

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW





Connected to you

As a City, we are committed to staying connected with you – our residents – and listening to your feedback. You are at the heart of everything we do, so please get, and stay, in touch.



Here are some ways you can connect with us:

City Hall: 315 Jespersen Ave.

Phone: 780-962-2611 (from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Web: www.sprucegrove.org

Email: info@sprucegrove.org

CityPulse: www.sprucegrove.org/citypulse

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Stuart Houston



Like many other communities across the province and the country, Spruce Grove is feeling the impact of the recent shift in the economy. This brings challenges, but also opportunities for our city. While Spruce Grove City Council is very aware of the current economic landscape, we are also strongly committed to finding ways we can move forward to implement our strategic plan – that our city is the best place to live, to raise an active, healthy family and to grow a strong, successful business.

Our goal, as always, is to meet the needs of our residents by positioning the city for continued success. You can see some of the steps we've already taken in this Year in Review for 2015.

I'm very proud to report that we continue to have significant, and even record breaking, growth in our city. We had an all-time high one-year population increase of 8.5 per cent in 2015, which tells me we are building a community that people want to call home. In fact, last year MoneySense magazine named Spruce Grove one of the 10 best places in Canada to raise a family and one of the top 100 best places to live in Canada!

Development and investment remained strong with \$189 million in building permit values, which is the third best year in the City's history. We had double

the number of commercial structures – from five in 2014 to 10 last year, which supports the findings from a 2015 report done by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business that listed the Greater Edmonton region, including Spruce Grove, as one of the top 10 places in Canada to start and grow a business.

Recognizing the long-term needs of both our staff and the community, we completed and opened the City's new Public Works Facility, which will meet the needs of the city for the next 25 years, and we expanded the City's office space into the King Street Plaza facility to accommodate our Planning and Development and Engineering departments.

As you can see, we really aren't slowing down. We have worked hard to develop comprehensive and forward-thinking long-term plans for Spruce Grove, which will guide us into the future. We know there will be challenges, but I have absolute confidence in our ability that we will come out the other side in a stronger position than before.

I'm proud of what we accomplished in 2015 as it demonstrates our commitment to what we've outlined in our strategic plan and as we move forward, I know we can find ways to up our game in the future to make Spruce Grove a resilient, welcoming and prosperous community.

CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Robert Cotterill

On behalf of the City of Spruce Grove, I am pleased to present our 2015 Year in Review, which highlights many of our accomplishments and our financial position from last year.

Looking back at what we achieved in 2015, I have to attribute much of our success to the City's new strategic plan, Building an Exceptional City – a Strategic Roadmap to 2035. Spruce Grove City Council developed and approved the plan in 2014, but last year was our first full calendar year with it as our compass for what we did and how we did it. Our vision for Spruce Grove, which you can read on page 44, is the lens through which we view everything we do as an organization and I'm proud to say the results to date indicate we are on the right path.

At the core of this success is the working relationship between council members and City administration. Through council's strong, collaborative leadership, they provide the big picture vision and set a clear strategic direction for the city. Together, we work to create a plan for the community that addresses not only the wants and needs of today, but how Spruce Grove will look five, 10 and even 20 years down the road.

As City administration and staff, it's our job to take council's vision and turn it into a reality. Every year we develop a three-year corporate plan that aligns with the goals that have been identified in our strategic plan. This plan is our guiding document for governance, community development and service delivery. It captures how we take council's vision and translate it into everything we do, from large capital projects, such as the construction of our new Public Works Facility, to the daily business of running a municipality, including waste collection, snow removal and park development.

We all have a role to play in making Spruce Grove the community of choice, and we each take great pride in our work for the City. I am constantly impressed by the dedication of our council and staff as they work together to make Spruce Grove the best place to live, to raise an active, healthy family and to grow a strong, successful business. Many of these accomplishments are captured in this Year in Review and I would invite you to take a look at some of our highlights from 2015.

As we look back and reflect on what we achieved in 2015, I am also excited about what we have planned for 2016. With the support and direction from council, we can proceed with confidence and purpose in our united goal of making Spruce Grove a strong, dynamic and welcoming community.



Vision statement



Our vision

Our vision for our community's future in 2035 is that Spruce Grove is the best place to live, to raise an active, healthy family and to grow a strong, successful business.



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 community for all



Our vision in action

In Spruce Grove in 2035, we want to be:

Where people choose to live –

a dynamic city with an exceptional quality of life

Where people choose to raise a family –

a leading leisure, recreation and sports community

Where people choose to grow a business –

a strong, diversified regional business centre



2035



2015

SNAPSHOT



Transit riders:
87,091



300 Trees planted
(plus thousands of seedlings)

Population
32,036



One-year
population growth:
8.5%

1,320
Active businesses
licensed

432

Garage sales promoted
through the City's garage sale
advertising program



Total households: **12,025**

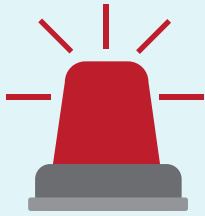


26 Block parties held



Curbside collections

Organics: 1,636 tonnes
Recycling: 1,120 tonnes
Waste: 5,870 tonnes



Incidents responded to by Spruce Grove Fire Services (within Spruce Grove): **2,168**

Spruce Grove Enforcement Services complaint files: **2,929**



4,231
Twitter followers



4,514
Facebook fans



Website visits: **453,821**
Unique website visitors: **223,266**

Website visits from a mobile device or tablet: **48.3%**

Lights at City facilities switched to LED fixtures: **96**

Tickets sold for Horizon Stage season performances

9,468



414
Hours of drop-in recreation programs



1,097 Hydrants

286
Garbage receptacles



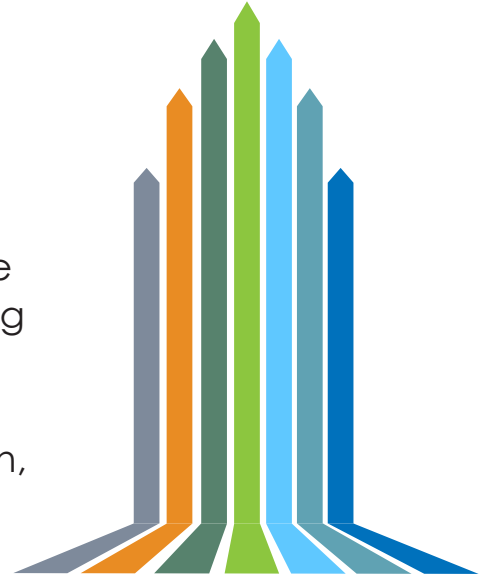
Maintained pieces of equipment: **428**



Housing starts: **572**
Total building permits: **1,295**
Total building permit value: **\$189 million**

Up we go!

Spruce Grove continued to experience impressive growth in 2015, even breaking a few records along the way. Overall, the City issued 1,295 building permits with a total permit value of \$189 million, which is the third best year in Spruce Grove's history!



Residential

The City had \$133.7 million in residential building permit value in 2015. Approximately 92 per cent of the total building permits issued by the City last year were for residential construction, which is consistent with previous years.

1,162
**Residential
building
permits**



Commercial

On the commercial side, building permits for new commercial structures doubled in 2015 to 10 buildings at a value of \$22.8 million, which is the highest activity level the City has seen since 2010. There were 62 permits for commercial improvements last year with a value of \$7.8 million, which is a new record, bringing total commercial building permit value to \$30.6 million.

72
**Commercial
building
permits**



Industrial and institutional

Last year, the City permitted five new industrial buildings with \$6.2 million in building permit value. Overall, the average value of both industrial and commercial buildings has been increasing, which reflects the development of larger, high quality structures going up in the city.

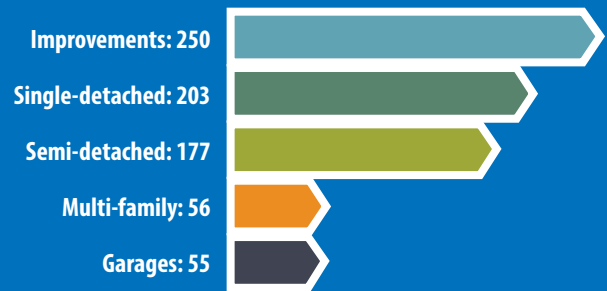
25
**Industrial
& institutional
building permits**

Development permits

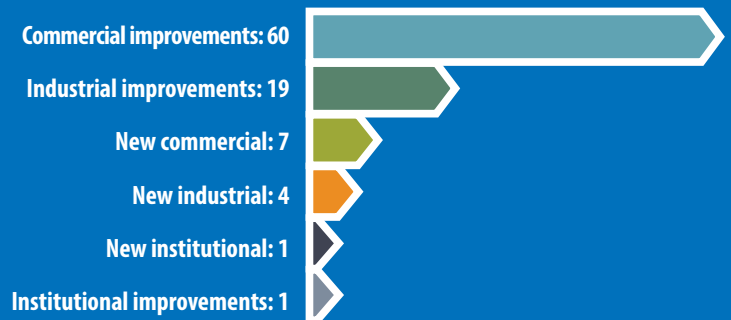
Overall, 741 development permits were issued for residential development in 2015. Development permit activity was down slightly from previous years.

Most permits were issued for single detached dwellings and improvements, which is typical of development in Spruce Grove. A total of 92 non-residential development permits were also issued last year.

Residential development permits by type:



Non-residential development permits by type:



32,036



People

The city's population grew to 12,025 households with 32,036 residents, which was an all-time high one-year population increase of 8.5 per cent. Results from the 2015 census also showed that Spruce Grove remains a family-oriented community, as the largest population groups are ages 30 to 34, followed closely by the 35 to 39 age group and then children ages 0 to 9.

572



Housing starts

There were 572 housing starts last year that were evenly split between multifamily, semi-detached and single detached homes. The majority of the housing starts were on the east and west ends of the city in the newer developments, such as Tonewood, Prescott, Spruce Ridge and McLaughlin.

Edmonton Eskimos stay and play

“We had everything we could ever desire in terms of the facility and intangibly, we felt welcomed and embraced with open arms.” – Len Rhodes

In 2015, Fuhr Sports Park became home-away-from-home for the Edmonton Eskimos who stayed and played in Spruce Grove during the team's annual spring training camp.

Displaced from Commonwealth Stadium by the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup, the Eskimos found themselves in search of fields and a training facility that would meet their standards and allow them to lay the groundwork for what would become an exceptional season.

“We immediately thought of Spruce Grove,” says Len Rhodes, Edmonton Eskimos President and CEO. “It was the first and only place we were thinking about.”

With the support of local sport groups behind it, the City was quick to accept the request.

“When news of their long-term tenancy in Spruce Grove was first announced in 2013, we were proud to know that when challenged by the availability of their home stadium, Fuhr Sports Park was the team's first choice facility,” said Paul Feser, Supervisor of Recreation Services with the City.

“Fuhr Sports Park is a professional level sports and recreation facility with two state-of-the-art artificial turf fields,” Feser said. “It's wonderful to see it draw the attention of, and be used by, a CFL franchise of their calibre.”

And used it was. The Eskimos used the park from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day from late May to early July.

“Our experience in Spruce Grove surpassed all of our expectations,” said Rhodes. “We had everything we could ever desire in terms of the

facility and intangibly, we felt welcomed and embraced with open arms.”

Off the field, with roughly 130 people staying at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in the Tri Leisure Village development, the Eskimos organization became one of the first major long-term occupants of the hotel.

On Nov. 29, 2015, the Edmonton Eskimos went on to win the 103rd Grey Cup against the Ottawa RedBlacks – securing a long-awaited victory for the team and a piece of history for Spruce Grove.

Two weeks later, during a Spruce Grove City Council meeting, Rhodes returned with the Grey Cup in hand to share the team's win and thank the community for its first-class hospitality.

“For us, an important part of the process was how it all started,” Rhodes said of his return visit to Spruce Grove. “Had Spruce Grove not welcomed us, I don't know where there is a comparable facility or community that would do what you did for us.”



Time to expand

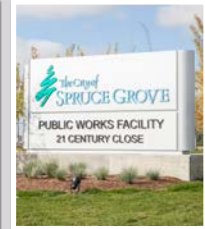
City staff expanded into two new buildings in 2015, while a popular multi-purpose hall received an impressive facelift.

Public Works Facility

Designed to accommodate an estimated 25 years of growth in Spruce Grove, the City's new Public Works Facility incorporates natural light, a modern layout and a design that focuses on making the workspace more efficient for administration space, fleet vehicles, shop areas and employee work spaces.

At just over 77,000 square feet, the building, located at 21 Century Close, includes many impressive features including:

- Energy efficient lighting and low flow plumbing features
- An exterior solar wall to pre-heat interior air
- A rooftop mounted solar thermal system to heat water
- A geothermal heating system to heat and cool administrative areas of the facility
- Bioswales to slow and collect runoff water around the facility



Planning and Development and Engineering

The City's Planning and Development and Engineering departments moved to a new office space last year, just across the street from City Hall.

Now located at 414 King St., inside the King Street Mall, both departments are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The move enhances customer service hours, as both departments are now open over the lunch hour, and will allow for better coordination and efficiency between departments, as all staff will be in one location.

Elks Hall

The popular Elks Hall received a facelift and re-opened to the community last year. Renovations include new floorings, upgraded washrooms, new paint, light fixtures, doors and windows, a stone patio, landscaping and a paved parking area.





Tour of Alberta 2015

The City of Spruce Grove, with the support and involvement of the Town of Stony Plain and Parkland County, was proud to host the Stage 5 finish of the third annual Tour of Alberta in 2015.

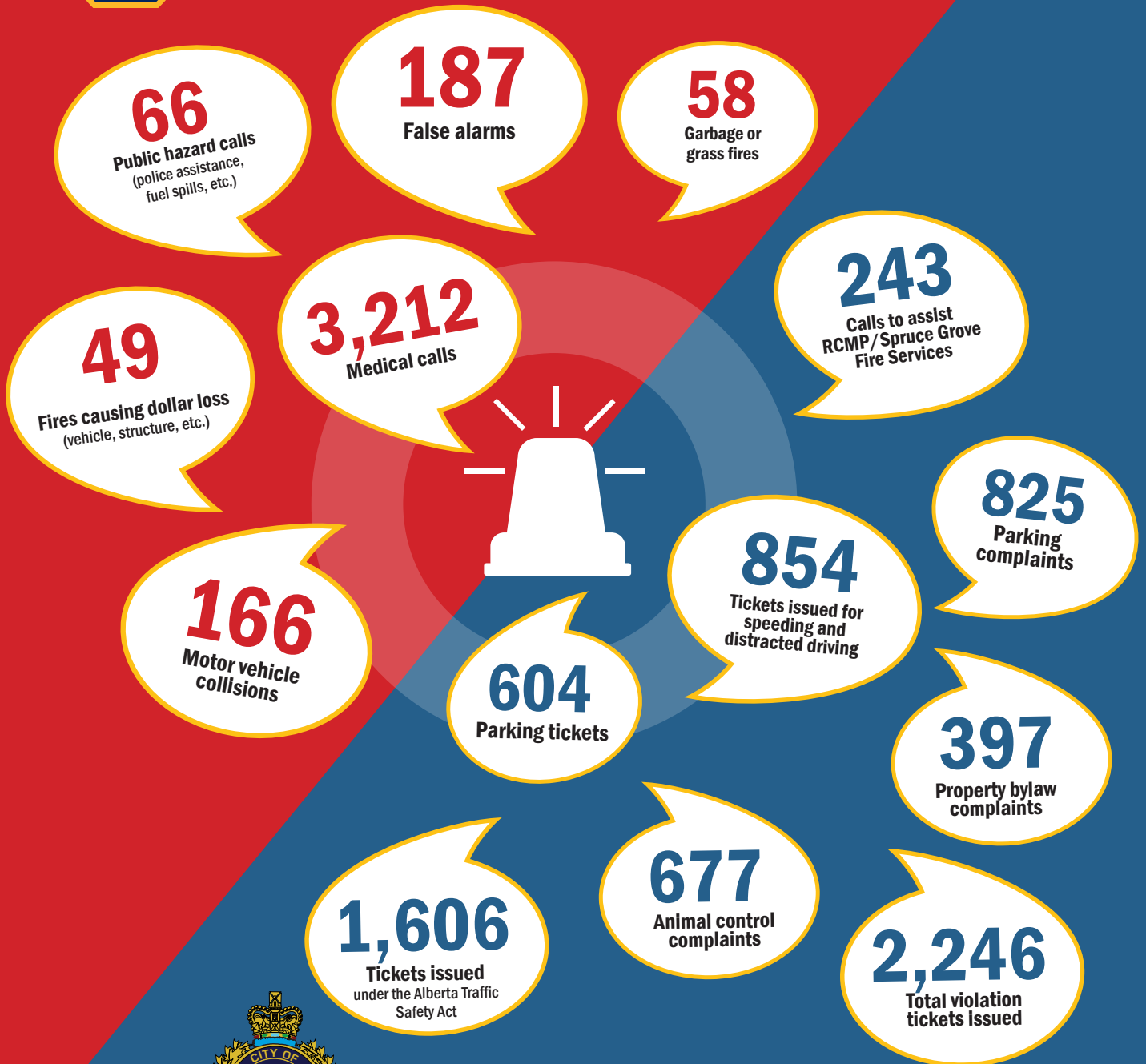
This elite professional cycling event saw hundreds of competitors from across the globe compete in a six-stage race, which started in Grande Prairie on Sept. 2, 2015, and concluded in Edmonton on Sept. 7.

Stage 5, held on Sept. 6, was a 206.2 kilometre course that started in Edson and travelled through Parkland County and Stony Plain before ending at Central Park in Spruce Grove.

A fan festival was also held at Central Park, giving area residents an opportunity to participate in free activities and cheer on the riders as they arrived in Spruce Grove.

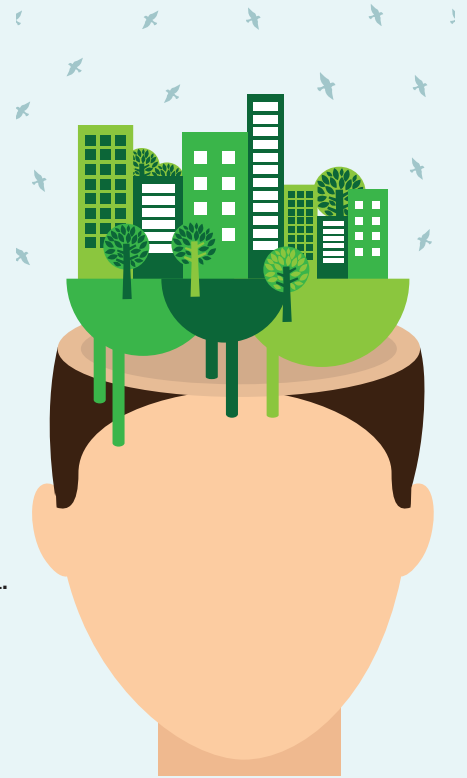


Spruce Grove Fire Services responded to 3,738 incidents in 2015, and of those incidents 2,168 were within Spruce Grove.



Spruce Grove Enforcement Services responded to 2,929 complaint files in 2015.

Creating a sustainable community



As part of the City of Spruce Grove's commitment to the environment, every year work is done to implement the goals of the City's Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. This action plan, which was developed in 2011 by the Mayor's Task Force on the Environment, identifies priority areas, goals and strategies to direct the City's environmental sustainability approach until 2021. Significant progress was made in 2015 to achieve these goals.



PRIORITY AREA #1 – LAND USE AND NATURAL AREAS

Goal: Protect sustainable natural areas.

Goal: Provide residents access to green space.

Accomplished in 2015

A three-part workshop series on natural areas was held in May 2015. These workshops taught residents about natural landscaping, how to enjoy and protect the City's natural areas, and nature-deficit disorder, which is a condition that signifies an increasing disconnect between people and nature.



PRIORITY AREA #2 – TRANSPORTATION

Goal: Increase the appeal, awareness and availability of alternative transportation.

Goal: Increase public transit ridership and service levels.

Accomplished in 2015

- Completed a survey of 398 transit users to gauge rider satisfaction
- Transit use increased 4.4 per cent over 2014 with 87,091 riders in 2015
- Hosted a transit appreciation day on May 21, 2015, and handed out coffee gift cards to riders
- Hosted a ride for free day on June 30, 2015, where 219 people took the bus at no charge



PRIORITY AREA #3 – WASTE

Goal: Reduce the amount of residential waste going to landfill.

Goal: Reduce the amount of non-residential waste going to landfill.

Accomplished in 2015

There was an overall waste diversion rate of 37 per cent in 2015, which was up from 35 per cent in 2014. Additionally, 797 kitchen catchers and 256 of the smaller 120-L black waste carts were delivered to residents. Waste Reduction Week was recognized from Oct. 19–25, 2015, and 164 residents participated in the annual Shred-4-Free event to safely dispose of documents containing personal information.



PRIORITY AREA #4 – WATER

Goal: Maintain quality of the local watershed.

Goal: Reduce water consumption.

Accomplished in 2015

In 2015, the average total water consumption was 228 litres per capita per day, down from 230 in 2014. Residential consumption was at 176 litres per capita per day, down slightly from 177 in 2014. The City also updated its water conservation plan that identifies a new target of 170 litres per capita per day by 2020.

A one-day rain barrel sale was also held in collaboration with Parkland County, the Town of Stony Plain and Rona Home Centre, which sold 175 rain barrels.



PRIORITY AREA #5 – ENERGY

Goal: Reduce energy use in the community.

Accomplished in 2015

- Switched 60 lights to LED fixtures in Stu Barnes Arena
- Switched 36 lights to LED fixtures in curling rink
- Incorporated six solar panels and geothermal heating in the new Public Works Facility, resulting in energy savings of 37 per cent

Green buildings:

- One LEED certification application submitted – Public Works Facility
- One Green Globes application submitted – Border Paving Athletic Centre

COLLECTION & DIVERSION

Curbside collection division:

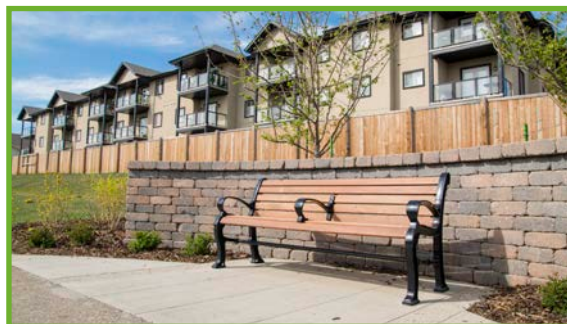
- Curbside organics – 1,636 tonnes
- Curbside recycling – 1,120 tonnes
- Curbside waste – 5,870 tonnes

Eco Centre diversion:

- Waste – 540 tonnes
- Compost – 234 tonnes
- Recycling – 686 tonnes
- Hazardous waste – 718,582 litres (aerosol cans, cleaners, paint, herbicides, solvents, fuel, etc.)
- Fire extinguishers – 430
- Ink cartridges – 837
- CFL bulbs – 3,370
- One-pound propane bottles – 441
- Dry batteries – 2,079
- Fluorescent light tubes – 42,019 feet
- Lamp ballast – 849
- E-waste – 86 tonnes



A place to rest



When using Spruce Grove's trail system, residents will now find several new places where they can rest while out enjoying one of the City's natural gems.

In 2015, nine Rotary rest nodes were constructed along the trail system, providing seating areas where trail users can take a break, or simply pause to enjoy the scenery.

The rest nodes were constructed thanks to a \$150,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Spruce Grove and legacy funding from the

1995 Alberta Summer Games, which were hosted by the City of Spruce Grove, the Town of Stony Plain and Parkland County.

These Rotary rest nodes are adjoined to the trails along Grove Drive, Jennifer Heil Way, McLeod Avenue and Westgrove Drive.

The rest nodes all include a bench on a small concrete pad, a short wall, concrete pad and vegetation. Plaques identifying the contributions for the rest nodes are yet to be installed.

Nelson Drive honours founding family

Last year, the City honoured the Nelson family, one of the community's founding families, by renaming a portion of Westgrove Drive to Nelson Drive.

Spruce Grove City Council made the decision to rename Westgrove Drive, between Highway 16A and Jennifer Heil Way, to recognize the Nelsons as one of Spruce Grove's pioneering families.

For more than a century, the Nelson family has lived in Spruce Grove on a homestead located along what is now Nelson Drive. For decades they ran a mixed farm on a half-section of land, raising chickens, pigs and cattle. Since the early 1900s, the Nelsons have watched Spruce Grove grow from a small hamlet of only a few hundred people into the vibrant community that it is today. The family has volunteered

countless hours to the development of programs for both children and youth as well as adult clubs in Spruce Grove.

Earl Nelson, the family patriarch, and his late wife Eileen were founding leaders of the Girl Guides and Scout programs in Spruce Grove. Additionally, they were integral in the success of the Spruce Grove Curling Club, together serving on the club's board for 25 years and as its presidents for six.

Their home, which received Municipal Historic Resource status in August 2012, was built with local materials in 1912. The 2,300-square-foot farmhouse is three-storeys, uniquely large for a home built before the First World War and is remains located on the original homestead.

For six generations a member of the Nelson family has owned

and lived in this house.

To date, the Nelson home remains the only property in Spruce Grove to hold Municipal Historic Resource designation and currently, Earl and Eileen's grandson, Wilson Nelson, and his wife Danielle are working to restore the property.

By renaming this portion of Westgrove Drive to Nelson Drive, the Nelson family's legacy has been further etched into the history of Spruce Grove.



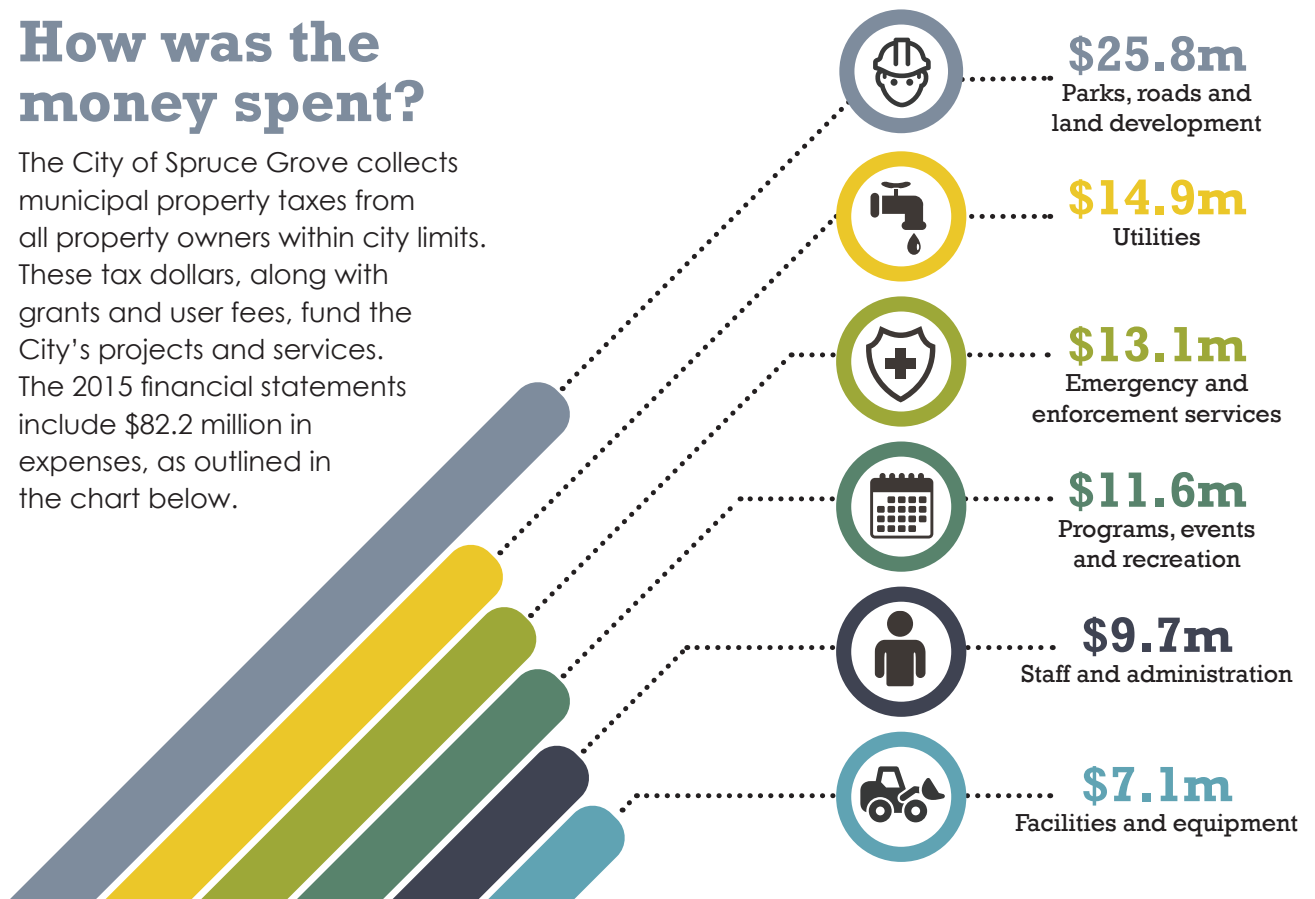
2015 Financial Summary

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 2015 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 2015 Consolidated Financial Statements is available on the City's website at www.sprucegrove.org.

How was the money spent?

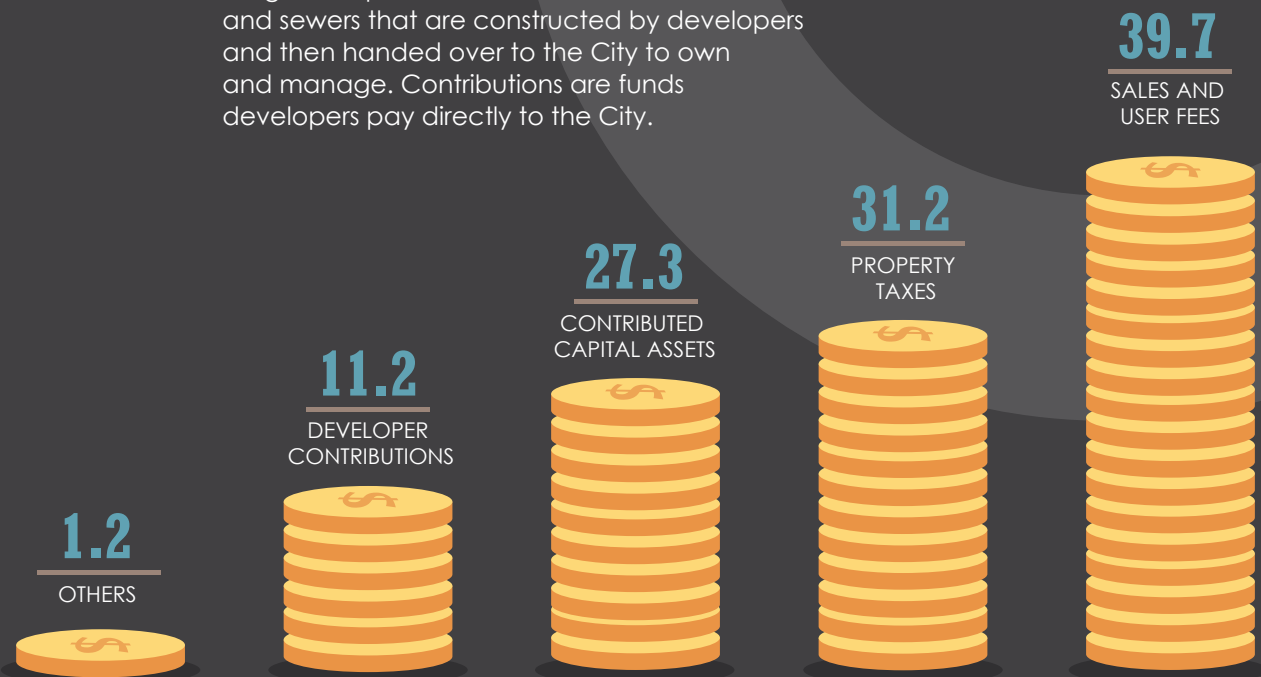
The City of Spruce Grove collects municipal property taxes from all property owners within city limits. These tax dollars, along with grants and user fees, fund the City's projects and services. The 2015 financial statements include \$82.2 million in expenses, as outlined in the chart below.



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.
- **Government transfers:** Funds the City receives from the provincial and federal governments, as well as neighbouring municipalities.
- **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.
- **Sales and user fees:** Includes utility charges, fines, permits and facility rentals.
- **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.



2015 REVENUES (\$ MILLIONS)

Consolidated financial statements

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 2015 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)	2015	2014
Financial assets	57	60
Financial liabilities	62	55
Net financial assets (debt)	-5	5
Non-financial assets	432	393
Accumulated surplus	427	398

Financial position

At the end of 2015, future revenue of \$5 million was needed to pay for operations to-date.

Surplus funds have accumulated over the history of the City to \$427 million. Virtually all surplus funds (\$419 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 2015 operations is an annual surplus of \$28 million, and \$39 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 and projects in 2015 were very close to budget.

Financial activities (\$ millions)	Budget	2015	2014
Revenue - operations	73	76	70
Expenses	77	82	69
Annual surplus from operations	-3	-6	1
Revenue - capital	42	35	40
Annual surplus	38	28	41
Capital assets	-53	-51	(52)
Net financial assets (debt)			
Change	-3	-10	0
Opening		5	5
Closing		-5	5



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www.sprucegrove.org

