



2025 Budget Highlights: Investing in Our Community's Future

Over the past several months, we have been diligently working to develop a balanced 2025 budget that upholds our commitment to providing high-quality services for our Township. Fortunately, our community has benefited from growth, which has helped offset some of the increased costs.

This budget addresses key financial challenges, including the need to invest in essential infrastructure projects and maintain aging assets. As our population grows, it's crucial to support these needs and ensure our infrastructure remains in good condition. To help fund this, a new Development Charges (DC) study in 2025 will align fees with today's needs. We're also adopting a proactive asset management strategy aimed at meeting annual replacement requirements within the next six years, ensuring our assets are renewed as they reach the end of their lifespan and that funds are available when needed, rather than placing a financial burden on future generations. With that in mind, \$15.75 million—approximately 30% of the operational budget—is being invested into reserves for future capital expenses. These are significant steps to ensure our community's future is supported by long-term, sustainable financial planning.

Aligned with our Human Resources Plan, this budget provides departments with resources to meet the evolving needs of our community. Enhancements to Fire Services are also a priority, reflecting resident and Council support for a safer community.

The budget includes an average household tax increase of \$15 per month in 2025, instead of the \$19 per month initially discussed at the start of the budget planning process. Of this amount, one-third (\$5) is allocated solely to cover the increased fees for annual OPP policing services in our Township. It is important to note that the Township has no control over these OPP fee increases, as they are determined externally. Balancing these needs has been challenging, as each department plays a crucial role in maintaining the quality of life of our Township. This budget reflects our commitment to addressing immediate needs while ensuring long-term sustainability, and we're confident that through strategic planning and ongoing collaboration, we can build a secure future for our community. For more info: Russell.ca/Budget. [Read updated article with new Provincial funding - click here](#)

As the holiday season approaches, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all our residents. This is a time to reflect on the importance of coming together as a community, supporting one another, and giving back.

I am grateful to my fellow councillors for bringing their diverse viewpoints to the table and, more importantly, for listening with open minds. These conversations help us make the best possible decisions for our community. I also want to thank our Township staff for their dedication and hard work in keeping things running smoothly for all of us. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Our Township thrives because of people who care. I encourage everyone to get involved—whether by volunteering, joining a local committee, or attending public meetings. Your participation plays a key role in shaping our future and ensuring we continue to grow as a vibrant, welcoming community.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a bright start to 2025!

Kind regards,
Mayor Mike Tarnowski



Winter Parking

From November 1, to April 1, there will be no nightly on-street parking ban. Instead, street parking restrictions are alert-based throughout the winter. This means that residents can park on the street overnight unless a Winter Parking Ban Alert is issued.



An alert will be issued when 5cm or more of snow or freezing rain is in the forecast, and will be sent out by 2:00 p.m. restricting on-street parking from 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. These alerts are sent to our subscribers by email, posted on social media (Facebook, Instagram and X) and on our four LED Boards.

Important: To be notified, please register for parking ban alerts at Russell.ca/Subscribe.

During a winter parking ban, you can park at one of four designated parking areas between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

- Camille Piché Community Centre, in front of the skate park (8 Blais, Embrun)
- Richelieu Park, west side (159 St-Moritz Terrace, Embrun)
- Russell park-and-ride parking lot, east side (1st Avenue, Russell)
- Duncanville Park, north side (1141 Concession, Russell)

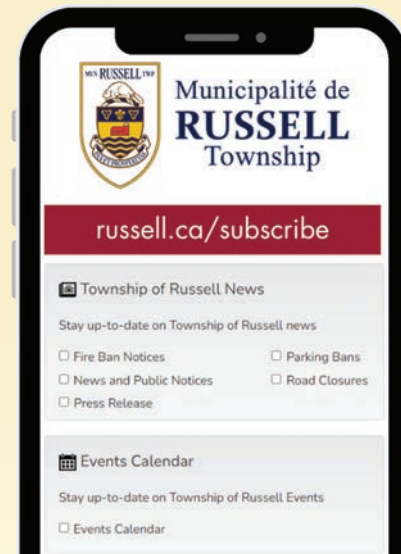
For more information on overnight parking, visit Russell.ca/parking.



The Township of Russell welcomed Charles Armstrong as Councillor on October 15, 2024, following his win in the municipal by-election. This will be for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term, ending on November 14, 2026.

Dates for the 2025 Council Meetings are now available for on our website calendar at Russell.ca/calendar. We invite residents to attend in person or view meetings online to stay informed.

Be Informed on Your Township!



Receive information as it comes out. Subscribe to our email alerts at Russell.ca/subscribe.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X or LinkedIn.



@MunRussellTwp

Holiday Hours

Town Hall & Municipal Offices

December 24 – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
December 25 & 26 – Closed
December 27 & 30 – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
December 31 – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
January 1 & 2 – Closed

Sports Dome

December 24 – 5:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
December 25 & 26 – Closed
December 27 to 30 – Regular Hours
December 31 – 5:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
January 1 – Closed
January 2 – Back to Regular Hours

Bowling Hall

December 23 to 27 – Closed
December 28 & 29 – Holiday Schedule
December 30 to January 2 – Closed
January 3 – Holiday Schedule
January 4 – Back to Regular Hours

Arenas

December 24 to 26 – Closed
December 27 to 30 – Holiday Schedule
December 31 & January 1 – Closed
January 2 to 5 – Holiday Schedule
January 6 – Back to Regular Hours

Visit Russell.ca/Arenas and Russell.ca/Bowling for our holiday hours.

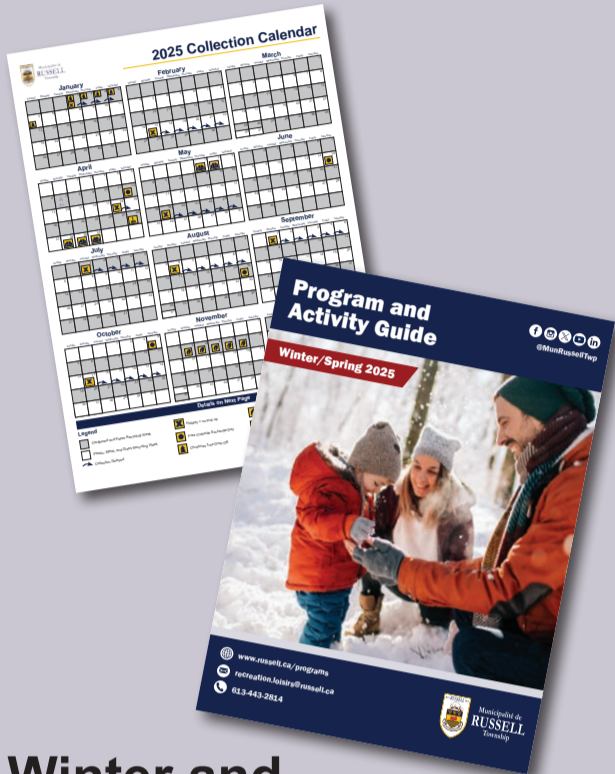
New 2025 Collection Calendar

Want to know the dates for special collections for the year? Download the 2025 Collection Calendar on our Garbage, Organics and Recycling page at Russell.ca/waste or get a printed copy at Town Hall.

You can also register for our email reminders at Russell.ca/subscribe.

Important dates:

- Christmas Tree Drop Off (December 26 to January 5)
- Organics Collection starts the week of April 7



Winter and Spring Programs

Be sure register for our Winter and Spring Programs, including the March Break Camp! Registration opens for adult programs on January 6 at 9:00 a.m. and for youth programs on January 8 at 9:00 a.m. Remember, this registration period is exclusively for residents!

Info at: Russell.ca/Programs



Winter Reminders

1. Move your basketball net off the street. It should not be within the road allowance.
2. Keep snow on your property, and don't push it into streets, sidewalks, or in ditches (as per the Highway Traffic Act).
3. Your garbage and recycling bins need to be visible in your driveway, and not on the street, shoulder, or sidewalk.
4. To avoid shoveling the driveway again when the plow passes by, clear the area to the left of your driveway. Snow from the plow will be pushed in that area instead of inside your driveway.
5. Keep fire hydrants clear of snow for emergency services.
6. Keep your distance from snowplows! When plowing an intersection, the truck needs space to back up.
7. Respect winter parking restrictions.
8. Winterize your mailbox with a barricade to protect it from the force of thrown snow from a plow blade.



Positive Youth Tickets

Do you know someone 16 years or younger that is making a positive difference in the community? Nominate them! The Positive Ticket Program is still active and wants to continue to encourage youth in our community. Contact our Public Safety and Enforcement department to submit your nomination at bylaws.reglements@russell.ca.

Juliana and Danek are 2 of the 14 youths who received some this year!

Shop Local This Holiday Season!

Browse our Online Business Directory at

Russell.ca/directory



Winter Safety Reminders from Fire Services

- Maintain and clean your heating appliances.
- Have your wood burning device thoroughly inspected by a WETT certified technician.
- Have CO alarms near ALL sleeping areas.
- Change the batteries in your smoke alarms or purchase one with a 10-year lithium battery.
- Test your smoke alarms regularly and review your escape plan.



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SERVICE DES INCENDIES
FIRE SERVICES

New Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

The PPS 2024, the foundation of Ontario's land-use planning, is now in effect and requires all municipal planning to align with it. For our Township, this affects development, severances, settlement areas, and more. While you may primarily engage with the Township's Zoning By-Laws and Official Plans, the PPS guides the underlying principles of these policies.

The Provincial Government highlights key objectives of the PPS 2024, enabling municipalities to:

- Support development and increase housing supply
- Align development with infrastructure for a stronger economy
- Ensure rural viability
- Protect agricultural lands, the environment, and public health

For a full understanding of the PPS 2024, please refer to the complete document available at www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-planning-statement-2024. The Planning Department is committed to applying this new foundation within Russell Township's policies and decisions.

Tempo Shelter Season

A Tempo shelter is defined as a temporary structure featuring a metal frame covered by a tarp or similar fabric, primarily used for the storage of vehicles or equipment associated with residential use.

Residents may install Tempo shelters in their front, interior or exterior yards starting from November 1 of the current year. Removal must be completed by April 1 of the following year.

When installing:

- In a front or exterior side yard, ensure it is set back at least 1 metre from the lot line.
- In an interior side yard, it must be placed at least 0.5 metres from the lot line.

Please ensure that the Tempo does not create visibility issues or compromise safety at any time.

