

# Councillor Blog



Welcome back fellow residents of White City, and those reading from the surrounding area, for the August 2021 edition of the White City Councillor Blog. This month's blog will focus on the 2020 Annual Report. In keeping with the corporate values of excellence, leadership, and accountability the town has been producing an annual report since 2017. As an organization, we are committed to transparent decision-making, engaging our residents and measuring and reporting our goals to the public. In keeping with our strategic goal of being responsive and progressive, the Annual Report is another way to demonstrate transparency and accountability to our residents about what our team has been working on and the financial performance of the previous year.

2020 was a year filled with many challenges and opportunities for the Town of White City. The COVID-19 global pandemic had, and continues to have, wide-spread social and economic impacts to our lives, as well as for our families and friends. Our community has demonstrated resiliency and adaptation to the challenges brought by what many have referred to as unprecedented in its impacts. We are a strong community and I know I will also be proud of how we recover from the pandemic.

We took action to support our residents, local businesses in the wider community and deliver more efficient, higher quality services to our residents while keeping property taxes low. In 2020 White City froze the municipal mill rate, extended property tax deadlines and payment discount periods while freezing collections and interest on past due utility and tax accounts. We focused on supporting business opportunities, our financial sustainability and making strategic investments in infrastructure.

As we reflect on the major projects of 2020, we see a promising future forming for the Town of White City. We are ready to move forward with development of the Town Centre, a place designed to give our growing community a variety of housing, services and enjoyments we need while celebrating the charm of our small town. The Town Centre is a green field opportunity for White City to build a central gathering place with a mix of commercial, recreational and residential amenities that will become the heart of our community.

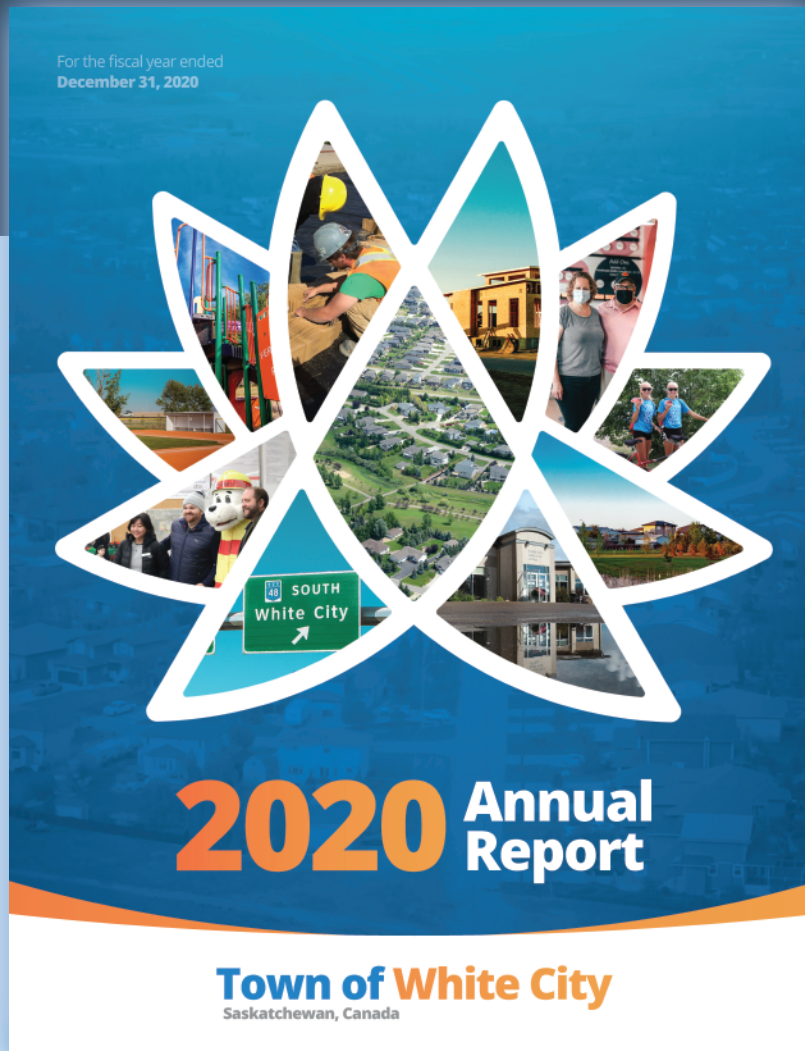
The town is also able to move forward on a number of projects with the support of the Provincial Municipal Economic Enhancement Program. The additional funding will assist the town in improving and adding infrastructure, significantly upgrading our Splash Park facility, improving safety in the community with increased street lighting, outfitting the town's EMO Command Unit, installing a generator at the town's Community Centre and looking after one of our most important assets, the town's Urban Forest.



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Despite the challenges in 2020, White City continues to move toward its vision of a city with an innovative attitude driven by our residents, businesses and leaders. There was much more accomplished in 2020 and as the newly elected mayor I would like to thank those who dedicated their time before me, and those that will do so after me. We are a community that is resilient, caring and that take care of one another. We are moving forward together, and while 2021 has had it's challenges we look forward to facing them together as a team and as a community.



The 2020 Annual Report is now available for viewing online at [whitecity.ca](http://whitecity.ca) and includes: a summary of 2020 projects, an overview of the strategic plan progress, the full 2020 Audited Financial Statements and the 2020 Statement of Accounts.

If you have any questions, have a comment, want more information or want to suggest a topic for a future blog please email [townoffice@whitecity.ca](mailto:townoffice@whitecity.ca) or call 306-781-2355 – we look forward to hearing from you!

– Mayor Brian Fergusson

