

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS MAY 2025 EDITION



UPDATES FROM YOUR TEAM AT TOWN OF GRAVELBOURG

Scholarship Recipients

The Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. Congratulations to the dedicated organizers and all the participants of the 25th Anniversary Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival on another successful season!

Town of Gravelbourg sponsored two scholarships awarded to the following talented local performers:

Piano Open (\$250) to Byeolha Seo

Piano Conservatory Class (\$50) to Huck Nichol

[2025 Scholarships & Awards](#)

Visit the [GDBMF Facebook page](#) to watch the Gravelbourg Grammys!

Public Works

Spring has sprung and the grass needs cutting, the weeds need spraying, the streets need sweeping and the list goes on! A friendly reminder that you can help us stay on track with our busy schedule by contacting the Town Office with your requests and concerns.

Please do not contact Public Works directly.

1) TOWN SHOP OPEN HOUSE

National Public Works Week 2025 is May 18-24. To celebrate, please join us for an open house at the town shop. Meet the crew, check out the cool equipment and learn more about what we do in the community!

**Gravelbourg Public Works Shop (302 1st Avenue West)
Thursday May 22 from 1:00PM-3:00PM**

2) BROKEN LORAAS CARTS

If your garbage or recycling cart has been damaged, **please contact Town Office at (306) 648-3301 ext. 5** so we can assess the situation and arrange a replacement.

DO NOT contact Loraas Disposal directly.

3) LAGOON DESTRATIFICATION & DISCHARGE

Do you smell rotten eggs?

In the spring, wastewater lagoons can develop a strong unpleasant odor due to seasonal turnover in which warmer temperatures cause settled solids and trapped gases to rise to the surface, releasing foul smells like hydrogen sulfide. This is called destratification. The hydrogen sulfide gas is a by-product of anaerobic decomposition, which is the primary culprit behind the characteristic “rotten egg” smell.

The lagoon is also undergoing a semi-annual discharge, which will continue for the next few weeks and include routine wastewater testing.

Sport, Culture & Recreation

1) INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: \$1.8M GRANT COULD TRANSFORM LA PALESTRE

After four years of planning and data collection, the Town of Gravelbourg has applied for a \$1.8 million [Green and Inclusive Community Buildings](#) grant to

overhaul La Palestre's aging refrigeration system and implement vital energy-efficient upgrades. If approved, the Town will need to raise \$360,000 locally.

This project is part of a larger, ongoing transformation of La Palestre. With recent insurance-funded repairs to the dressing rooms and referee's room—along with new PEX water lines, updated lighting, improved heating, and the upcoming replacement of the roof and all exterior walls—we're making major strides in renewing this vital facility.

If the grant is approved, we'll be able to take the next big step: ensuring La Palestre remains safe, sustainable, and cost-effective for generations to come. Community support will be crucial, and fundraising plans are in the works—**stay tuned for how you can help bring this vision to life!**

2) BOOST YOUR BUSINESS & BACK LOCAL SPORT WITH ARENA ADVERTISING

Arena advertising at La Palestre is more than just promotion—it's a way to support youth, senior, and recreational hockey, curling, skating, and more. Opportunities include rink boards, general signage, and growing in popularity is our **NEW Agriculture Wall**, which recognizes the backbone of our region.

Advertising spots for the 2025/2026 season are now open, and returning advertisers will receive renewal invoices starting May 1.

Want to get involved or expand your exposure? Reach out today to secure your spot.

Call Leanne at (306) 648-3301 Ext.6 or email crc@gravelbourg.ca.

3) AQUAPLEX IS OPEN! SWIMS, LESSONS & BIRTHDAY PARTIES BOOKING FAST

The Aquaplex officially opened April 21, inspections passed with flying colours, and the pool is already buzzing with activity. Public swims over Easter break were a hit, swimming lessons are filling up quickly, and advanced lifeguarding courses have begun. Schools are booking regular swim times, birthday parties and private rentals are underway—a perfect way to celebrate with family and friends this spring and summer. With a full team of lifeguards in place, we're ready for a safe, active season at the pool!

Visit the [Aquaplex Centre](#) page for the pool calendar, admission fees, and lesson registration.

4) GRAVELBOURG ARTISAN CO-OPERATIVE MEMBER SHOWCASE & SALE

Take in the GAC Square Foot Art Show & Sale at the **Renaissance Gaiety Theatre on May 10 from 11:00AM-6:00PM**. Open to all ages, this is a wonderful FREE annual cultural event for our community featuring original work by local artists, a curated selection of NFB films, and refreshments. Visit artisancoop.ca for details or follow the [GAC on Facebook](#).

Administration

As municipal administrators, we wear many hats and handle a tremendous volume of data and inquiries on any given day. To help us serve you better and ensure the accuracy of information, we ask that residents **please submit all requests and concerns in writing either by mail, in person or by email.**

1) SUMMER SEWER CREDIT APPLICATION

The Town of Gravelbourg developed Policy No. 585-001 “to encourage healthy lawns and gardens which attract pollinators and create food for personal use or the use of others, which may assist with food security issues.”

The policy was established to provide a credit for excess sewer charges for those that have an increase of water use during the months of June, July, August and September.

Look for an [application form](#) with your next month’s water bill and save!

To learn more about this policy and more, [visit the Bylaws and Policies page!](#)

2) GOT A BLUE FLAG?

If there is a little blue flag on your property, it might be a good time to check and make sure that your water bills are up to date. A blue flag means that the curb stop has been located and exercised - the first step towards a water shutoff.

If you have questions or concerns about your account, please contact Carleen at (306) 648-3301 Ext. 2 or town@gravelbourg.ca

Community

1) EV CHARGER GRANT

Gravelbourg is greening up! On April 16th, Aviva Canada announced our community as one of the recipients of their “Charged for Change” grant to install a Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) charging station. The program is a partnership between Aviva and Earth Day Canada. To learn more about this exciting step forward and its potential impact, read the [April 16 press release on our News blog](#).

2) HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Help keep toxins out of our sewers and landfill! Take advantage of an upcoming opportunity to safely dispose of your hazardous household waste as part of Green Up Gravelbourg Month.

Transfer Station
Wednesday May 7
12:00PM-6:00PM.

For more information on acceptable materials, please visit the [Product Care Recycling website](#).

3) TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE EVENT

The Green Up Gravelbourg Garage Sale weekend is just around the corner. **Sales will run Friday, May 9th and Saturday, May 10th (suggested time 9 AM -4 PM), and free items will be left out on Sunday, May 11th.**

Hunting for deals? [Check out the treasure map!](#) Got kids? Check out the [ECC Consignment Sale](#) at the Cultural Centre (10 AM – 3 PM).

Got a garage full of goodies that need to find new homes? [Register online by May 8](#) or call **306-648-3301 x4!**

4) TREE ID WALK

Did you know that Gravelbourg has a Community Forest? Planted over 20 years ago on the west side of town in partnership with PFRA, this stand of primarily fruit-bearing trees is ready for revitalization!

Come for a walk to learn how to identify the different species and help to re-imagine the future of this burgeoning community resource. Hosted by [Gravelbourg Green Initiatives Vert.](#)

**Gravelbourg Community Forest (Bettez St.)
May 31 at 2:00PM**

UPDATES FROM YOUR TOWN OF GRAVELBOURG COUNCIL



Former Mayor Receives Honour

In recognition of his 29 years of municipal service, Darcy Stefiuk received an Honorary Service Award from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) at the annual President's Gala held at TCU Place in Saskatoon on April 15. Here is the excerpt from the event program:

“Darcy made Gravelbourg home in 1980 and has been a steadfast pillar of the community ever since. He has demonstrated his commitment to creating a community where people support each other and work together to bring about positive growth. Known for his selfless generosity, Darcy continuously gives of his time, skills, and resources wherever needed – volunteering in the community, donating to local causes, supporting local businesses, and helping preserve Gravelbourg’s heritage sites. He is passionate about welcoming newcomers, helping them to integrate and feel at home. He has never sought recognition for his actions, driven solely by his desire to make Gravelbourg a better place for everyone to call home.”

Congratulations and many thanks, Darcy!

Mayor’s Message

Why Our Town is Creating a Strategic Plan for Our Future

Our town is a special place — a community where people want to live, work, and build their future. To make sure we continue to grow thoughtfully and maintain the great quality of life we all value, we are creating a strategic plan for our community.

This plan is about shaping a shared vision for where we want to go together. It will help us prioritize projects, guide smart growth, attract new opportunities, and make the most of our resources. By setting clear goals, we can ensure that we stay on track and build a strong foundation for generations to come.

Some key benefits of the plan include:

- **Supporting Growth:** We’ll create more opportunities for families, businesses, and visitors to thrive here.
- **Retention and Revitalization:** By listening to our residents and improving what matters most, we’ll make it even more attractive for people to stay and invest in our town.
- **Community Voice:** Your input will shape the future — this is truly a plan for the people, by the people.
- **Smart Investments:** It will help us focus our time and resources where they’ll make the biggest positive impact.

- **Stronger Identity:** We'll celebrate what makes our town unique while preparing for an even brighter future.

This is an exciting step forward, and it's all about making sure our community continues to be a wonderful place to live, grow, and succeed — now and for years to come.

Thank you for being part of this journey!

Mathieu Forest

Mayor

Town of Gravelbourg

Council Quips

Spring has sprung - grass is turning green, trees are budding and the birds are returning. This is a time to come out of our winter hibernation and plan outdoor activities.

After a long hiatus, the Parc Central Memorial Park committee is meeting again to work toward completing the revitalization of the park. The park is a place where we are reminded of the men and women who have fought and died for our freedom. It is also a space in which visitors, families and friends can relax, contemplate and play.

The committee is comprised of members from the Legion Branch 173, Early Childhood Coalition, Maillard Cultural Centre, Gravelbourg Branch Library and Town of Gravelbourg. It is through the ideas and vision of each participant we look forward to the completion of this project where our community worked together toward achieving a common goal that will be enjoyed for many years.

-Councillor Andre Lorrain

Members of the Town Council were recently invited to tour the Trailtech facilities. The visit offered valuable insights into the company's operations, innovations, and future development plans. Trailtech provided a thorough and informative overview, highlighting their ongoing contributions to industry and the local economy. It was an enlightening experience and reaffirmed the company's strong alignment with the values and vision of our community.

-Councillor Deanna Pilgrim

In mid-April, I had the opportunity to attend the annual SUMA convention in Saskatoon alongside Councillors Lorrain, Fehr and mayor Forest. Aside from Councillor Lorrain, this was our first time attending the convention. We attended a number of educational sessions covering topics ranging from cybersecurity and AI to economic development and municipal collaboration.

We attended two excellent keynote talks from former undercover police officer and expert in non-verbal communications, Pamela Barnum, and renowned addictions and mental health expert, Gabor Mate.

We also attended the expansive tradeshow, where we had the opportunity to speak directly to vendors who provide many of the products and services needed to enhance and maintain our community.

Premier Scott Moe and Leader of the Opposition, Carla Beck both made addresses at the convention. We participated in the passing of resolutions presented by municipalities from across the province. On the final day we attended dialogue sessions with provincial ministers on topics concerning justice/policing, healthcare, environment, and more. To bookend the event, we attended what is called a 'bear pit' session with the Premier and his cabinet ministers. This was an opportunity for municipal delegates to pose questions directly to the provincial government.

It was an intensive four days of discovery, conversations, and networking and I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to bring back valuable knowledge, insights, and perspectives to apply here at home.

-Councillor Zach Ogilvie

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](#).

