

2026–2030 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

Over the past several months, Council has been working to set a clear direction for Raymond's future. We are proud to share the release of the 2026–2030 Council Strategic Plan, a roadmap that reflects our community values and the opportunities ahead.

This plan focuses on protecting Raymond's small-town character while preparing for thoughtful, responsible growth. As our community grows, Council remains committed to keeping Raymond welcoming, family-focused, and connected.

Key priorities include:

- Community First - Enhancing Raymond's small town and family-centred identity.
- Responsible Growth - Supporting young families, housing diversity, and development that fits our community.
- Infrastructure Investment - Improving roads, utilities, and community facilities.
- Environmental Stewardship - Supporting beautification, urban forestry, and water management.
- Quality of Life - Expanding recreation, sports, tourism, and emergency services.
- Economic Sustainability - Strengthening the local economy and reducing tax pressures.
- Community Engagement - Improving communication and encouraging public input.

This Strategic Plan reflects Council's commitment to building a strong future while preserving what makes Raymond special.

COMMUNICATIONS

Residents identified stronger communication and regular updates as important priorities for the community. In response, Council supported the hiring of a Communications Coordinator to improve communication across a variety of channels.

To further improve access to information, Council also funded a new website platform designed to enhance the overall user experience. In addition, the quarterly newsletter, The Raymond Roundup and the Mayor's Message were relaunched to provide regular updates on Council decisions, community projects, and Town initiatives.

Together, these improvements reflect Council's ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and keeping residents informed and connected.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This summer, our community will come together to celebrate a major milestone in Raymond's history. From Friday, June 27, to Tuesday, July 1, residents and visitors are invited to celebrate Raymond's 125th Anniversary and recognize the people, traditions, and community spirit that have shaped our town.

The celebrations this year will include many community favourites and some new activities, including the Chamber Pancake Breakfast, Family Softball Tournament, Raymond's Got Talent, the Family Dance, Stampede Rodeo, Three Sisters Market, Rotary Parade, Canada Day Fair, and fireworks.

We are also proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Harlan Taylor Road Race, a long-standing tradition that reflects Raymond's strong community spirit and hometown pride.

Celebrating 125 years is an opportunity to reflect on our history, recognize the volunteers and organizations that strengthen our community, and celebrate all we have accomplished together. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with residents, families, and visitors alike.

PROPERTY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

Council has approved the 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw, and property tax and assessment notices were mailed to residents in May.

As costs continue to rise across the community, Council focused the 2026–2028 Operating and Capital Budget process on balancing responsible financial planning with maintaining the infrastructure and services residents rely on every day.

To help reduce the impact on residents where possible, Council lowered the residential municipal mill rate by 8.36%. However, increases in property assessments and provincial and regional requisitions outside municipal control mean most property owners will still see an increase in their total tax bill this year. For the average residential property in Raymond, the estimated overall increase is approximately 6.02%.

Residents are encouraged to review their assessment notices carefully and contact the Town with any questions. Council appreciates the continued understanding and engagement of residents as we work together to support Raymond's long-term sustainability and quality of life.



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