

# HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS APRIL 2025



## UPDATES FROM YOUR TEAM AT TOWN OF GRAVELBOURG

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### Mayor's Message

Hello, Bonjour Gravelbourg!

As we welcome Spring 2025, here's a recap of some key happenings from Winter 2024.

- **MEETING WITH OUR M.P.**

Council had the opportunity to meet with our Member of Parliament, Mr. Jeremy Patzer, for over an hour to discuss important issues - most notably our housing and infrastructure needs. Mr. Patzer was in town to recognize the incredible work of the Gravelbourg Cares Shuttle Service team and to [inaugurate their new garage](#). Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, he kindly accepted Council's invitation to meet. I look forward to many more discussions and collaborations with him in the future.

- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

As part of the [Net Zero Community Accelerator Initiative](#), the Town of Gravelbourg's Environmental Advisory Committee has been working with Eco-West to pursue two significant funding opportunities: FCM's Sustainable Municipal Buildings program and the federal [Climate Ready Infrastructure Service \(CRIS\) program](#). I'm pleased to announce that our

CRIS application, an options and pre-feasibility study to explore using the Gravelbourg Aquifer to develop a district energy system, has been approved!

- **TRANSFER STATION UPDATE**

Council has eliminated the punch card system and associated fees. We are still exploring ways to make the Transfer Station more accessible while ensuring security at a feasible cost. If you have an unused punch card to reimburse, please return it to the Town Office by April 30.

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE**

Council has retained Matthewson & Co. to assist in developing a strategic plan for the town. Thank you to everyone who completed the Quality of Life and Business surveys. Your input will help Council prioritize the issues that matter most to residents.

- **INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION**

The Town of Gravelbourg has been working closely with [Associated Engineering](#) on plans to make necessary upgrades to critical infrastructure in a fiscally responsible manner. Stay tuned for updates on the sanitary sewer and water main rehabilitation project in the coming weeks.

Town Council remains committed to improving communication with residents, and we will continue to provide updates like this to keep you informed. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out via email or by booking an appointment through the Town Office. Contact information can be found on the Town of [Gravelbourg Local Government page](#).

Wishing you all a wonderful start to spring!

**Mathieu Forest**

*Mayor, Town of Gravelbourg*

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## Council Quips

**HARDWARE & LUMBER** - We are excited to announce the formation of a working committee dedicated to exploring options for establishing a hardware store and lumber yard in Gravelbourg. This initiative aims to enhance local commerce and facilitate convenient access to essential building materials, tools, and supplies. We look forward to the community's support and input as we work towards making this vision a reality.

**Zach Ogilvie**

*Community & Economic Development Committee Chair*

**SPRING CLEANING** - Winter's still hanging on like that one guest who won't leave the party, but warmer weather is just around the corner! In the meantime, Public Works is working hard to keep the town tidy (send them a friendly wave—not all heroes wear capes, some drive equipment).

**Deanna Pilgrim**

**DIRT 2 DREAMS AGM** - One year ago, Dirt 2 Dreams began a journey to support community-driven projects, starting with a vision to raise funds for local initiatives. Our initial goal was to secure land for farming, but while we didn't achieve that in our first year, we pivoted to gathering pledges from the farm community in pursuit of 160 acres. Although we didn't reach that target, we successfully secured pledges for 120 acres. We've continued with this approach, as it offers flexibility for contributors. This year, we are proud to have fulfilled all five non-profit funding applications, with funds raised dedicated to supporting these important causes.

[Bon Ami](#) Van - \$5,000

Gravelbourg Minor Ball Dugout Replacement - \$4,500

Musée de Gravelbourg Grain for Elevator Refinishing - \$2,000

Gravelbourg Cares Shuttle to Improve Safety, Operational Efficiency – \$2,500

[Gravelbourg Artisan Co-operative](#) Magician & Musician - \$1,400

**Deanna Pilgrim**

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## Community Group Financial Contribution Recipients

The Town of Gravelbourg recognizes the many benefits that various groups, organizations, volunteers and events provide by promoting and improving the cultural, social and economic well-being of the community.

**Council is pleased to announce the approval of all 2025 applications for [community group financial contributions](#). This year's recipients are:**

[Gravelbourg Artisan Co-operative](#) - \$500

**Gravelbourg Medical First Responders** - \$600

**St. Joseph's Hospital / Foyer d'Youville** - \$600

[Gravelbourg Cares Shuttle Service Inc.](#) - \$1000

**Musée de Gravelbourg & District Museum** - \$8000

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## Shining in the Spotlight

Gravelbourg resident **Tracey Lagasse** received an Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award (EMESA) for her outstanding dedication to Search & Rescue in our region. The awards were presented in Ottawa by the Government of Canada on February 26. Congratulations Tracey!

[Read the complete SaskToday article here.](#)

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## Public Works

Spring is in the air, and we are shifting gears to the warm season work. Here are some ways you can help us keep Gravelbourg beautiful!

- 1. STREET SWEEPING** is starting soon. Please pay attention to signage. Make sure to park your vehicle out of the way when your street is scheduled to be cleaned.
  - 2. DRAINAGE** works best when catch basins are clear of leaves and snow. Public Works has many operations to oversee and attend to, and we are always grateful when residents take the time to keep the catch basins adjacent to their properties free of debris.
  - 3. BOULEVARDS** look most beautiful when they are well-maintained. As the soil wakes back up and the growing season begins, Public Works takes pride in maintaining numerous green spaces throughout town. We truly appreciate your assistance in keeping grass boulevards cut, resurfaced boulevards weed-free, and re-purposed boulevards neat and tidy.
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## Sport, Culture & Recreation

We have exciting updates to share with you as we prepare for the upcoming fantastic season of recreational activities. From facility improvements to new programs, here's what's happening in the rec community!

### 1. New Dugouts for the Middle Ball Diamond

**Town Council** approved the **Dugout Replacement Project** for the middle ball diamond! The project (total estimated cost of **\$9,000**) will ensure the replacement of both dugouts, creating a better environment for players and spectators.

This project is made possible through the combined efforts of the **Town of Gravelbourg**, the **Minor Ball Association**, Dirt 2 Dreams, and local sponsors. We look forward to completing the dugouts for the upcoming season and enhancing our ball diamond for all to enjoy!

## 2. Swim Club

**Swim Club Registration is now open!** The **2025 season** starts **May 5<sup>th</sup>**. The program will run on **Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**.

Swim Club offers the following registration groups:

- **Competitive 7-11** (7 years old as of April 1, 2025)
- **Competitive 12+**
- **Non-Competitive 12+** (Endurance and Training Program)

The **Non-Competitive 12+** group is a new addition this year, focusing on building endurance and strength through training, with pool access from **7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**.

For more details, please contact:

[gravelbourgswimclub2016@gmail.com](mailto:gravelbourgswimclub2016@gmail.com)

## 3. Swimming Lesson Registration – Now Open!

These lessons are perfect for all skill levels, from beginners to advanced swimmers, and are designed to help swimmers of all ages improve their technique and confidence in the water.

Don't miss out—spots fill up quickly! Visit the [Aquaplex Centre](#) page for details.

## 4. Pool Opening Soon!

The **swimming pool opens April 21, 2025!** We're looking forward to a fun-filled swimming season and hope you'll join us. Follow the [pool calendar on the Aquaplex page](#) for pool hours, programs, and more.

Thank you for your continued support of our recreational programs. We are committed to providing a wide variety of activities that bring our community together, and we can't wait to see you out there—whether you're on the ball field or in the pool!

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## Administration

It has been another busy year so far in administration as we work diligently to keep all systems running and respond to every one of your inquiries.

1. **TRANSFER STATION** spring hours start April 2. Council eliminated disposal fees to make the transfer station more accessible to residents. Current hours are as follows:

**Wednesdays: 11:00AM-7:00PM**

**Saturday: 9:30AM-4:30PM**

For more information on what's acceptable to dispose of at the Transfer Station, please visit the [Public Services & Utilities page](#).

2. **PUNCH CARD REFUNDS** are in the works. Due to the administrative labour involved, these refunds will be processed in batches. **Please drop your unused transfer station punch card off at the Town Office by April 30.**
3. **TAX ASSESSMENTS** The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency assesses properties based on multiple factors. Information to help you understand your assessment is available on the [SAMA website](#).

Should you consider your property wrongly assessed, you may file an [appeal](#). Information regarding the appeal process can be found on the back page of your property assessment.

**Property evaluation assessment appeals must be submitted to the Secretary of the Board of Revisions by May 14, 2025:**

Nicolle Hoskins  
Western Municipal Consulting Ltd.  
P.O Box 149  
Meota, SK  
S0M 1X0  
Email: [secretary@westernmunicipal.ca](mailto:secretary@westernmunicipal.ca)  
PH: 306-481-3966

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## Community

There are always lots of great things going on in Gravelbourg! Keep yourself informed by checking out our online [COMMUNITY CALENDAR](#).

Want to **share** an upcoming event? Use the SUBMIT button or email event details to [edo@gravelbourg.ca](mailto:edo@gravelbourg.ca) .

Here's a look at some of the current and upcoming events and initiatives:

1. **COMMUNITY BUILDERS WORKSHOP** Gravelbourg is one of only 5 communities in Saskatchewan selected by the [Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance](#) to host the *Positive Pathways to Rural and Small Town Prosperity* workshop. Delivered by internationally renowned rural community builder [Peter Kenyon](#), the workshop will bring regional leaders and community champions together for a full day of collaborative activities designed to give participants the tools to drive community change. The full-day workshop is \$30 for Gravelbourg residents and includes a catered lunch, snacks, and refreshments. **[Register before April 23 to secure your spot!](#)**
2. **TRANSETTE DRIVERS NEEDED!** We are experiencing a shortage of drivers for our local handi-bus serving residents at the Pioneer Villa, Bon Ami, and Foyer d'Youville. The commitment is minimal as drivers are generally scheduled on a monthly rotation with an average of 2-4 hours



per week at \$15/hour. **Please call the administrative assistant at 306-648-3301 Ext. 5 for more information.**

3. **DUTCH ELM DISEASE** is a fatal tree disease caused by a fungus spread by elm bark beetles. As the weather warms, the beetles become more active and are attracted to fresh cuts on trees. Pruning in spring and summer increases the chances of an infection and puts your elms at risk. **Elm tree pruning is prohibited April 1 - August 31.**

**Find more locally relevant information about DED [HERE](#).**

4. **GREEN UP GRAVELBOURG** is a month+ of activities organized in partnership with Gravelbourg Green Initiatives and dedicated to promoting sustainable living and environmental awareness in our region. **Save the date** for the annual **Community Clean-Up on April 26**. Free BBQ lunch for volunteers! The **Town-wide Garage Sale** will take place May 9-10. Check out the [Community Calendar](#) for complete event listings. Check your mailbox for the printed schedule!

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Thank you for taking the time to read about what's happening with Team Town and in our wonderful community! If you have any comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

