

WINTER 2024

BATHURST MAGAZINE

your quarterly citizen update from the City of Bathurst



Photo by: Gordon Dixon, GIS Technician at the City of Bathurst

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WATER
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Building our municipality together.

Bathurst

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

● Committee of the whole
 ● Regular public meeting

MARCH / MARS						
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31						

APRIL / AVRIL						
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Please note: public meeting schedules are subject to change. Special Public Meetings may also be added to the schedule. Public meetings are also broadcasted live on our Facebook page.

Get all the latest news on our **Facebook** page!
facebook.com/cityvillebathurst



Questions? Call City Hall or visit our website for more information.

 (506) 548-0400

 www.bathurst.ca

WINTER FUN



RYAN WILBUR
Director of Parks,
Recreation & Tourism



Skating at La Promenade Waterfront

A thrilling new addition to our recreational offerings is now open for the season. Situated in our picturesque downtown core, you'll discover a brand-new outdoor skating rink at [La Promenade Waterfront](#).

This project has been a collaborative effort over the past few seasons, driven by extensive feedback from our residents. We're delighted to announce that it has been met with resounding success.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our maintenance team for their dedicated efforts leading up to our grand opening on January 19. We look forward to welcoming you for countless enjoyable outdoor skating sessions this winter.

More skating fun throughout the City

Explore multiple additional skating locations across the city.

Experience great outdoor skating at Centennial Park—the rink is conveniently located near the parking area on Centennial Street.

Moreover, at the K.C. Irving Regional Centre, we offer three distinct public skate options:

- Senior skating, open to skaters aged 55 and up
- Family skating, welcoming families of all ages
- Lunchtime skate, open to all ages

The best part? All these skating opportunities are entirely free of charge!

If you're new to skating or not yet ready to invest in your own equipment, we provide skate and helmet rentals at the Centre régional K.C. Irving Regional Centre, also at no cost.

Stay informed on all the latest news by following our Facebook page →



BATHURST RECREATION & TOURISM / LOISIRS ET TOURISME

SNOW & ICE CONTROL



**MATTHEW
ABERNETHY**
City Engineer

The City of Bathurst's Snow and Ice Control Program strives to maintain the safety of its transportation network, including vehicle access and active transportation such as walking or cycling, allowing users to function as normally as possible under adverse weather conditions.

Snow removal operations include the following elements:



- ✓ roadway clearing and widening;
- ✓ sidewalk clearing;
- ✓ clearing corners for better visibility;
- ✓ clearing fire hydrants;
- ✓ moving snow to snow dumps.

Tracking progress on the emergency snow routes

The City has two designated emergency routes, with the mandate to keep them, if possible, bare-surface and full-width at all times.

In our continued efforts to better inform our citizens, we recently launched an online snow plow tracker that allows you to track the progress on these emergency snow routes during a storm.

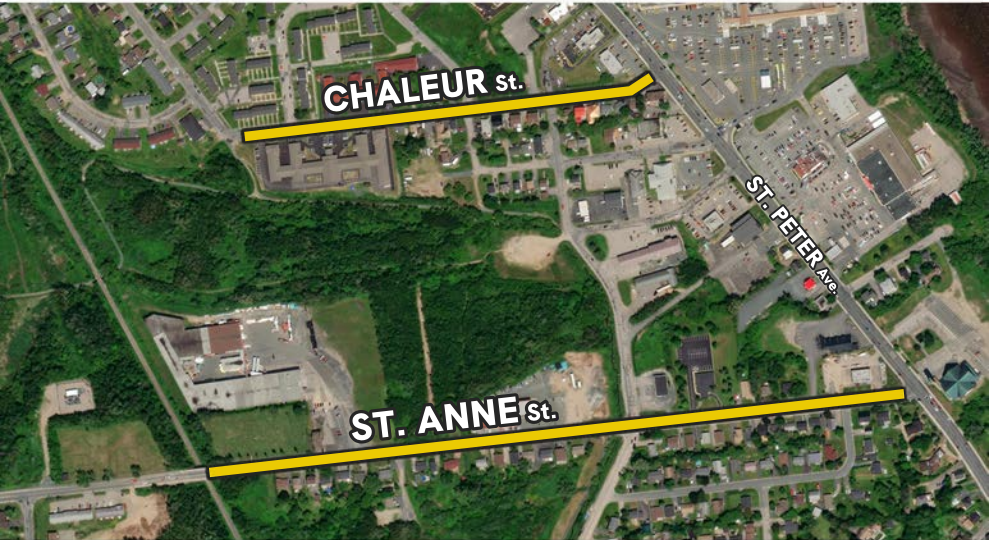
You can access it on our website by visiting www.bathurst.ca/snow



The work, of course, doesn't stop there. Cleanup of all streets and sidewalks begins once a storm has ended, or reached an accumulation trigger — about 3 inches (8 centimeters). Snow removal crews will usually work from midnight to the early morning, pushing back snow banks and loading snow into dump trucks for transport to City snow dumping locations.

At the heart of this colossal endeavour is our **dedicated Public Works team**. This group of hard-working individuals is the backbone of our success; with our skilled operators keeping our roads safe, and our heavy equipment mechanics keeping our fleet in top shape while faced with harsh — and often unforgiving — winter conditions.

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION ST. ANNE & CHALEUR



Two major infrastructure projects are scheduled to begin this summer, both impacting major roadways within the city: **St. Anne Street** and **Chaleur Street**. These two important projects represent an estimated investment of **\$5.3M** in our municipality.

Each street, for a period of approximately 24 weeks likely starting in May 2024, will be inaccessible during this project. This will allow the crews to complete a **full reconstruction**, including above-ground and below-ground infrastructure.

Local residents can expect temporary restrictions on accessing their property with their vehicle during certain periods. Advance notice will be provided for these situations, and we will make every effort to address any inconveniences.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more upcoming details!

2024 BUDGET

(AN OVERVIEW)

Bathurst City Council has approved a balanced 2024 budget totaling **\$49,976,122**.

The General Operating and Capital Fund budget make up **\$39.1M** of this total. This budget, funded by property taxes, covers all city services and projects **except for water and sewer**, which is entirely separate. Think of Water & Sewer as a separate company, funded by user fees through their utility bills. The total Water and Sewer Utility budget in 2024 is **\$10.9M**.

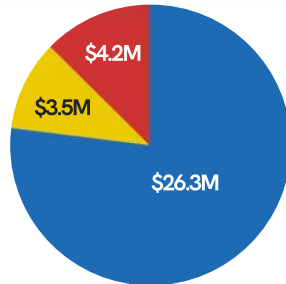
Property Tax rates in the City's old boundaries (Ward 1) are **maintained** at **\$1.7750 per \$100 of property assessment**. The new boundaries (Ward 2) are seeing transitional increases directly related to the **Local Governance Reform process**; North Tetagouche residents will see an increase to **\$0.8652**, while South Tetagouche, Ste Anne, Big River and Route 134 (beyond Miramichi Avenue) will see an increase to **\$0.8420**.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

The **municipal services** City residents receive each day are funded through the following sources:

- Property taxes (**\$26.3M**)
- Non-tax revenues such as fees, licenses, sales of services, etc. (**\$4.2M**)
- Equalization grant (**\$3.5M**)



WHERE THE MONEY GOES

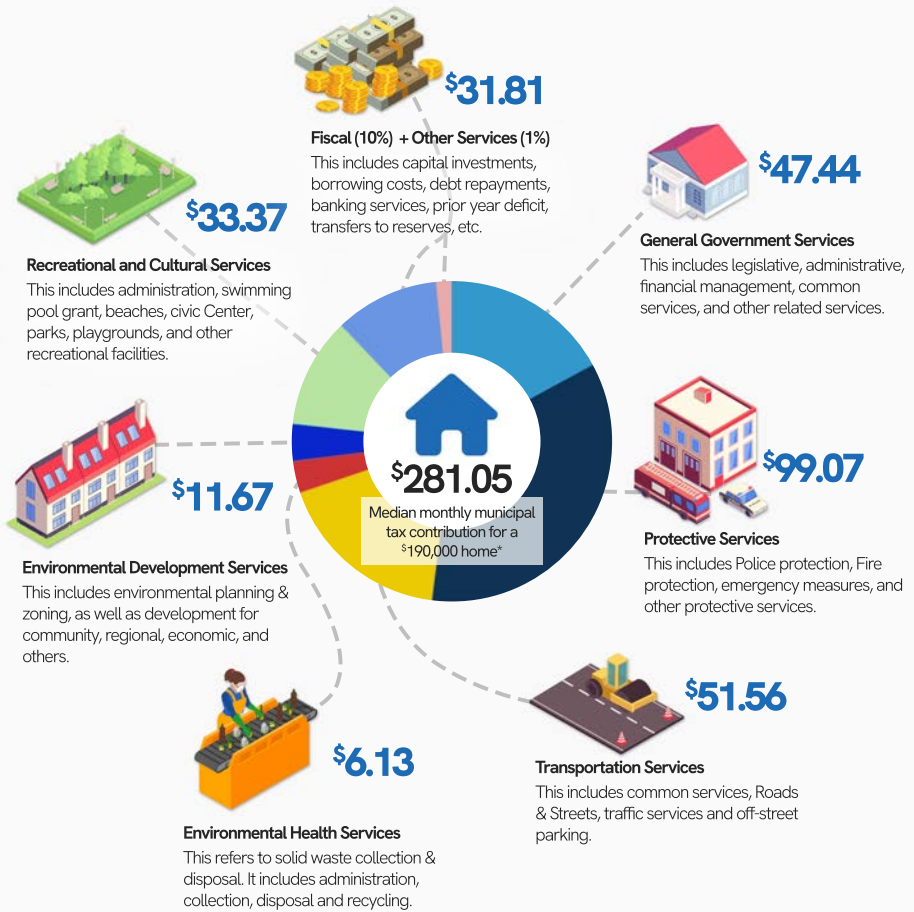
Municipal services encompass a broad range of essential amenities and facilities provided to residents of Bathurst, ensuring the well-being, safety, and functionality of our municipality.

Services are divided in **eight major categories**: General Government Services, Protective Services, Transportation Services, Environmental Health Services, Environmental Development Services, Recreational and Cultural Services, Fiscal Services, and Other Services.

General Government Services \$5.7M	Protective Services \$12M	Transportation Services \$6.2M	Environmental Health Services \$742K
Environmental Development Services \$1.4M	Recreational & Cultural Services \$4M	Fiscal Services \$3.5M	Other Services \$365K

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Want to learn more about the 2024 budget for the City of Bathurst? Visit www.bathurst.ca/budget2024

* based on data provided by the province of New Brunswick. Yearly residential median sale price for northern cities in 2023.

WATER & SEWER

(NEW IN 2024)

As of January 1, 2024, the monthly Water & Sewer rates for a single unit dwelling are as follows:

- Water: \$35.81 (equivalent \$1.17 daily)
- Sewer: \$32.94 (equivalent \$1.08 daily)
- Total: \$68.75 (equivalent \$2.25 daily)

Do you own a multi-unit dwelling or rent in a multi-unit dwelling? See details below:

NEW FIXED RATES						
UNITS	MONTHLY			YEARLY		
	WATER	SEWER	WATER AND SEWER	WATER	SEWER	WATER AND SEWER
1	\$ 35.81	\$ 32.94	\$ 68.75	\$ 429.69	\$ 395.31	\$ 825.00
2 to 4	\$ 28.52	\$ 26.23	\$ 54.75	\$ 342.19	\$ 314.81	\$ 657.00
5+	\$ 25.96	\$ 23.88	\$ 49.83	\$ 311.46	\$ 286.54	\$ 598.00
Infrastructure only **	\$ 14.58	\$ 13.42	\$ 28.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 161.00	\$ 336.00

** "Infrastructure only" means the service is available but not connected.

Note: If an owner previously paid ONLY for water services (or ONLY sewer services), they will only pay for that portion.

Applicable discounts

NEW: All owners who provide proof of annual household income of less than \$40,000 can benefit from a **yearly discount of 10%**.

OR

Owners age 65+ who provide proof of receiving (or eligibility to receive) an allowance under the Guaranteed Income Supplement are entitled to a **discount of \$221.80**.

Added savings with early yearly payment

If clients choose to make a single annual payment, they can obtain a **5% Yearly discount** if the account is paid in full before February 28th.

For more information: www.bathurst.ca/water

WATER & SEWER

(LET'S TALK ABOUT UNITS!)

The concept of units may seem confusing at first, so let's try to clarify the picture!

Begin by asking this question: "Is there only one water service line coming into the building, or more than one?" For every service line, there is an account. This determines what rate is applicable.

Here are some examples:



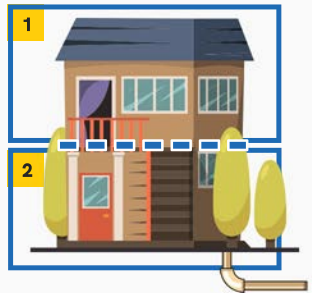
A single-family dwelling — usually with one water service line — is a **single unit**.

Without adding the available discounts, the owner receives a monthly bill of **\$68.75** for their combined Water and Sewer services.

On the other hand, a dwelling with a single service line, where the owner rents out a portion — such as a basement apartment — is considered **as two units**.

This translates into one account (one bill) with **TWO UNITS**, and a monthly fee of \$54.75 each, for a total of **\$109.50**.

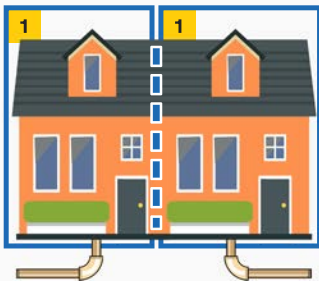
Multi-unit apartment buildings are also calculated like this; refer to the table on the previous page for those rates.



In our final example, we have a duplex; a two-family dwelling with **two separate units** in the same building — each unit having its own water service line.

This means two accounts of one unit each, with each owner receiving separate monthly bills for **\$68.75**.

The same logic applies to condominiums; each condo is considered as an individual unit.



Do you have questions or concerns not directly answered in the examples above? Call us at 548-0400 (option #3) or come to City Hall at 150 St. George Street. We'll gladly assist in resolving your issues!

THE CORNER



GUY THÉRIAULT
Chief of Police

POLICING IN REVIEW: A SNAPSHOT OF 2023

As we embark upon a new year, it's essential to reflect on the collective efforts and accomplishments of our dedicated law enforcement personnel throughout 2023.

Their unwavering commitment to safeguarding our community has been paramount, evidenced by the following statistics:

Total Calls for Service: Our officers responded to a total of **9,451 calls for service**, demonstrating their readiness to address a wide range of issues and emergencies faced by our residents.

Traffic Citations Issued: With a keen focus on ensuring road safety, our officers issued **1,797 traffic citations**, reinforcing our commitment to promoting responsible driving habits within our municipality.

DUI Arrests/Suspensions/Demands: The enforcement of driving under the influence laws remained a top priority, resulting in **52 arrests, suspensions, or demands**, underscoring our zero-tolerance stance towards impaired driving.

Domestic Violence Incidents Reported: Our department handled **125 reported incidents of domestic violence**, emphasizing our dedication to supporting victims and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.

Property Crimes Reported: Despite the challenges posed by property crimes, our proactive measures led to the **reporting and investigation of 583 cases**, illustrating our relentless pursuit of justice for victims and the protection of their property.

Crimes Against a Person: Addressing crimes against individuals with utmost urgency, our officers responded to and investigated **242 incidents**, reaffirming our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of every member of our community.

Suspended Drivers: Taking decisive action against reckless driving behaviors, our department encountered **93 cases of suspended drivers**, further highlighting our efforts to maintain order on our roads and uphold traffic regulations.

The City of Bathurst is also currently accepting applications for Police Officers, with three (3) immediate vacancies and another possible four (4) future employment opportunities. Apply today at www.bathurst.ca/policepromo

THE CORNER



What to do in the event of a **cooking fire**

Ensure you always have a lid within reach when cooking. In the event of a small grease fire igniting in a pan, promptly smother the flames by **sliding the lid over the pan**. Turn off the burner immediately and avoid moving the pan. To prevent the fire from reigniting, keep the lid on until the pan has cooled down. Under no circumstances should you pour water onto a grease fire in a cooking pan.

Overview — A look at 2023

Here are some statistics from the past year:

- Total calls for service: **481**
- Electrical fire calls: **13**
- Accidental alarms: **108**
- Brush or grass fire: **15**
- Dwelling fire calls: **8**

Overall, our year-to-date total service calls — as of December 2023 — are at **481**.

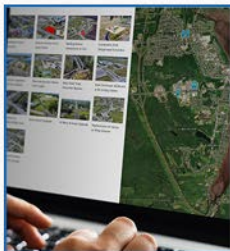


Emergency vehicles: a friendly reminder

When an authorized emergency vehicle approaches from either direction with audible signals such as a bell or siren and visual signals like flashing red lights, all drivers must **promptly pull over** to the right-hand curb and come to a complete stop. They must remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed, unless instructed otherwise by a peace officer.

This information can be found in the New Brunswick Driver's Handbook, a comprehensive guide to learning safe driving skills available on gnb.ca.

CITY TALK



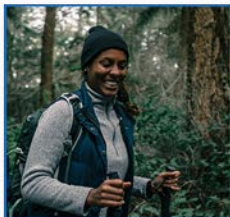
Every year, the City of Bathurst carries out several large projects to both maintain and improve our city. We call them "Capital Works Projects".

To learn more, visit: www.bathurst.ca/projects

There, you will find maps and easy-to-understand details about projects from the past three years. You'll learn about how much they cost, where the money comes from, what work is done, and how they benefit our community.

As summer approaches, so does the bustling building season! Whether you're considering a major renovation project or adding a new structure, now is the perfect time to start planning.

Reach out to our dedicated Planning Department ahead of the rush to streamline the process and ensure your project gets the attention it deserves. Don't wait until the last minute — [plan ahead](#) and beat the rush!



SAFETY ON THE TRAILS Whether you're walking, jogging, cycling, or simply enjoying nature, it's essential to prioritize safety for everyone on the trail.

Cyclists, in particular, should remain vigilant and courteous, especially when sharing the path with pedestrians. Remember to announce your presence with a polite call-out when approaching others from behind.

Did you know? Our city has WiFi networks to keep you connected!

Free WiFi is readily available at multiple convenient locations, including City Hall, the KC Irving Regional Centre, and La Promenade Waterfront.

So, next time you're out and about, whether it's for business or leisure, remember to take advantage of this longstanding amenity. Stay connected hassle-free (and without using up your mobile data) and make the most out of your time in our wonderful city!

