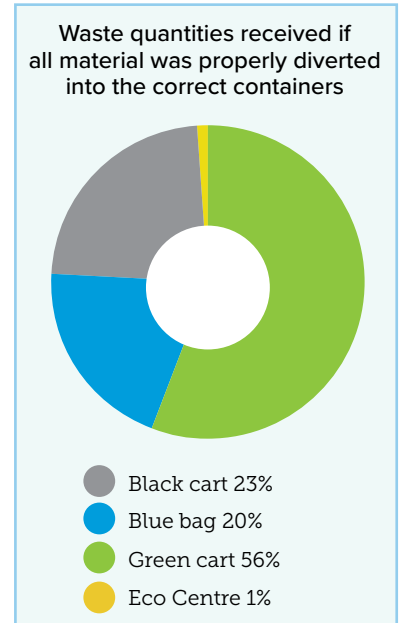
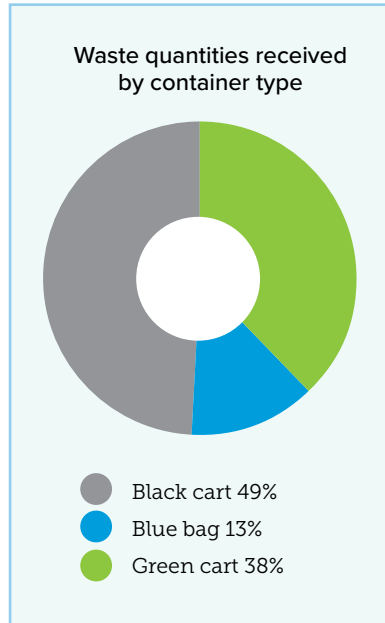


“The reality is when food waste, or any organic matter, is placed in a landfill, it doesn’t decompose and will often stay in its original form for decades. – Caitlin Van Gaal”

“It’s a common misconception that food will simply decompose when it’s thrown in the trash,” says Van Gaal. “The reality is when food waste, or any organic matter, is placed in a landfill, it doesn’t decompose and will often stay in its original form for decades. And if it does eventually biodegrade, it will produce methane gas, which is a very toxic greenhouse gas.”

Instead, Van Gaal suggests residents use a kitchen catcher help them properly divert their food waste.

“When you consider how much food waste is being thrown out instead of being turned into compost, improving that diversion rate would have a very positive impact on our landfills and the overall environment.”



ECO CENTRE STATS

The Eco Centre was a busy spot in 2016, with residents using the facility to drop of the following items:

- 353 tonnes of waste
- 284 tonnes of compost
- 861 tonnes of recycling
- 700 one-pound propane bottles
- 11,120 litres of cleaners, detergents, pesticides and other toxic chemicals
- 10,250 litres of acidic household chemicals
- 410 litres of antifreeze
- 30,875 litres of paint
- 1,567 tires
- 21,693 feet of light tubes
- 1,636 kilograms of CFL bulbs
- 1,559 kilograms of dry batteries
- 23,370 aerosol cans
- 100 fire extinguishers
- 83.8 tonnes of e-waste, such as computers



The Green Team

Last year members of Spruce Grove’s Green Team popped up at various locations around the city to talk about waste diversion and share the results of the City’s 2016 residential waste audit. Team members were able to “talk trash” with residents and provide information about how to divert waste and why it’s important to keep appropriate items out of the landfill.





Where people choose to grow a business

Perks Coffee House



Walk into Perks Coffee House and gathered around the fireplace is a group of ladies who are chatting and knitting. A pair of moms with their children in tow are visiting over a latte and a muffin, while a retired couple enjoy lunch in a corner and a business meeting wraps up at one of the tables.

This is the dream Ken Turlock and his partner Shantelle Lewis had when they opened Perks four years ago – to become more than just a place that sells coffee.

“We truly wanted to become a community meeting space,” says Ken. “We want to be the place where residents gather and connect.”

To say they have succeeded would be an understatement, thanks to a combination of hard work, community involvement, and, of course, a quality cup of java – prepared just the way you like it.

The idea to open a coffee shop first started brewing for Ken when he lived in Canmore and the first specialty coffee shop called Beamer’s Coffee Bar opened in 1994.

“I loved the feeling you had when you walked into that place,” recalls Ken. “It was different than anything else I’d experienced and that really appealed to me.”

The couple, who are also parents to Nathan, Nolan and Paige, first entertained the idea of opening a coffee shop in Spruce Grove in 2004, but the timing wasn’t quite right, and the location they had in mind didn’t work out.

Then one night, after eating dinner with the family at Peter’s Pizza & Steaks (which has since closed when owner Peter Matheos retired in 2014), the pair noticed one of the bays in the King Street Plaza building was vacant.

“ We truly wanted to become a community meeting space. We want to be the place where residents gather and connect. – Ken Turlock ”

“We thought it would be the perfect spot for a coffee shop,” says Ken, and on Oct. 4, 2013, Perks Coffee House was open for business.

“It was quite the learning curve,” recalls Ken, but with a focus on quality products and customer service, the shop began to see slow, organic growth.

“The community has been very supportive of us, right from the start,” he says. “And we truly appreciate everyone who walks in the door.”

Since then, Perks has expanded multiple times – first with the addition of the red double-decker bus, which is a common sight around the city at events like the Canada Day Celebration, city centre markets and other local events, and then into a kiosk space at Queen Street Place.

“We knew we wanted to expand from day one,” says Ken. “We just had to wait for the timing to be right.”

This year the business is growing again with a new retail location in Sherwood Park and as the on-site café at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden.

“We’re blazing our own trail beside everyone else,” says Ken, who doesn’t lose much sleep over competing with

the “big guys” in the coffee world. “We know our strengths and focus on how we can continually improve, which has allowed us to be successful.”

He also strongly believes it’s important to get out and give back to the people of Spruce Grove – a lesson he learned by watching other successful businesses, like Peter’s Pizza and Boston Pizza, which are both famous for supporting their community.

“We want to meet people on a personal level and the best way to do that is to get out and be in the community,” says Ken. “We appreciate the support that we have been shown, so we want to show that support to others.”

In addition to attending many local events, the coffee house hosts regular live music nights for aspiring musicians and decorates its walls with paintings and photos that are for sale by local artists. They were also involved as one of the businesses that helped organize last year’s New Year’s Eve celebration in Central Park and already have a busy summer ahead with local events and festivals.

“I have absolutely no regrets about our decision to open Perks in Spruce Grove,” says Ken. “We are a big community, but we are also one community, and you can’t ask for more than that.”



Growing up

City centre sees benefits of revitalization initiative

Spruce Grove's city centre saw a significant increase in both foot traffic and business investment last year as work got underway to revitalize the area.

The Spruce Grove City Centre Business Association hosted several events in Columbus Park, including weekly Cruise Nights and three public markets, while the Spruce Grove and District Chamber of Commerce held the Taste of Spruce Grove in the city centre for the first time. These events attracted thousands of people to the area.

The city centre, which encompasses the area from King Street to Calahoo Road and from First Avenue to the King Street Mall, also welcomed several new businesses in 2016 including a new pharmacy, insurance company and a

traction with existing businesses and we're very excited to see new enterprises want to do business downtown."

David Walker, Manager of Economic and Business Development with the City, which has partnered with the business association on this initiative, says momentum is clearly building.

"We've very pleased with the success the local business community had in 2016 and the City will continue to support the process as it moves forward," Walker says. "Revitalizing the area remains an important component of the City's Economic Development Strategy and while this is a long-term project, we've certainly had an excellent start."



specialty foods shop. Additionally, construction began on the McQueen Centre, which is located at the corner of Queen Street and McLeod Avenue.

"Our goal is to see Spruce Grove have a vibrant, clearly identifiable city centre and we're starting to reap the rewards of our hard work," says Victor Moroz, President of the Spruce Grove City Centre Business Association. "People are showing more interest in the area so we're gaining

Moroz agrees and says the association is planning to build on the momentum it created last year.

"We learned a great deal and are looking forward to enhancing our events this summer and finding new ways to bring our vision to life," he says. "It's going to be an exciting year for the city centre, the residents of Spruce Grove and our business community."



Taste of Spruce Grove
Hosted by the Spruce Grove and District Chamber of Commerce in June, the Taste of Spruce Grove featured local vendors who sold food and beverage samples.

Estimated attendance: 3,200 people

Public Markets

Residents enjoyed three public markets between July and September where they could shop, browse arts and crafts, try various foods and enjoy live music, dance troupes and more.

Estimated total attendance: 7,000 people

Number of participating vendors: 170



Cruise Nights

Every Thursday evening from June to September, car enthusiasts came together to showcase their classic cars.

30 collector cars (on the most attended evening)

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

Thousands of people visited the city centre in 2016 to take part in a variety of new events to help revitalize the area

For a list of 2017 events visit www.sprucegrovecitycentre.org.



LOOKING AHEAD

City works on update to economic development action plan

Building a strong and competitive economy that is ready for a range of investment opportunities is the focus of an update to the City's Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan.

The update was started in 2016 using a three-stage process to answer some key questions:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to go?
3. How do we get there?

The project, which is being led by the City's Economic and Business Development department and Economic Development Advisory Committee in collaboration with consultant MDB Insight, has resulted in a draft Economic Development Strategy Update and Action Plan 2017-2022.

Developed through extensive engagement and feedback, the updated strategy and action plan will be presented to Spruce Grove City Council for approval in mid-2017.

For more information visit www.sprucegrove.org/business.

Top marks

NAIT Spruce Grove Campus opens to students

Last year was a record year for educational pursuits in the City as the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) became the first post-secondary institution to open its doors in Spruce Grove.

ON CAMPUS IN 2016

240 students
6 on-site cranes
16-storey extension
capability



Photos courtesy of NAIT



“We have received a warm welcome from everyone in Spruce Grove since opening our campus. We couldn't be happier to be a part of this great community. – Dr. Glenn Feltham”

Accommodating NAIT's crane and hoisting operator programs, the NAIT Spruce Grove Campus welcomed 240 students in more than 20 classes to study mobile cranes and boom trucks, and learn on some of the world's most advanced technology.

The campus, located in the City's East Campsite Business Park, sits on 15 acres and features an innovative 12,650 square-foot facility that is outfitted with classrooms, offices and a cutting edge simulation lab.

“We have received a warm welcome from everyone in Spruce Grove since opening our campus,” said Dr. Glenn Feltham, President and CEO of NAIT. “Our students are really enjoying the new facility and learning environment. We couldn't be happier to be a part of this great community.”

Expressing similar sentiments, Mayor Stuart Houston says the NAIT Spruce Grove Campus has been a wonderful addition to Spruce Grove.

“By raising our profile as a competitive place to learn and do business, it's really been a game changer for us,” he says. “This new campus, as well as the staff and students, has contributed to the vibrancy of our community and we look forward to a long and prosperous partnership with NAIT.”

In future years, Feltham says he anticipates the polytechnic institute will expand the campus to accommodate additional programs.

“The campus in Spruce Grove provides us with the space we need to offer world-class crane and hoisting education and space to grow.”



Hands on learning

At the NAIT Spruce Grove Campus, crane and hoisting students spend approximately half their time outside in a 10-acre yard conducting training exercises. The other 50 per cent of their time is spent in a classroom, studying general theory, the principles of crane operation, capacity determination, chart reading, rigging, general safety and more.



Areas of employment

Crane and hoisting students contribute to the work force in the following industries:

- FORESTRY
- MINING
- CONSTRUCTION
- OIL



BOOMING BUSINESS

2016

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING PERMITS

- 6 commercial buildings
- 45 commercial improvements
- 2 industrial buildings
- 10 industrial improvements
- 4 institutional buildings
- 3 institutional improvements

Total = 70 commercial, industrial and institutional building permits in 2016

Total building permit value = \$20.8 million

2016 was the sixth consecutive year new commercial building permit value exceeded \$10 million

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

- 6 new commercial
- 40 commercial improvements
- 6 new industrial
- 30 industrial improvements
- 2 new institutional
- 5 institutional improvements

Total = 89 commercial, industrial and institutional development permits in 2016

www.sprucegrove.org/permitactivity



Winds of change

The landscape of Spruce Grove's northwest corner is changing, as commercial development got underway in Westwind Centre in 2016. Construction started on two office buildings and the overall vision for Westwind Centre is to develop a major regional commercial, hospitality and entertainment destination that would have a variety of retailers, offices, hotels, an entertainment centre, restaurants and residential development.



Final touches

Construction started on a new \$16 million medical building in the Tri Leisure Village development last year. Located south of the TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre, the \$75 million Tri Leisure Village is also home to a hotel, restaurants, businesses and the City's Border Paving Athletic Centre.

2016 Financial Summary

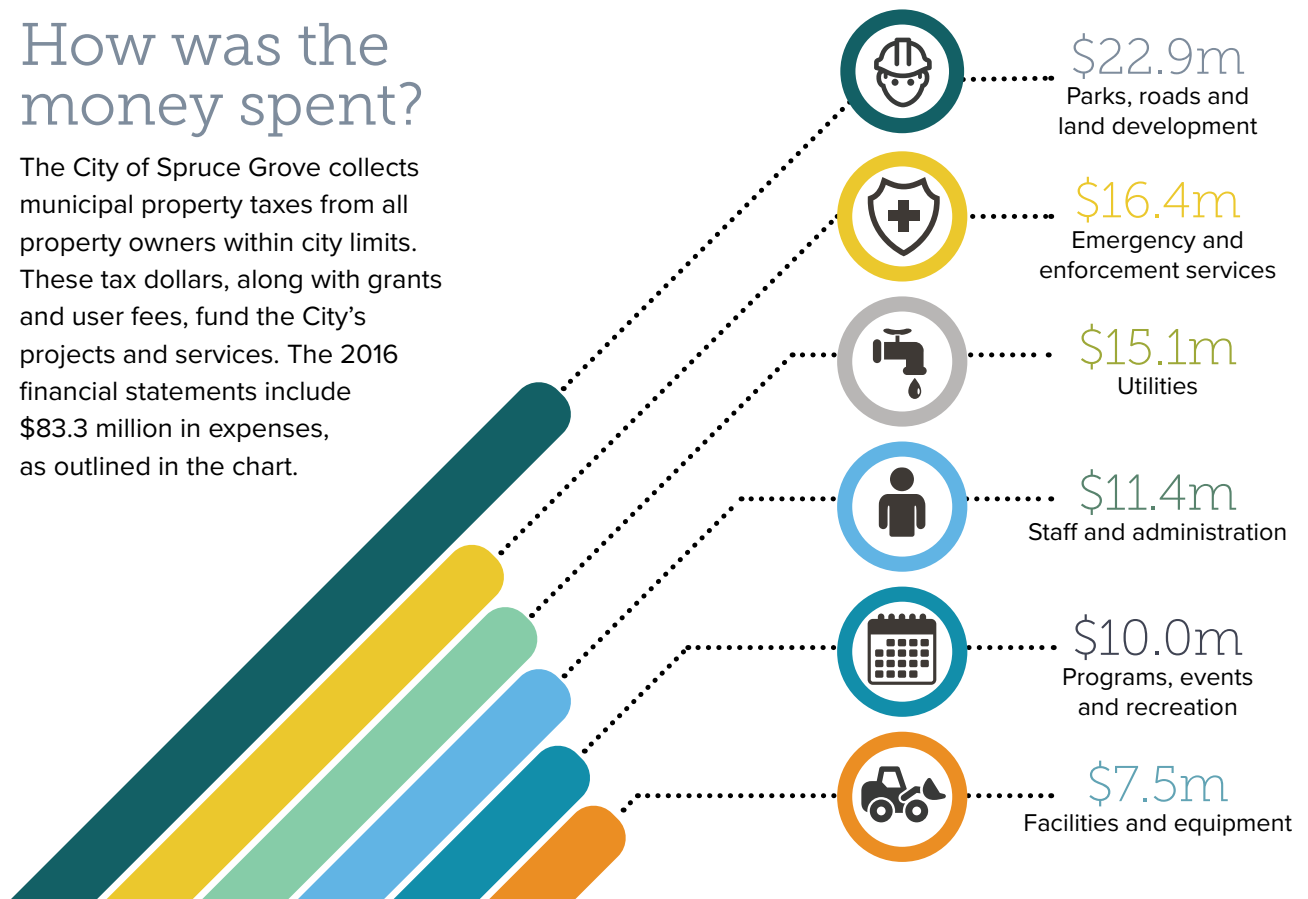
This financial summary is intended to assist with understanding the management of the City of Spruce Grove's resources. It provides an overview and highlights of the 2016 financial statements, including the operations of the municipality, the Spruce Grove Public Library and a share of the TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre.

A full version of the City's 2016 Consolidated Financial Statements is available on the City's website at www.sprucegrove.org/financialreports.



How was the money spent?

The City of Spruce Grove collects municipal property taxes from all property owners within city limits. These tax dollars, along with grants and user fees, fund the City's projects and services. The 2016 financial statements include \$83.3 million in expenses, as outlined in the chart.



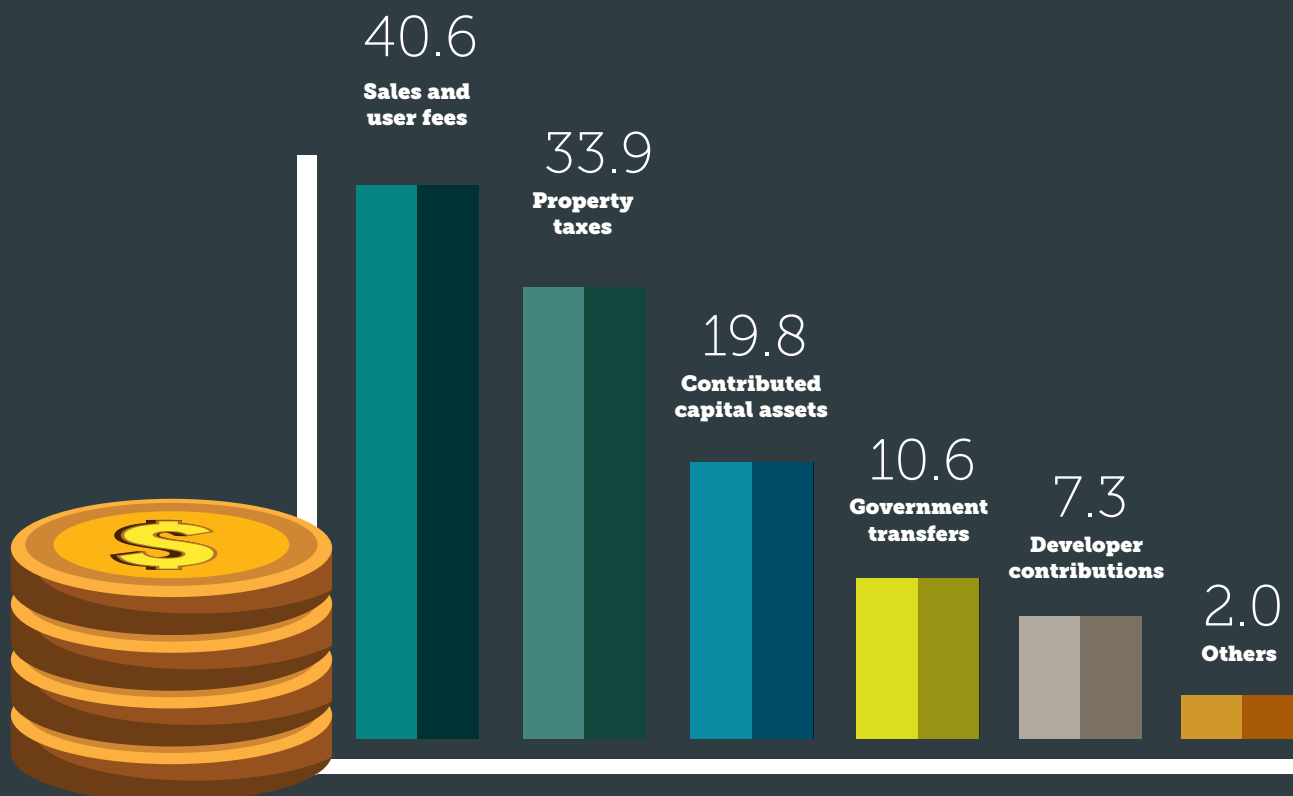


City revenue sources

The City of Spruce Grove's revenue comes from a variety of sources:

- **Property taxes:** Paid by Spruce Grove residents and businesses to help cover the costs of the municipal services they use.
- **Sales and user fees:** Includes utility charges, franchise fees, fines, permits and facility rentals.
- **Government transfers:** Funds the City receives from the provincial and federal governments, as well as neighbouring municipalities.
- **Developers:** Includes contributed tangible capital assets and contributions. Contributed tangible capital assets are items like roads and sewers that are constructed by developers and then handed over to the City to own and manage. Contributions are funds developers pay directly to the City.
- **Levies:** Collected on behalf of the Province of Alberta for education and on behalf of the Meridian Foundation for local seniors housing. The City does not set or control these levies and passes this revenue directly to both the Province and the Meridian Foundation.

2016 Revenues (\$ millions)





Financial summary

The annual consolidated financial statements provide important information about the financial position and activities of the City of Spruce Grove. Administration is responsible for the quality of the financial statements. The City's auditors have expressed their opinion that the financial statements are fairly stated.

The 2016 Consolidated Financial Statements are prepared in a prescribed format, using standard accounting terms and applying detailed accounting rules. The following summary is a condensed version of the City's financial statements.

Financial position (\$ millions)	2016	2015
Financial assets	57	57
Financial liabilities	66	62
Net debt	-9	-5
Non-financial assets	467	432
Accumulated surplus	458	427

Financial position

At the end of 2016, future revenues of \$9 million are required to pay for past transactions or events.

Surplus funds have accumulated over the history of the City to \$458 million. Virtually all surplus funds (\$447 million) have been used to build or buy roads, utilities, buildings and other capital assets used to deliver municipal services.

Financial activities

The City's financial activities include revenue, operating expenses and capital projects.

The result of 2016 operations is an annual surplus of \$30 million, and \$35 million was used in the acquisition of capital assets.

The budget tries to predict actual results as accurately as possible and most of the operations in 2016 were very close to budget, while capital projects came in under budget.

Financial activities (\$ millions)	Budget	2016	2015
Revenue – operations	77	80	76
Expenses – operations	83	83	82
Annual deficit from operations	-6	-3	-6
Revenue – capital	55	34	35
Annual surplus	49	31	29
Expenses – capital	-64	-49	-51
Net financial (debt) assets			
Change	-4	-4	-10
Opening		-5	5
Closing		-9	-5



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www.sprucegrove.org

