



TOWN OF MASSEY DRIVE

85 MASSEY DRIVE, MASSEY DRIVE NL, A2H 7A2

2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

The past couple of years have certainly presented challenges to Municipal Governments trying to provide adequate services to residents in the face of increasing costs, and other economic factors outside their control. Inflation and high interest rates throughout 2023 and most of 2024 created an economic environment where home purchases and new construction were more difficult and even impossible for many people. Massey Drive has not been immune to the influences of such factors and we have experienced a reduction in new housing starts in 2024. In spite of this Massey Drive still remains a very desirable community for people to live and raise their families.

There were many positive initiatives that took place in our town in 2024:

- The installation and completion of an emergency overflow tank at Sanitary Sewer Lift Station #1 on Link Pond Drive on a 90/10 cost shared ratio with the province, at a total project cost of \$185,000.
- Council was successful in negotiating the purchase of an adjoining vacant property located at 83 Massey Drive. This property is a rather large tract of land directly adjacent to the town's existing property and will make it possible for future expansion of Public and Community space.
- Council continued its commitment to providing quality emergency services by upgrading fire protection equipment through the purchase of additional SCBA face pieces, so the Massey Drive Volunteer Fire Department are able to adequately protect the lives and property of residents.
- New modern, up to date crosswalk lighting was added at the crosswalk directly in front of the Fire Hall on the main road. This is an extremely busy area as it serves as the entrance to the Town Hall, Fire Hall, and the Mama Dawe Recreation Complex which contains the Skateboard Park, Basketball Court, Municipal Playground, and Pumptrack.

Our commitment to recreation, health and wellness, and cultural programs as core services continued in 2024 with the addition of new facilities and programs.

- The Allan Gillespie Community Park saw the addition of ten youth garden beds and 2 accessible beds to the Community Garden as well as additions to the Sensory Play area started in 2023.
- The newly constructed Massey Drive Nature's Dog Park saw improvements as well with the addition of seating areas and solar lighting.
- Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Massey Drive Recreation Committee the Party On The Hill festival was once again an overwhelming success.

A Look Ahead To 2025

As mentioned previously, new construction of residential properties has slowed somewhat in 2024. However, even with anticipated increases in operating costs, we will still be able to maintain residential property tax rates at their current levels. The residential property tax rate will remain unchanged at 6.75 mils. Water and Sewer fees will increase from \$655 to \$675 per unit as a result of a \$20 per unit increase by the City of Corner Brook for the provision of water and sewer services.

Waste management still continues to be an area of concern due to increasing costs. The recent implementation of a "contamination surcharge" by Western Regional Waste Management, which potentially doubles the tonnage fee on loads they consider contaminated, has created significant uncertainty in trying to forecast costs. It is important to note that since 2017 our waste management budget has increased from \$79,000 per year to \$160,000 primarily due to increased tipping fees at the Wild Cove transfer site.

An application has been submitted to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure for Municipal Capital Works funding for a Town Hall accessibility upgrade and addition of a heritage section. This project is intended to make the Town Hall fully accessible to all residents and provide space to preserve the rich culture and history of the town. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$536,640 on a 60/40 cost shared basis between the town and the province. \$204,000 has been allocated in the 2025 municipal budget for the town's share of the cost.

2025 will see several other programs and projects that we are very excited about. \$22,000 of Canada Community Building Fund (Federal Gas Tax) money has been allocated to install solar lighting at the municipal basketball court and skateboard park area. Another \$20,000 of CCBF money has been allocated for an upgrade to the Tippings Pond Trail to make it more accessible for more users. \$14,300 has been allocated for the purchase of eight SCBA cylinders for the Massey Drive Volunteer Fire Department to ensure their ability to adequately and safely protect our community.

Recent changes to Provincial legislation, which saw the implementation of the new Towns and Local Service Districts Act, will give local government more autonomy to enact and enforce by-laws. As a result, and in order to meet the service requirements of residents, the Town of Massey Drive is currently involved in discussions to implement regional animal control and municipal enforcement officers in cooperation with several other municipalities in the region. While this initiative is still in the early planning stages the town has allocated \$20,000 in its 2025 budget as a commitment to ensure these services are available to Massey Drive residents.

In addition to new initiatives, council is committed to ongoing recreation and cultural programs. We will be partnering with the Massey Drive Recreation Committee and the Massey Drive Volunteer Fire Department to continue to bring you such programs as Party On The Hill, Young at Heart, Volunteer Appreciation Night, Massey Drive Day, the Summer Recreation Program, Summer Basketball Skills Camp, etc. and as such have allocated \$20,000 toward these programs.

As we continue to move forward and look at adding new facilities and services as well as expanding and improving on existing infrastructure, we will be seeking input from residents to ensure the best use of resources and utilization of facilities. We would like to encourage all residents to feel free to provide as much feedback as possible and help us to ensure that we are providing the most effective services possible.