COMMUNITY NEWS

2020 BUDGET INFORMATION • THIS YEAR’S PROJECTS • RECREATION COMPLEX PROJECT UPDATE • PARAMEDIC SERVICES BUILDING • WASTE & RECYCLING INFORMATION • NEW COMMITTEES

EDITION NO.6 | FEBRUARY 2020

2020 PROPERTY TAXES: $12,978,000

This graph shows the distribution of property tax dollars that the township will collect this year, representing just 32% of the total budget of $40,494,210 for 2020. The full budget presentation and details are available online at www.russell.ca/BUDGET.

A 1% tax increase represents approximately $120,000 in new revenue for the municipality. For you, the resident, a tax increase of 4% will be approximately $64 on your tax bill (based on an average MPAC home assessment value of $332,000).

• The administration initially proposed a 2% increase for the 2020 Budget;
• After deliberation, Council voted to increase the 2020 tax levy by an additional 2% for a total of 4%. This will bring approximately $480,000 in additional revenues for the Township in 2020;
• The additional 2% tax increase will be used to fill the funding gap for road infrastructure (approximately $120,000) and to invest in the financing of the future recreation complex (approximately $120,000).


THIS YEAR’S PROJECTS

This is only a short list of projects planned for this year. Find the full list of 2020 projects on our website at www.Russell.ca/Budget.

• 14.1 km of road rehabilitation

In 2020, the Infrastructure Department will be rehabilitating the following roads:

• Groves Road ($300,000)
• St-Thomas Road ($416,000)
• Route 500 ($555,000)
• Route 200, from Boundary to Hamilton ($168,000)
• Route 200, from St-Guillaume to St-Thomas ($451,000)
• Route 300, 1.4 km east of St-Thomas Road ($120,000)
• Maheu Street ($110,000)

• 3 culvert replacements

Public Works will be completing three (3) major culvert replacements: on Blais Street, Route 300, and St-Joseph Road.

• Upgrades to our recreation features

• LED lights to be installed at Lafortune and Joe Belisle baseball diamonds. ($60,000)
• Embrun tennis courts to be resurfaced. ($27,910)
• Eight dugouts across our various baseball diamonds will be getting new roofs and cement slabs. ($7,500)

A LOOK BACK AT 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS

14.95 KM OF ROADS RESURFACED

 Wade Road Bridge Replaced and Widened

333M OF NEW AND IMPROVED SIDEWALKS

NEW PLAY STRUCTURES AT RICHELIEU PARK AND OMER LAMADELINE PARK

YOU GRADED US AN ‘A’ IN THE 2019 REPORT CARD

READ THE 2019 SURVEY FINAL REPORT AT WWW.RUSSELL.CA

The Township identified 16 key trends and observations from your survey comments, and addressed each one in the final report. Read the 2019 Survey Final Report at Russell.ca.

• The fourth annual citizen satisfaction survey was open from June to September 2019.
• Out of 425 responses, the Township has received a grade of A for 2019.
• In comparison, the Township received a grade of B+ in 2018.
• 67% of respondents who have previously taken the annual survey say that the services have improved since the first survey in 2016.

What is the Annual Report Card?

The Communications Department opens an annual online survey asking respondents to evaluate our major services and our overall performance. This survey assists the municipality in capturing public perception and identifying areas of improvement, helping us make this community the best place to live when planning your future.
Pierre Leroux, Mayor of the Township of Russell, has been elected as the 2020 Warden of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.

What are the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR)?

There are two levels of municipal government in our region. The UCPR is an upper tier (or regional) level of government consisting of eight local municipalities. These include our Township, the Township of Alfred and Plantagenet, Champlain, and East Hawkesbury; Municipalities of Casselman and The Nation; Town of Hawkesbury; and the City of Clarence-Rockland. The UCPR are responsible for paramedic services, social services, maintenance of major roads, and more throughout the region. Visit www.prescott-russell.on.ca.

TOWNSHIP WAITS ON A GRANT RESPONSE FOR THE RECREATION COMPLEX PROJECT

What is the project?

This project is for a multi-use recreation complex that will serve as a sport, cultural, and recreation facility for the growing Township of Russell community and surrounding areas. The Township has been working on this project since the 2015 Recreation Master Plan, which identified a keen interest for such a facility, with specific interest in an indoor pool and new multi-pad arena.

What amenities will the complex include?

At this point, no amenities inside the Recreation Complex are confirmed. At a projected cost of over $50 million, this is the largest financial capital project in the Township's history. The Township applied for a government grant for a project estimated at $50 million, suggesting a facility with three new ice surfaces, a 6-lane pool, a leisure pool and a 250-300 seat theatre/auditorium. The Township expects a first response from the provincial government in winter 2020, and from the federal government in summer 2020. Results from the grant application will impact the project's scope and construction timelines.

NEW TEEN AND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES CREATED TO BETTER IDENTIFY RESIDENT NEEDS

The Township of Russell has a high number of teens and seniors within the community. Starting in Spring 2020, these new advisory committees will help better identify issues, grasp the concerns, and understand the needs of these groups.

Teen Advisory Committee

Three student representatives from each of our local high schools will act as a resource on matters affecting teens (14-18 years old) in the Township, and will organize an annual public forum called “Teenmatters” to discuss issues of interest and importance to teens.

Seniors Advisory Committee

This committee will serve as a forum for matters affecting seniors (55+) and to enhance the quality of life of seniors in the Township of Russell.

PROJECT UPDATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW PARAMEDIC SERVICES BUILDING IN EMBRUN

What is the project?

As part of the 2019 Business Plan, the Township of Russell is constructing a new paramedic services building at 371 New York Central Avenue in the Embrun commercial park. The new station will assist the UCPR Paramedic Services to grow their fleet and modernize their infrastructure to respond to their 6% annual increase in calls and demand for services.

When will construction be finished?

The UCPR Paramedic Services are expected to begin their occupancy at the new station this spring. The Township has agreed to a 20-year lease agreement with the UCPR for the new building.

REMINDERS & UPCOMING DEADLINES

WINTER SNOW REMOVAL

Keep in mind when clearing your driveway of snow that it is forbidden to push the snow on Township property including sidewalks, onto streets, or across streets. See the Township’s By-Law #82-2012 and Ontario Highway Traffic Act for details.

SPRING PROGRAMS

Online registrations are open for our Spring Programs: Power Hour, Fitness for Seniors, Pickleball, Tennis, Chair exercises, Art in progress, Get your paint on! Cookie Workshop, Cupcake Decorating Workshop.

RENEW YOUR DOG TAG BEFORE APRIL 1ST

All dog tags must be renewed before April 1st each year. Please complete your payment by visiting Town Hall, the Village Veterinary Clinic in Russell, or online at www.Russell.ca/dogtags. Dog tags are $20 for castrated dogs and $25 for non-castrated dogs. Late fees of $10 apply to renewals received after March 31st.

SUMMER CAMPS

· Online registration for our summer camps will open on April 15th, 2020.
· Register before June 15th, 2020 to take advantage of early bird pricing!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST TO RECEIVE DIGITAL NEWS!
www.russell.ca/subscribe

COMPOST COLLECTION NOT OFFERED IN 2020

The Township has understood that residents are interested in compost/organics collection. The possibility of providing this service was discussed at the 2020 budget meetings, but due to the significant costs, Council decided the collection of organics would not be offered in 2020 with our new waste contract. Providing this service would have increased each household’s user fee by an additional $100 each year. The Township will review the possibility once new information and collection standards are available.