



2010 – A Year in Review

2010 was an exciting year filled with growth, new opportunities, projects and celebrations for the Town of Black Diamond.

In an effort to **improve communications** with the citizens of Black Diamond, Council has worked very hard to promote the cost-effective sharing of information in as many ways as possible.

Website:

- On-line surveys were posted several times in 2010, to allow more people the chance to let Council know their opinions.
- Public Agenda Packages and Council Minutes are now available on our website.
- The “What’s New” items are a quick way to learn about important or time-sensitive issues.

Open Houses:

- Allow residents to interact directly with their elected officials and town staff, to learn more about a topic and to offer valuable public feedback to help guide Council in their decision-making.
- In 2010, Council hosted open houses regarding the new Library building and the Centre 78 community centre proposal.

Community Entrance Signs:

- Very popular with our local community groups and booked so far in advance that Town staff has often been unable to use them to offer timely notifications to our citizens.
- A new sign was installed adjacent to the Town Office. This sign will be used to inform our residents of: garbage collection schedule changes, emergency information, office closures, open houses, special Council meetings, etc. Please check it out regularly – each side may have a different message, so be sure to watch both sides!

Continuing communications:

- bi-weekly ½ page ads in the Gateway Gazette, mailouts in utility bills as applicable, notices posted in the Town Office, Public Agenda Packages are available in the Town Office for viewing.

Council and Staff strive to provide Black Diamond residents with **Safe and Effective Services**.

Water/Sewer/Roads:

- The Town successfully applied for 2 grants to fund the cost of replacing the residential water meters that were 20-30 years old. Most residents have responded positively to the free replacement program and the wrap up of this initiative is estimated to be January 31, 2011.
- An aging water meter located at the water tower was also replaced, enabling more accurate monitoring of periods of time when large water usage occurs.
- Alberta Transportation will be resurfacing Highway 22 (from the south end of town to the 4-way Stop and west to the bridge) in 2011. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- In view of the Province’s plans, the Town successfully applied for the Federal Gas Tax Fund grant to upgrade our infrastructure beneath Highway 22. Sewer lines and water valves will be replaced, along with some water lines, prior to the resurfacing.
- The Streets Improvement Program (SIP) funded the rebuilding and resurfacing of 1st Street SW between Centre Avenue and 1st Avenue SW
- The SIP also funded the rebuilding and paving of the alley in the downtown business area between Government Road S and 1st Street SW. This was undertaken in an effort to effect better storm water management, to protect the road structure from further deterioration and to assist our crews in providing improved maintenance of that roadway.
- An Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) grant funded the installation/extension of water and sewer mains, enabling a number of residents on 3rd Avenue SE and 1st Avenue SE to obtain water/sewer services from the Town, instead of via private wells/septic systems.

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Emergency Services:

- The Town successfully made it through a 14 hour electrical service outage, receiving no reports of any problems. Black Diamond's essential equipment is backed up by generators and so continued operating through the event. The Emergency Operations Centre was partially activated, and when it appeared as though power might not be restored through the night, members of our Fire Department hit the streets notifying residents that an Emergency Reception Centre would be opened for those who required assistance. Everyone was thankful when Fortis was able to restore power about an hour later.

Partnerships are important to the Town of Black Diamond, as we live so close to other municipalities.

- The Town is participating in a regional initiative with the Town of Turner Valley, the Village of Longview and the MD of Foothills called the Quad Regional Water Partnership (QRWP). The first step in this possible regionalization of a new water treatment and distribution entity is the governance study, which will help the municipalities determine various ways this partnership could operate, and a grant was received to fund the study. As part of our operating approval, the Town of Black Diamond is scheduled to have its water treatment plant upgraded by 2014. Please visit our website, "What's New" to see a timeline of the QRWP.
- Other projects shared with the Town of Turner Valley during 2010 - Christmas Light Up, the Diamond Valley Parade, Canada Day celebrations and the Tourist Information Booth.
- Members of joint boards continue to work for the benefit of the residents of both communities
- The Black Diamond FCSS Board sponsors several initiatives that are jointly funded by the Town of Turner Valley's FCSS Board, such as the taxi subsidy program, babysitter education, senior appreciation and volunteer appreciation.
- Council continues to participate in many discussions with the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) (www.calgaryregion.ca) including the Calgary Metropolitan Plan, transit, waste management, etc.
- Our Economic Development Committee (EDC) has partnered with the Towns of Turner Valley, High River and Okotoks, as well as the MD of Foothills in the RISE Program, an on-line tool to promote the attraction of new businesses.
- The Town of Black Diamond participated in the First Impressions Community Exchange (FICE) and the final report was submitted to Council in 2010. A team of people from the Town of Carstairs visited us, without advance notice and filled out a questionnaire designed to provide us with their impressions upon first visiting our town. We, in turn, sent a team to visit and report back to them. This report is now on our website. On the whole, it was a very positive experience.
- The Sustainable Black Diamond Advisory Committee (SBDAC) held 2 open houses in conjunction with the Pembina Institute "Alberta Acts on Climate Change"
- The SBDAC produced a brochure, which was mailed out to our residents, and is available on our website, "*Nurturing and Supporting Sustainable Practices in Our Community*"

The Town of Black Diamond's Strategic Plan outlines the importance of **Positive Leadership**:

- A Growth Management Study was prepared by our Planning & Development consultants. It outlines our probable growth needs and areas to achieve this over the next 30 years. It will be used as we plan for and implement strategies to expand our economy and manage growth into our future.
- The Municipal Elections were very well-attended, with a voter turnout of approximately 55%. 2010 was the pilot year for the Incapacitated Elector Voting at Home service in Black Diamond. To learn about this service for future elections, please contact Verna Staples at 403-933-4348.

All in all, 2010 was a very busy, challenging and productive year. Council and Staff will continue to strive to service our community and improve our performance and service delivery wherever possible.