

# CITY CONNECTS

FALL 2025 | THIRD EDITION |   

*Fredericton*

FREDERICTON.CA | FRANÇAIS AU VERSO

**From City Hall:  
To Your Home.**

Find out what's happening at the City of Fredericton today, with updates on the City's budget planning process, programs, and services.



## Land Acknowledgement

*We acknowledge that the City of Fredericton is situated on traditional Wolastoqey territory. The territory of the Wolastoqiyik People are recognized in the Peace and Friendship Treaties to establish an ongoing relationship of peace, friendship and mutual respect between equal nations. The river that runs through our City is known as the Wolastoq, along which live the Wolastoqiyik, “the People of the beautiful and bountiful river”.*

## MAYOR'S Message.

Fall is an exciting time for our city with the return of students, lots of community activities and events, and our glorious tree canopy of changing colours. At City Hall, this is when we finalize and approve our budget for the upcoming year, which is why the Fall addition of City Connects is focused on how we provide services to meet the needs of our ever-evolving community.

Like you, Mayor and Council has goals and aspirations for Fredericton, and we balance these with delivering the essential services that municipalities provide, along with a very real awareness of the financial crunch that we are all feeling. City Council is committed to working to ensure Fredericton is a healthy, affordable and livable city for everyone. What is best for the residents we serve is top of mind throughout all our budget discussions.

Featured in this issue of City Connects are the many free recreation programs and amenities available to the public. Even as the seasons change, Fredericton continues to be a fun place to stay active and be connected. Get out and enjoy all that our beautiful city has to offer. I hope to see you on the trails, in one of our parks or at a show in Officers' Square! And, to stay engaged in what is happening in Fredericton, visit our public engagement platform Engage Fredericton or reach out to me or your Councillor via email or phone.

Until next time, take good care,

*Kate Rogers*  
Mayor of Fredericton

## The Work Behind Your City.

New Brunswick Municipalities Week is coming up from September 18 to 28, and it's the perfect opportunity to recognize the dedicated staff who keep our city running every single day.

With over **804** City of Fredericton employees delivering more than **76** essential programs and services, a lot is happening behind the scenes, and it's all for you. From clean water and safe streets to recreation programs and long-term planning, these teams make Fredericton work.

One of the biggest operations behind the scenes? Public works.

It's a 24/7 job you rarely see but always feel. Fredericton's public works team ensures our **692 km** of streets stay maintained, **439 km** of water mains provide clean drinking water, **403 km** of sanitary sewer mains provide wastewater treatment and collection, **21,000+** trees stay cared for, and over **800** pieces of equipment operate to keep our city clean and connected.

You might not notice their work, but you experience it every day. We thank the everyday experts who keep Fredericton moving forward!





# What we've DONE.

## New Community Investments in Action.

Your City budget is at work, creating a vibe that enhances the quality of life, fosters a welcoming space, and provides more opportunities for residents to connect. Here are some highlights from recent and ongoing upgrades:

- ✓ Launched in summer 2025, the City's first-ever fruit forest in Wilmot Park introduced a mix of local fruit trees and herbs, making fresh options available for years to come. This is a recommendation from the recently adopted Urban Forest Strategy.
- ✓ In response to community demand, new BBQ pits were added last year in Odell and Killarney Lake Parks. This year, we installed raised herb gardens.
- ✓ A new dog agility course, located just off the downtown walking trail near McLeod Avenue, offers a safe and engaging space for dogs and their owners to play and train, complementing our growing network of off-leash areas.
- ✓ Our first cricket pitch has opened this year to meet growing demand and foster more diverse recreation options across the city.

- ✓ In response to increased interest in water access and paddling activities, new kayak launch sites were installed at Marysville Heritage Centre, Old Penniac Bridge, Cityview Avenue Dog Park, Morell Park, the Small Craft Aquatic Centre, and Dunham Field, expanding the City's Blue Trails network.
- ✓ At the Small Craft Aquatic Centre, expanded kayak storage now makes it easier for paddlers to stay active on the water.
- ✓ Ongoing upgrades to Killarney Lake Park trails and infrastructure are making this beloved natural area more enjoyable year-round.
- ✓ Expanded programming at the Northside Youth Centre is creating more opportunities for young people to connect, grow, and thrive in their community. Plus, new space at the Nashwaaksis Field House will support fall, winter, and spring skateboarding and youth centre activities, offering even more ways for youth to stay active and engaged year-round.
- ✓ Winter 2025 brought the return of outdoor skating at Officers' Square with upgraded features, and free skate loans from Fredericton Recreation, adding winter magic to the heart of downtown.

## Paving the Way: End of Summer Construction & Infrastructure Update.

Every year, we improve infrastructure, support growth, and build a better Fredericton.

From providing clean water to sewer upgrades, to improved sidewalks, trails, road surfaces, and flood resiliency these projects reflect long-term planning and smart investment, helping reduce future repair costs and environmental impact. The City is always looking ahead, planning infrastructure to support population growth and changing environmental demands before demand exceeds capacity.

Many of these upgrades support our environmental goals by enhancing stormwater management, reducing emissions through improved traffic flow, and increasing climate resilience.

## Stay Informed!

Sign up for the weekly Friday construction digital newsletter to receive the latest updates on project progress, timelines, and detours around the city!





# What we're WORKING ON.

## Your Dollars, Your City: What Does the 2026 Budget Mean for You?

Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Fredericton depends on reliable, everyday services like clean drinking water, safe streets, active parks, public transit, emergency response, and more. Our annual municipal budget is how we plan, prioritize, and pay for those essential services.

Every year, we build a new budget to reflect the evolving needs of our growing city.

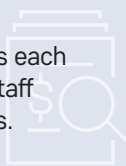
The 2026 budget season is just around the corner, and we're committed to keeping you informed.



## How the Typical Budget Process Works:

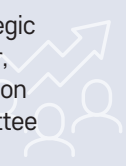
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Budget planning begins each year with input from staff across all departments.



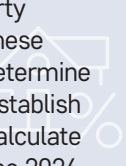
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Council provides strategic direction in September, in addition to information gathered from committee meetings.



3

In early October, the Province releases official property assessment values. These values don't directly determine your tax bill but they establish the tax base used to calculate it. Learn more about the 2026 tax freeze on page 5.



4

The budget is finalized in November/December.



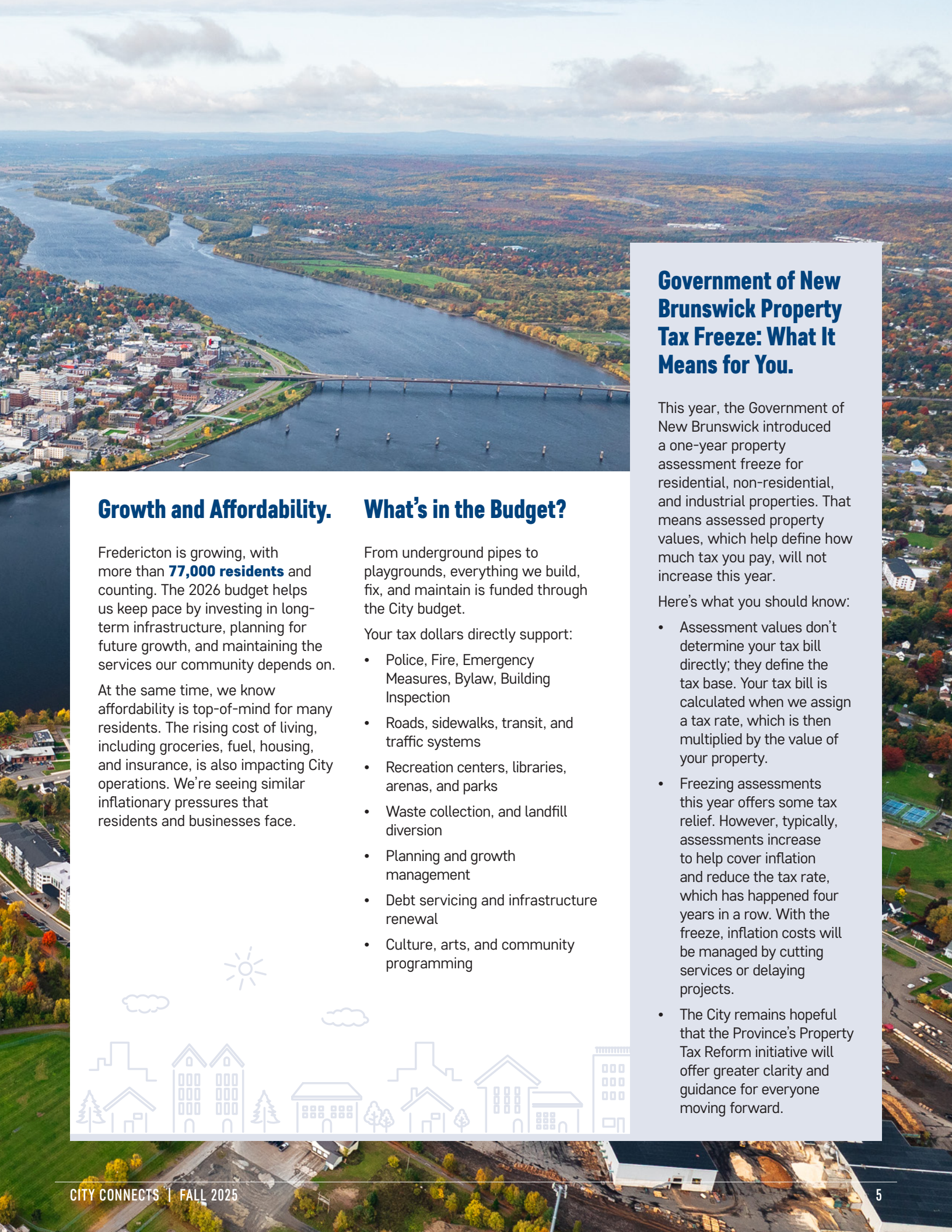
Fredericton is required by law to present a balanced budget; we can't spend more than we bring in, and we cannot generate surpluses. We manage two separate budgets:

1 **The General Fund**, primarily funded by municipal property taxes, covers expenses such as **roads, streets, fire and police services, parks, and recreation**.

2 **The Water & Sewer Fund**, paid through water and sewer rates, **supports the infrastructure** that keeps clean drinking water flowing and wastewater managed.







## Government of New Brunswick Property Tax Freeze: What It Means for You.

This year, the Government of New Brunswick introduced a one-year property assessment freeze for residential, non-residential, and industrial properties. That means assessed property values, which help define how much tax you pay, will not increase this year.

Here's what you should know:

- Assessment values don't determine your tax bill directly; they define the tax base. Your tax bill is calculated when we assign a tax rate, which is then multiplied by the value of your property.
- Freezing assessments this year offers some tax relief. However, typically, assessments increase to help cover inflation and reduce the tax rate, which has happened four years in a row. With the freeze, inflation costs will be managed by cutting services or delaying projects.
- The City remains hopeful that the Province's Property Tax Reform initiative will offer greater clarity and guidance for everyone moving forward.

## Growth and Affordability.

Fredericton is growing, with more than **77,000 residents** and counting. The 2026 budget helps us keep pace by investing in long-term infrastructure, planning for future growth, and maintaining the services our community depends on.

At the same time, we know affordability is top-of-mind for many residents. The rising cost of living, including groceries, fuel, housing, and insurance, is also impacting City operations. We're seeing similar inflationary pressures that residents and businesses face.

## What's in the Budget?

From underground pipes to playgrounds, everything we build, fix, and maintain is funded through the City budget.

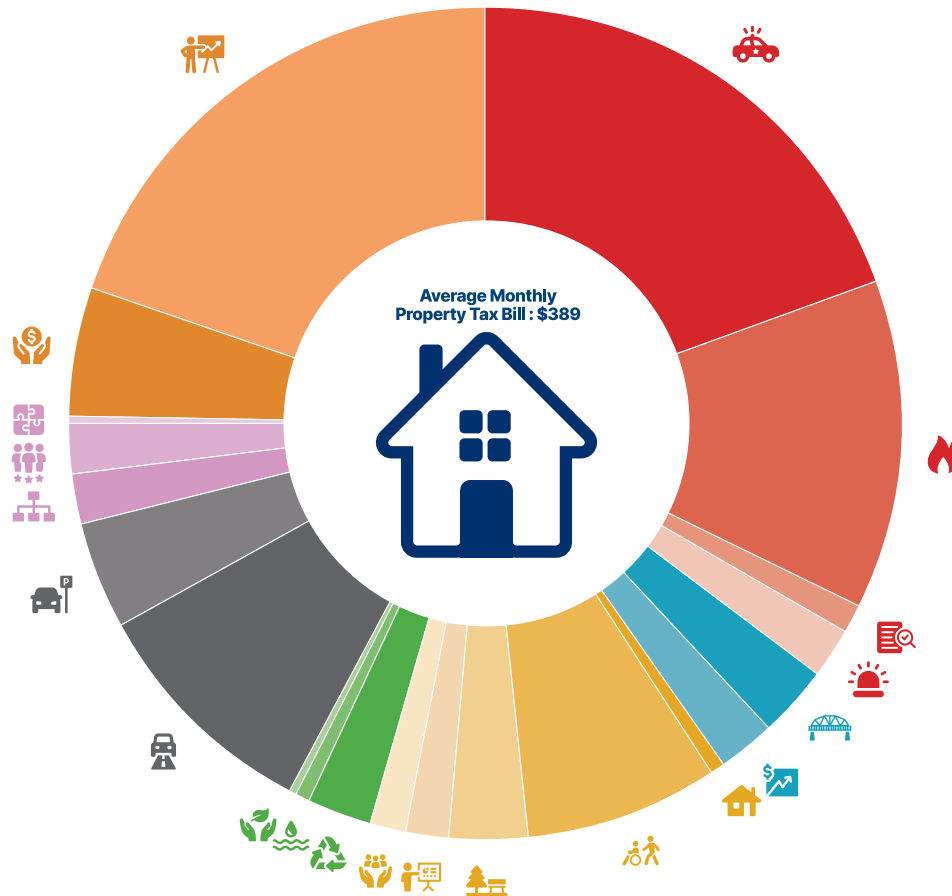
Your tax dollars directly support:






















- Police, Fire, Emergency Measures, Bylaw, Building Inspection
- Roads, sidewalks, transit, and traffic systems
- Recreation centers, libraries, arenas, and parks
- Waste collection, and landfill diversion
- Planning and growth management
- Debt servicing and infrastructure renewal
- Culture, arts, and community programming



# VALUE for service.

Your property tax dollars help provide the municipal programs and services that continue to make Fredericton a great place to live, work and play. See the monthly breakdown:



 Police	\$76.56	 Parks & Trees	\$11.16	 Parking & Transit	\$15.83
 Fire	\$49.70	 Cultural Development	\$6.49	 Management Systems	\$7.86
 By-law	\$4.13	 Community Development	\$5.74	 Community Leadership	\$8.00
 EMO	\$7.57	 Solid Waste Management	\$9.76	 Intergovernmental Affairs	\$0.38
 Tourism	\$11.11	 Storm Water Management	\$2.04	 Debt Management	\$19.15
 Economic Development	\$8.44	 Environmental Outreach	\$1.52	 Infrastructure Management & Investment	\$76.76
 Affordable Housing	\$2.15	 Roadway Operations	\$35.43		
 Recreation	\$29.53				

\* 2025 budget numbers



# What's COMING UP?

## Investing in your Safety.

Community safety is a shared value and a priority for the City of Fredericton, and it requires ongoing, strategic budget investments. We are making meaningful progress through innovative programs and partnerships designed to enhance public safety and strengthen community connections.

### Community Safety Task Force Update.

The City's Community Safety Task Force, co-chaired by Mayor Kate Rogers and Police Chief Gary Forward, formed with representatives from government, service providers, businesses, and residents, released its report in May with 47 recommendations addressing the root causes of safety challenges. An oversight committee and action plan are now in place to ensure accountability and progress on these actions and recommendations made to make a meaningful impact and long-lasting change.

### Police Science Cadet Program: Fredericton Atlantic.

In August, 11 cadets proudly graduated from the Atlantic Police Academy Police Cadet pilot program in Fredericton. This pilot program has helped strengthen frontline policing

and increased the presence of trained officers in our community, making Fredericton a safer place to live and play.

### Community Safety Services Unit (CSSU) & Community Engagement Unit (CEU).

Our Community Safety Services Unit works 24/7, providing trail patrols, graffiti monitoring, and support to vulnerable residents, while the Fredericton Police Force's Community Engagement Unit (CEU) assists frontline officers by handling non-emergency tasks, files and calls, allowing front line officers to concentrate on urgent and high-priority matters, which ensures more efficient use of police resources and allows for more proactive community policing. Together, these efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to making Fredericton a safe, welcoming place for everyone.

### Public Safety Cameras.



As of June 2025, 28 public safety cameras are operational across Fredericton, with 14 more planned for installation in high-priority areas to further enhance community safety and support law enforcement efforts. These cameras help deter crime and provide valuable evidence when needed, respecting privacy through strict policies and legislation.



## Fredericton: Atlantic Canada's Knowledge Capital.

With top-tier schools, a highly skilled workforce, and a culture of innovation, it's no surprise that Fredericton is leading the way as New Brunswick's innovation hub. Built on a strong foundation of research, education, and technology, the city's knowledge industry continues to thrive, driven by talent and supported by smart, strategic infrastructure and people.

Anchored by world-class institutions and an Innovation District including Knowledge Park, the new Cyber Centre and 60+ research and development organizations, Fredericton is making strides in information and communications technology (ICT), cybersecurity, defence innovation, and smart city development.

Initiatives like the City's Boost Fredericton civic innovation lab enable a "living lab" environment to run technology pilot projects, collaborate with industry and students, and leverage digital infrastructure thus creating a more connected, forward-thinking city.

### How the City is Investing in New Technology.

Fredericton is embracing innovation to create a smarter, greener, and more connected community. Here's how we're leveraging technology across City services:

- Adding hybrid transit buses and other fleet vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and emissions, and expanding electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to support cleaner transportation.
- Fredericton Police piloted Axon's AI-powered Draft One system to generate reports from body-worn camera audio, saving time and allowing officers to focus more on community engagement and proactive policing.
- Implementing a Green Fleet Policy to reduce emissions and improve sustainability.
- Exploring AI and IT policies to enhance city services and data management responsibly.
- Implementing advanced vertical mapping technologies for the Fredericton Fire Department.
- Energy conservation efforts in our arenas and a new electric Zamboni at Grant Harvey Centre.
- Integrating a recreational registration program into the website for streamlined recreation program registration and management.
- Equipping the city tree nursery with solar panels to power sustainable operations.

These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to utilizing technology thoughtfully to serve residents better while protecting the environment.

### The City of Fredericton is investing in what matters most, you!

As part of the 2025 Budget, \$860,000 in grants have been awarded to support local projects and organizations.

This funding supports a wide range of community priorities through the Strategic Partner Capital Grant, Community Grant, Climate Change Action Grant, and Arts, Heritage, and Culture Grant programs. From hosting community events to educational programming, these grants help local organizations make Fredericton a more connected, creative, and inclusive community to live in.



*The next round of grant applications are now open!*





## How can you turn your pumpkins into topsoil?

In our recent waste audit last fall, pumpkins made up nearly 9% of household waste. Every year, Canada produces over 80,000 tonnes of pumpkins, most of which end up in landfills.

To reduce this impact, Fredericton now accepts pumpkins with yard waste pickups in October and November. Collected pumpkins

are composted at Beek Court and turned into nutrient-rich topsoil for parks and gardens. Condo and apartment residents can also drop off pumpkins at the Beek Court Municipal Management Facility, which is open 24/7 to all residents.

Please remove candles, wax, plastic, paint, stickers, or other non-organic materials before disposal.

## Fall Leaf Pickup Reminder:

Leaf collection is happening now until the last week of November on your regular waste collection week! Your yard waste helps create nutrient-rich topsoil for city parks and flowerbeds, keeping green waste out of landfills.

## Phasing Out Blue Recycling Depots.

With curbside recycling now available to apartments through Circular Materials Atlantic (CMA), the City will remove two blue recycling depot locations by December 31, 2025.

Recycling is now more efficient for both multi-unit and single-family dwellings. This change:

- Reduces contamination from ineligible items.
- Saves approximately \$130,000 annually in trucking costs while also saving on additional material processing fees.
- Supports the City's goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.

## FAQ

### *Do we need a separate bag?*

No separate bag needed, pumpkins go in your regular yard waste bag.

### *Do you accept other food scraps?*

Only pumpkins and gourds are accepted; other food scraps can't be processed here.

## Other ways to reuse pumpkins:

- Donate to local farms for animal feed or composting
- Use uncarved pumpkins for cooking or baking
- Toast seeds or make dog treats
- Add pumpkins to your backyard compost



# Discover Your City: FREE RECREATION & ACTIVITIES.

## Parks & Nature.

- Visit Odell Park – trails, foraging, BBQ grills, playground, and 9-hole disc golf.
- Explore Killarney Lake Park – trails, BBQ grills, and an accessible dock.
- Discover Fredericton's biking trails or start your ride using 15+ Park & Ride locations.
- Wander through the Fredericton Botanic Garden – 2 km of walking trails and the Little Free Poetry Library.

## Older Adult Programming.

- Drop into fall programming at:
  - Stepping Stone Senior Centre
  - Johnston Avenue Senior Centre

## Ride & Roll.

- Skate or scooter at one of four skate parks: Garrison Skate Park, Kimble Wheeled Sports Park, Mitch Clarke Skateboard Park, Henry Park Skateboard Park
- Visit the Dirt Jump Skills Park (advanced riders only – caution recommended).
- Mountain biking at Killarney Lake Park – construction starting soon.

## Ice.

- Enjoy indoor public skating (year-round).
- Check out seasonal outdoor rinks at Officers' Square or Mitch Clarke Park starting in early winter.
- 8+ natural rinks (weather dependent).

## Moving.

- Join the Wednesday Walkers until October 15. This weekly walking group explores Fredericton's trail network.
- Walk or jog over 150 km of connected city trails.
- Use trailside adult fitness equipment at three locations for a free workout.
  - Crosstown Trail, near the intersection of Beaverbrook Drive and University Avenue
  - Northside Trail in Henry Park
  - Highpoint Ridge Park
- Access indoor walking tracks at:
  - Willie O'Ree Place
  - Grant Harvey Centre
  - Nashwaaksis Middle School Outdoor Track

## Recreation & Games.

- Try disc golf at:
  - Odell Park
  - Royal 9 Course (Royal Road Park)
  - Nashwaaksis Middle School
- Play on outdoor courts across the city:
  - Basketball, tennis, pickleball, beach volleyball, cricket
- Go fishing along the Wolastoq (Saint John River) or Nashwaak River.
- Try paddling through the city's water network from 5+ city non-motorized launch sites.

## Art & Culture.

- Take a self-guided public art tour – 22 unique displays to discover downtown.

Confirm before you go! Check [www.fredericton.ca](http://www.fredericton.ca) or follow Fredericton Recreation & Culture on Facebook for the latest updates.



## Explore programs and resources for older adults.

Saturday, October 18, 10:00am to 2:00pm — FHS Cafeteria | Free

Hosted by the City of Fredericton and the Age-Friendly Community Advisory Committee.

## Connecting Community.

The fourth edition of City Connect will arrive in your mailbox in Winter 2025! You'll find the latest information on upcoming projects, programs and much more. Stay informed and connected!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for real-time updates, important news, and community highlights.

## Do you have feedback about City Connects?

We'd love to hear from you! Email us at [communications@fredericton.ca](mailto:communications@fredericton.ca) or call 506-460-2020.