



VILLAGE OF ALMA

2019 Annual Report



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Village of Alma 2019 Annual Report

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Message from the Mayor



Mayor's message

Sometimes I am surprised about the number of activities our small Village gets involved in.

2019 was no exception, we celebrated the traditional Mother's Day in our Activity Centre, with prepared goodies, sweets, squares, and canapes prepared by volunteers from a special women's group.

Then, on the July 1st weekend we started with a successful pancake breakfast organized by the Girl's Scouts for our area, over 200 meals were served. A great start for our red/white Parade for the kids, fireworks, and the ever-popular Duck Race on Salmon River.

In October we partnered with Friends of Fundy, Fundy Foods, and the Playground committee (Riverside Albert) to celebrate our lobster fishers. The turn out was fantastic and a weekend-long party, with a beer garden, bouncy castles, silent auction and live performances, finished up with yet another fireworks display. One of the great attractions was our first Polar Bear plunge into the Bay of Fundy. What "cool" fun.

What was new in 2019 was the creation of a completely new way to usher in the Christmas season. Our Clerk Brenda Hoar researched and implemented the construction of a first-ever lobster trap Christmas tree, with donations from our local fishers, individuals and C.C.R.C.(such as traps and buoys and lights) Our tree was erected with help of engineers and volunteers to stand tall in front of our new Vision Alma

building and boasting a hand-carved lobster as the tree topper. (Carved by Rob Rochon) The community gathered around for hot drinks and treats, songs, and a life-size nativity scene. This event showed our great community spirit, our vision for sharing our place, and our commitment to make Alma a friendly and welcoming community in our region in all seasons.

I want to use this space to thank everyone who contributed their time and energy in making Alma in 2019 such a beautiful place to live, this is only possible because of our residents with their strong community spirit. Looking forward to seeing what 2020 will look like here in Alma.

Village of Alma 2019 Annual Report

Foreword

This annual report is prepared pursuant to section 105 of the Local Governance Act, and Regulation 2018-54.

This report contains general information about the Village of Alma such as its population and tax base, tax rate and user charges, as well as more detailed information regarding the Village council and the cost of services provided. The 2019 Audited Financial Statements are appended as Appendix II and are also available for viewing at the Alma Village Office during business hours.

Village of Alma

2019 Annual Report

Community Profile

Alma is a village in the parish of Alma, Albert County, New Brunswick, Canada. The village is centered on the small delta of the Upper Salmon River and Cleveland Brook, where they empty into Salisbury Bay. The headquarter of Fundy National Park is in Alma West, making tourism a major part of the local economy. Fishing of lobster and scallops, is another primary economic activity. The village of Alma is located in the southern part of New Brunswick. Alma is 79km from the city of Moncton, and has a population of 232.

The Parish of Alma was created surrounding the Village in 1856, commemorating the then-recent Battle of Alma during the Crimean War. The Village municipality incorporated in 1966 following sweeping changes that disbanded county councils.

The village departments are: Administration, Protective services, Transportation services, Recreation services, Environmental Health services, Environmental Development services, and Water and Wastewater services.

The village of Alma municipal office is your source for municipal information including details on your council, staff, council meetings, agendas and minutes. You can also obtain information by visiting the village's website at: www.villageofalma.ca

Village Council

The village council is composed of a mayor and three councillors who are elected every four years. The current council was elected in May, 2016. In December of 2018 a by-election was held. Mrs. Susan MacCallum was elected as third councillor.

Council members and their responsibilities

Mayor: Kirstin Shortt, representative on the Southeast Regional Service Commission Board, liaison between village office staff, liaison between council and residents.

Deputy Mayor: Andrew Casey, representative of Vision Alma.

Councillor: Tiffany Bowron, liaison between Fundy National Park and council.

Councillor: Susan MacCallum liaison between Protective Services (Alma Fire Department), and liaison between Friends of Fundy (Fundy Guild) and council.

Remuneration of Council

The Mayor and Councillors each receive an honorarium and expenses for travelling on village business. In 2019, **budgeted total** was \$27,275.00 **actual expense total** was \$25,243.49.

	<u>Honorarium</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Budgeted Expenses		
Mayor Shortt	7315.00	2500.00
Deputy Mayor Casey	5320.00	500.00
Councillor Bowron	5320.00	500.00
Councillor MacCallum	5320.00	500.00

Actual Expenses

	<u>Honorarium</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Mayor Shortt	7315.00	1818.49
Deputy Mayor Casey	5320.00	33.33
Councillor Bowron	5320.00	33.33
Councillor MacCallum	5320.00	83.34

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held in council chambers at the Village Office located at 8 School Street. All regular and special meetings are open to the public. The regular meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. A special meeting is held when there are matters that Council determines cannot wait until a regular meeting.

Employee salary ranges

The village of Alma has two full time /part time staff members: Clerk/Treasurer and Public Works/Water and Wastewater Operator. For more information, please see table below.

Title	Range of Salary
Clerk/Treasurer	\$30,000 - \$40,000
Public Works/Water & Waste Water Operator	\$40,000 - \$50,000

Property Tax Rate and User Charges

The tax base for the village of Alma in 2019 was \$28,648,950 and the residential property tax rate was \$ 1.5470 per \$100 of assessment. A homeowner with a property assessed at \$80,000.00 paid \$1,237.60 in local property taxes.

Water and Sewer Rates

The village of Alma charges for residential and commercial utility services. In 2019 the village had 127.34 units for Residential water and 130.84 units for Residential Sewer charges. 73.4 units Commercial water and 73.4 units Commercial sewer charges. Utility rate per year are 347.00 for water and 520.00 for sewer a total charge of \$867.00 per year.

Services

Local government budgets and services are established in accordance with a standardized classification system. In 2019, the council adopted a general operating budget of \$559,997.00. Ended the year with a deficit of \$55,785.00

The village of Alma also has a utility operating budget for water and wastewater services. The approved budget was \$203,563.00. This account ended the year with a surplus of \$ 5,842.00.

General Budgeted Services

Total Expenditures: \$ 129,555.00

General Services expenses include Mayor, Councillors, Clerk, office building, solicitor, other, external audit, civic relations, consulting, public liability, and cost of assessment.

Protective Services

Total Expenditures: \$135,473.00

Protective Services expenses include policing, fire protection, emergency measures and animal control.

Policing services are provided through a 20-year contract with the Province of New Brunswick for RCMP services. RCMP services are cost shared regionally based on population and tax base. Our share of the cost in 2019 was \$ 51,820.00.

The Alma Village Fire Department provides fire protection services to the village. The fire department currently consists of the Fire Chief and fifteen volunteer firefighters from within the service area.

Transportation Services

Total Expenditures: \$189,799.00

Transportation Services expenses include street maintenance, culverts, snow removal, street lighting, general equipment, street signs, amortization, other, and transfer to capital.

In the Village of Alma this category consists primarily of summer and winter road maintenance and street lighting. Roads in the village include provincial and municipal roads.

Environmental Health Services

Total Expenditures: \$26,508.00

Environmental Health Services expenses include collection, disposal sites, cemeteries, and amortization transfer to capital.

This category includes expenditures related to solid waste collection and disposal. The village of Alma collects its own solid waste and disposes of it at the Eco 360 waste site at 100 Bill Slater Drive, Berry Mills, NB E1C-8T6.

Environmental Development Services

Total Expenditures: \$65,782.00

Environmental Development Services expenses include community planning, tourism promotion, tourist bureau, and other tourism expenses.

Recreation and Cultural Services

Total Expenditures: \$105,506.00

Recreation and Cultural Services expenses include the vision Alma project, community centre, other, parks and playgrounds, and amortization.

Fiscal Services

This category includes interest on short and long-term loans, principal repayment of long-term debt, the funding of prior year deficits, and transfers to reserve funds for future expenditures.

In 2019 the village made a principal repayment of \$ 17,000.00 and an interest payment of \$5,853.73. See table for further information.

Purpose	Year of Loan	Amount Borrowed	Term
2010 Fire Truck	May 2011	\$ 252,000.00	15 years

Water and Waste Water Operating Budget

Total Expenditures: \$178,727.00

Water expenses include administration, purification and treatment, power and pumping, source of supply, other, insurance, audit, interest and amortization.

Sewer expenses include administration, sewerage sampling, lift stations, snow removal, utilities, insurance, audit, other, interest and amortization.

Fiscal Services for Water and Wastewater

Expenditures include interest on short and long-term loans, principal repayment of long-term debt, the funding of prior year deficits, and transfers to reserve funds for future expenditures. See table for further information.

Purpose	Year of Loan	Amount Borrowed	Term
Well and Sewer and water mains	December of 2004	\$1,184,000.00	30 years
Building expansion, reservoir improvements	November of 2009	\$110,000.00	30 years
Lagoon upgrade	June 2016	\$162,000.00	20 years

Appendix 1

2019 Council Meeting Dates and Attendance

Date	Meeting	Kirstin	Andrew	Susan	Tiffany
January 22	Regular	Present	Present	Present	Present
February 19	Regular	Present	Present	Present	Present
March 18	Regular	Present	Absent	Present	Present
April 15	Regular	Present	Present	Present	Present
May 21	Regular	Present	Present	Present	Present
June 17	Regular	Present	Present	Present	Present
September 16	Regular	Present	Present	Present	Present
September 30	Special	Present	Present	Present	Present
October 21	Regular	Present	Present	Present	Present
November 18	Regular	Present	Present	Present	Present
December 30	Special	Present	Absent	Present	Present

2019 audited financial statements.



Audit 2019.pdf