



CHESTERMERE WAVE

COLD MORNINGS, WARM NEIGHBOURHOODS



WINTER 2026



A Message From Mayor Shannon Dean

Happy New Year, Chestermere.

As winter settles in, our city finds its familiar rhythm. Families lacing up skates on the lake, neighbours walking snow-lined pathways, and anglers setting up for a quiet morning of ice fishing all showcase the winter traditions that bring Chestermere to life. These moments remind us of the strong sense of community that defines our city in every season.

With Council beginning a new four-year term together, we are looking forward to the stability and shared purpose this brings. It allows us to stay focused on thoughtful planning and the long-term work that will continue to strengthen Chestermere in the years ahead.

In 2026, residents can expect continued progress on key priorities that support safety, mobility, and quality of life. Council and administration

remain committed to responsible budgeting, advancing essential infrastructure, and advocating for regional connections that benefit our city. We are also focused on creating opportunities for residents to come together, whether that's along our pathways, at community events, or through the everyday interactions that make Chestermere feel like home.

As we step into the year ahead, I am grateful for the resilience and community spirit that define Chestermere. Thank you for your continued engagement, your feedback, and your pride in the city we share. Together, we will make 2026 a year of steady progress, meaningful connection, and collective success.

Mayor Shannon Dean





2026

CITY EVENTS

For the most up-to-date
information on City events
throughout the year, visit
our online calendar.

[thecityofchestermere.ca/
events-calendar](https://thecityofchestermere.ca/events-calendar)

SCAN ME





When Every Second Counts

Fire Crew Commended for Exceptional Care

Chestermere Fire Services team poses with certificates from Alberta Health Services. They are accompanied by Mayor Shannon Dean (l) and Chestermere Fire Chief Cody Zebedee (r). (Photo by City of Chestermere)

Emergency responders train year-round for moments when every second matters, but some calls stand out for the way a team comes together. In September 2025, members of Chestermere Fire Services responded to a serious medical call where their quick thinking and coordinated efforts, along with successfully performed complex procedure helped save a life.

In addition to the City's recognition, the crew was also acknowledged by Alberta Health Services Medical First Response program for their exceptional work and commitment to community safety.

Firefighter-paramedic Benjamin Bishop describes the call as one that required clear communication, trust and steady decision-making. In the months leading up to the incident, the crew had spent time reviewing previous calls and practicing scenarios to strengthen how they operate together. When this call came in, that preparation mattered.

"What stands out most to me is how well the crew worked together," Bishop said. "Everyone knew their role, stayed focused and supported each other. It was far from a one person effort."

City Council formally recognized the entire response team during a regular council meeting on December 9, 2025. Those acknowledged included Benjamin Bishop, Matthew Relf, Brett Brandon, Joshua Sather, William Wood, William Smith and Quinn Terepocki. The recognition was meant to highlight not only what happened on that day, but also the ongoing dedication shown by the firefighters on every shift.



Benjamin Bishop receives congratulations for his recognition and quick thinking during a critical medical emergency response in September 2025. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

"You often see people on their worst day, and the professionalism our fire department carries is second to none," the Mayor said. "The level of service they provide, both in our community and in medical response, is exceptional. What happened here is a reflection of their training, teamwork and unwavering commitment to caring for people."

Bishop also emphasized how the support within the department made a difference. Leadership checked in on the team after the incident, ensuring everyone had a chance to debrief and learn from the experience. For him, that culture is one of the reasons Chestermere Fire Services stands out.

"It's a privilege to be part of a team that strives to be better every day," he said. "Our crew trains hard, works well together and looks out for each other."

The recognition from Council shines a light on the people behind the uniform, firefighters who show up at community events, connect with residents and respond with compassion and professionalism during real emergencies. Their teamwork on this call is another example of the dedication Chestermere's fire crews bring to every shift, and the trust residents place in them each day.



Firefighter William Wood (l) looks at his certificate of recognition with John Hein, Strategist for the AHS's Medical First Response program. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



Dr. Kevin Hanrahan, Medical Director for Alberta Health Services' Medical First Response program, speaks about the importance of the program. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



Benjamin Bishop poses with his certificate of recognition, accompanied by Alberta Health Services and EMS representatives during the commendation event. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

WHAT IS PCSS

CHESTERMERE PARENT & CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES



Parent and Caregiver Support Services (PCSS) is a part of the provincial Family Resource Network (FRN) in Chestermere.

We offer **free programs** for families with kids 0-13. Our dedicated Family Support Facilitators assist you in accessing relevant resources at any stage of your parenting journey.

PERSONALIZED FAMILY SUPPORT

One-on-one guidance tailored to your family's unique needs.

COMMUNITY DROP-IN ACTIVITIES

Casual, welcoming spaces to meet other families and participate in fun, educational experiences.

PARENTING WORKSHOPS & COURSES

We help connect you to the right services and supports in the community.

LOCAL RESOURCE SHARING

Access to helpful information and services available in Chestermere and surrounding areas



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING INCLUDES

SENSORY PLAY SESSIONS

Hands-on activities that stimulate your child's senses and support early development.

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Quick check-ups to monitor your child's growth and milestones.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Programs that help children build confidence, empathy, and emotional awareness.

ACTIVE PLAY & MOVEMENT

Fun physical activities that promote motor skills and healthy habits.

CONTACT US

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30AM - 4:00PM

Phone number: 403-207-7050 ext. 7135

Email: pcssinfo@chestermere.ca





Join the Youth Honorary Program

Are you 15–18 and looking to make a difference in your community? Join the City of Chestermere's Youth Honorary Program! This is your chance to build life skills, volunteer, connect with mentors, and earn recognition for your efforts.

Complete workshops and volunteer hours, and at the year-end FCSS Volunteer Appreciation Event, you'll receive a certificate and an honorarium.

Interested? Email your cover letter and resume to hmangat@chestermere.ca today!

Community Access Program

What is CAP?

The Community Access Program (CAP) is designed to make community activities more accessible for low-income residents.

It offers opportunities to connect, learn, and enjoy programs that foster inclusion and belonging—at little or no cost. CAP is here to help you feel supported and part of the community.

Register today:

thecityofchestermere.ca/community-services/cap-registration



Let's Try It! Returns January 13, 2026

Discover, connect, and thrive with our youth interest-led wellness program!

Join us to forge new relationships, enhance existing ones, and tap into valuable resources. Share or learn a new skill, ignite passions, and build connections.

Examples of Activities:

- Plant & Paint
- Lego Face Paint
- Special FX Makeup
- Fidget Toys

Ages: 13+ Co-ed

When: The Last Tuesday of each month from 5–6:30PM

Where: The Drop @ Chestermere Rec Centre (up the stairs from the main door, turn left through the red doors, room on the left side)



A Night to Say Thank You

Honouring Chestermere's Volunteers



Volunteers gather for a group photo during the City of Chestermere's Volunteer Appreciation Night on Nov. 14, 2025. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

On November 14, 2025, the City of Chestermere proudly hosted Volunteer Appreciation Night, an evening dedicated to celebrating the individuals who give their time and energy to strengthen our community. Volunteers enjoyed a lively night of games, food, photography, and connection, offered as a heartfelt thank you for the countless hours they contribute to making Chestermere a welcoming and vibrant place to live.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2025 Community Services Award to Lai Woolsey. Lai has played a transformative role in revitalizing the Chestermere Women's Group, creating meaningful opportunities for women to come together, share experiences, and support one another. Through her leadership, she has fostered inclusive relationships built on courage and respect, ensuring that new residents feel welcome and longtime residents feel valued. Her efforts have helped cultivate a joyful and supportive environment that reflects the very spirit of Chestermere.

The City of Chestermere extends its sincere gratitude to Lai and to all volunteers whose generosity and commitment strengthen the bonds of our community. Their contributions reflect the care, pride and sense of belonging that guide our city forward.

If you are inspired to get involved, there are many opportunities to make a difference. To learn more about volunteering with the City of Chestermere, visit: thecityofchestermere.ca/residentialservices/volunteer.



Lai Woolsey receives the 2025 Community Services Award from Christian Lutz-Orozco, Community Social Development Specialist, during Volunteer Appreciation Night on Nov. 14, 2025. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



Winter Connections Program!

NEIGHBOUR OR FAMILY FUN!



CREATE YOUR OWN SOUP, CHILI OR PIZZA PARTY

Host a soup or chili night with neighbours and family. Feeling adventurous? Throw a pizza party!

Each kit includes cookware, dishes, utensils, recipe books, and a gift card for ingredients.



To register, scan the QR Code, or contact Craig McLeod, Community Social Development Specialist at (403) 207-7050 ext. 7094 or cmcleod@chestermere.ca.



Snow Globe

Colouring Activity



Unscramble the wintery words below:

WONS _____

RAFSC _____

ERET _____

NIRWTE _____

PROTECT YOUR PIPES. PREVENT COSTLY DAMAGE. STAY WARM AND WORRY-FREE.

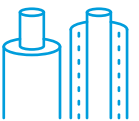


WINTER-PROOF YOUR HOME: SIMPLE STEPS TO PREVENT FROZEN PIPES



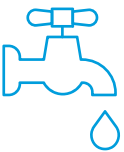
Inside Your Home

- Keep the heat on: Maintain normal heating levels—even when you're away.
- Run the taps: Regular water flow keeps pipes from freezing.
- Bleeder valves: If instructed, turn on your bleeder valve and leave it on until further notice.



Near Exterior Walls & Doors

- Insulate waterlines: Wrap pipes with insulation or heat tape.



Going on Vacation?

- Ask your house sitter to run the water.
- Leave the heat on.
- Let faucets drip: A slow trickle of hot or cold water helps prevent freezing.



Outdoor Areas

- Turn off outdoor hoses: Prevent burst pipes and indoor flooding.
- Keep water features running: Circulating water is less likely to freeze.
- Irrigation systems: Shut off the timer and main valve. Insulate exposed parts.



Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant pose after being named to Canada's Olympic mixed doubles curling team during an announcement event in May 2025 in Toronto. (photo by Canadian Olympic Committee/Anil Mungal)

Chestermere Curlers Ready to Represent Canada on Olympic Ice

Local athletes Jocelyn Peterman, Brett Gallant and Ben Hebert prepare to compete at the 2026 Winter Olympics.

Three athletes with strong ties to Chestermere will represent Canada in curling at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics.

Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant, who call Chestermere home, will compete together in mixed doubles. Gallant will also join the men's team, skipped by Brad Jacobs. Rounding out the local connection is Ben Hebert, a two-time Olympian and Olympic gold medallist, who will play lead on Team Jacobs.

Peterman and Gallant moved to Chestermere in 2022 after getting married. "We wanted to be close to family and in a smaller community near Calgary," Peterman said.



Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant compete during the Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Trials in January 2025 in Liverpool, N.S. (Photo by Curling Canada/Michael Burns)

Both athletes started curling at a young age, Peterman in Red Deer and Gallant in Charlottetown, and have been competing at the highest level for many years. Peterman represented Canada at the Beijing 2022 Olympics, finishing fifth with Team Jones, while Gallant earned a bronze medal in men's curling at the same Games.

Qualifying for the Olympics is no easy feat. Gallant explained that teams accumulate points over a two-year period on the World Curling Tour, with the top teams advancing to Olympic trials. From there, only the winners earn the right to wear the maple leaf on the Olympic stage. For Peterman and Gallant, that journey included competing in Nova Scotia earlier this year.

Hebert brings a wealth of experience to the team. He won Olympic gold at Vancouver 2010 Games with Team Martin and has earned multiple world titles and Brier championships throughout his career. Most recently, he helped Team Jacobs win the 2025 Pan Continental Curling Championship.

The trio hopes their success will inspire more Chestermere residents to give curling a try. "The community has a great facility and a strong curling club," Peterman said. "It's exciting to share this journey and hopefully grow the sport."

The Milano Cortina Winter Olympics begin in February 2026.



Ben Hebert (l) and Brett Gallant in action during Montana's Canadian Curling Trials in Halifax. (Photo by Curling Canada/Andrew Klaver)



Rich & Creamy Tomato Soup

Author: Hetal Vanmali, BSc Hons

PREP TIME	10 MINUTES
COOK TIME	35 MINUTES
TOTAL TIME	45 MINUTES



Ingredients

- 7 ripe Roma tomatoes, roughly chopped into 8 pieces
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon crushed pepper
- 10 basil leaves, torn
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 7 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon crushed garlic
- 2 cups water
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon chili powder (optional, for those who love heat)
- ½ cup heavy cream, warmed
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Additional grated Parmesan cheese, for garnish
- Fresh basil or parsley leaves, for garnish

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 450°F and prepare a 9-inch round or square baking pan.
- Spread the tomatoes and garlic on the pan, then sprinkle the torn basil leaves over the top.
- Drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil, sprinkle with 1 teaspoon salt and the pepper, and toss to coat.
- Roast for 30 minutes, uncovered.
- Meanwhile, in a large pot, heat the remaining olive oil over medium heat. Add the bay leaf and sauté until lightly browned, then add the onions and cook until golden (about 8 minutes).
- Remove the bay leaf, then add the roasted tomatoes and its juices, sugar, bouillon cubes, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt, and water. Blend until smooth, then bring the mixture to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes.
- Stir in the warmed cream and Parmesan cheese. Add more hot water if you prefer a thinner soup, and adjust salt to taste.
- Serve the soup garnished with extra Parmesan and fresh basil or parsley leaves. Happy cooking!

About the Author

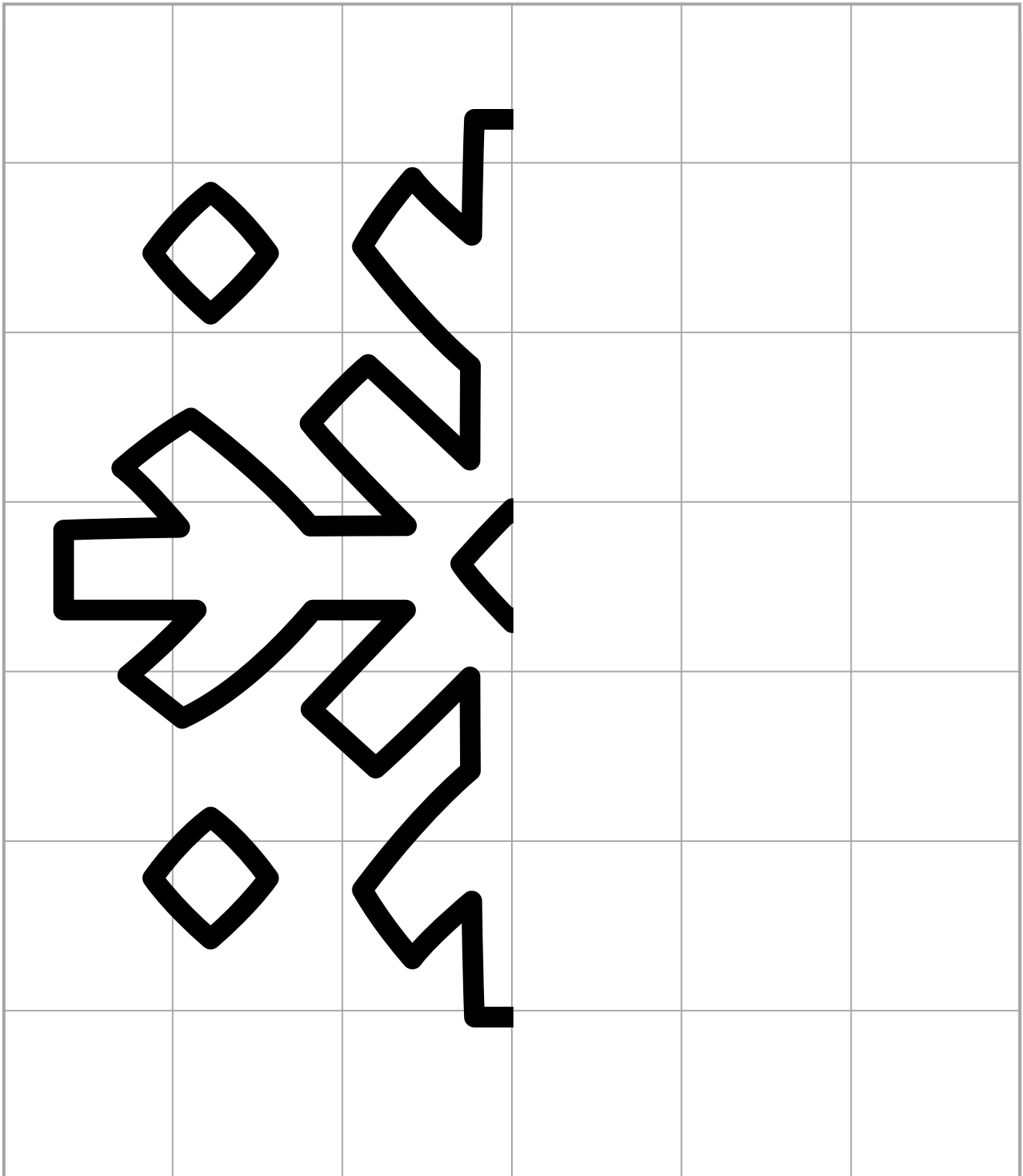
Recipe developer Hetal Vanmali believes the most meaningful moments happen around the kitchen table. Through fresh, beautiful, and flavour-forward recipes, her goal is to inspire people to cook at home for themselves and the people they love, encouraging connection through a love of good food.

For more of her delicious recipes visit: www.thehouseoftaste.ca and follow Hetal on Instagram @the_house_of_taste_ca.



Winter Symmetry Drawing

Use the grid to draw the other side of the image:



Embrace Winter Outdoors

Winter in Chestermere offers plenty of ways to stay active, enjoy fresh air, and make the most of the season close to home.

From neighbourhood skating rinks and tobogganing hills to lake activities, pathways, and year-round amenities, residents can stay active all season long.

Skating and Tobogganing

Community skating rinks are located in Dawson's Landing, Kinniburgh, Rainbow Falls, and McIvor, providing convenient options for casual skating and pick-up hockey. Tobogganing hills are located in Springmere and West Creek behind Chestermere Lake Middle School.

Lake Activities

When ice and weather conditions allow, Chestermere Lake offers a variety of winter recreation opportunities, including skating, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Permitted snowmobile and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is also available when ice thickness meets recommended safety standards. Ice conditions are monitored and posted throughout the season.

Parks, Pathways and Winter Walks

Chestermere's pathway network remains open year-round, connecting neighbourhoods, parks, and lake areas. Maintained routes provide scenic options for winter walks and outdoor activity throughout the community.

Disc Golf: A Year-Round Favourite

The Westmere Disc Golf Course, located behind St. Gabriel's School, remains open year-round and offers a free recreation option for players of all ages and skill levels. Winter conditions add a fun and unique challenge to this popular course.

As the days grow colder, Chestermere's outdoor spaces continue to bring people together. Whether it's a familiar rink, a favourite pathway, or a fresh snowfall on the lake, winter offers countless moments to step outside, enjoy the season, and experience the community in a new way.

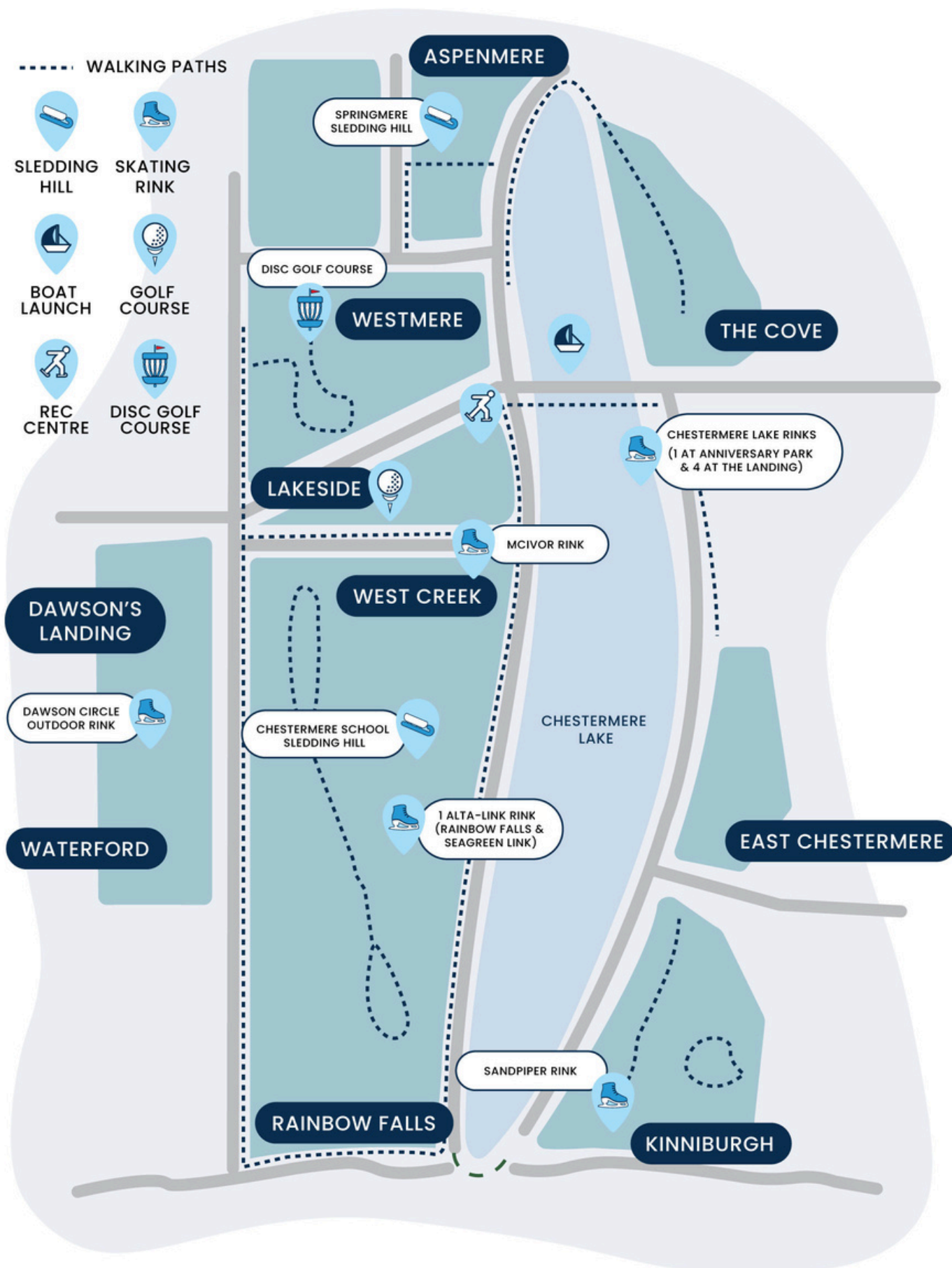
For more information on outdoor recreation in Chestermere, visit:
thecityofchestermere.ca/residentialservices/parks-recreation



Residents enjoy ice skating on Chestermere Lake on Jan. 5, 2024.
(Photo by City of Chestermere)



A resident walks two dogs along snow-covered pathways in Westmere Park in Chestermere on Nov. 4, 2024. (Photo by City of Chestermere)





Candy Cane Checkstop

Delivering Holiday Cheer with an Emphasis on Road Safety

Community Peace officers, RCMP and Fire Services conduct the second annual Candy Cane Checkstop on a snowy evening, engaging with drivers to promote holiday safety. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

Chestermere's annual Candy Cane Checkstop returned in December 2025, bringing holiday spirit, and an important reminder about the dangers of impaired driving. More than 500 vehicles passed through the checkstop, where enforcement teams promoted sober driving during the busy festive season.

Residents welcomed the initiative, lining up for goodie bags and taking the opportunity to meet local enforcement officers. "Traffic safety is one of the biggest concerns residents raise, and this event helps us address that while spreading holiday cheer," said Eli Steinfeld, Community Peace Officer.

The checkstop is part of a broader effort to reduce impaired driving, which typically increases during the holidays. Officials continue to urge residents to call 911 if they suspect an impaired driver. "It takes all of us to keep each other safe," Steinfeld added.



Community Peace Officers Steinfeld and Reiter pose during the Candy Cane Checkstop on December 12, 2025. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

Alcohol affects judgment, vision, reaction time, coordination, and balance, making impaired driving a leading cause of serious collisions. In Alberta, approximately 8,600 people are convicted of impaired driving each year, and one in five drivers involved in fatal collisions had been drinking prior to the crash. Nationally, Canada sees an average of nine impaired-driving charges or suspensions every hour—about 215 sanctions per day.

The urgency of this message was underscored by Calgary's 2025 collision statistics. Police reported 31 fatal collisions, the highest number in a decade, with at least four linked to impaired driving. In 2024, Calgary Police laid 88 impaired-driving charges and issued more than 1,875 roadside sanctions.

This year's checkstop featured the RCMP, Chestermere Fire Department, and community partners such as Synergy, which packed hundreds of goodie bags. Santa and Mrs. Claus from the Chestermere Women's Crisis Society (CWCS) also made an appearance, braving freezing temperatures and blowing snow to greet families.

The Candy Cane Checkstop has grown steadily since its launch. The 2024 event drew more than 400 vehicles, and organizers hope to see even more residents participate in December 2026.

"The more people we reach, the better," said Steinfeld. "We want everyone to enjoy the holidays and get home safely."



(L to R) Logan Pratt, Quinn Terepocki, Santa, Wesley Beckner and Caiden Ellice pose during the Candy Cane Checkstop event. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



An aerial view of the second annual Candy Cane Checkstop along Chestermere Boulevard. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



Community Peace Officer Steinfield hands out goody bags to a driver as part of the holiday safety initiative. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



Mayor Shannon Dean poses with Councillor Sandboe as she came through the Candy Cane Checkstop. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

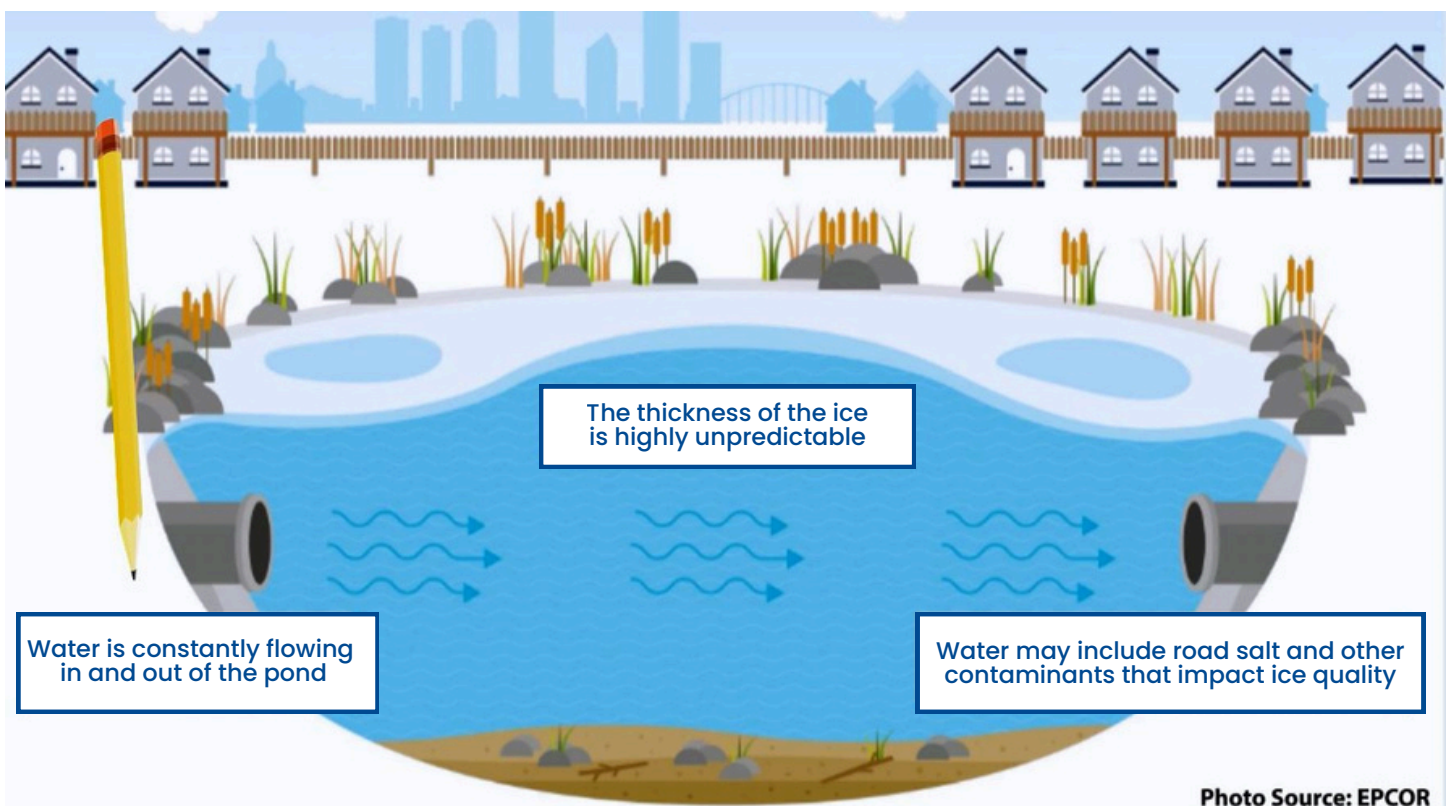
Ice Safety

What You Need to Know Before You Step Onto the Ice

A resident walks along the Western Irrigation District's canal pathway on a foggy morning in Chestermere, Alta., on Dec. 4, 2024. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

While winter brings some of the best moments in Chestermere with a frozen lake that becomes a community playground, it also comes with important precautions. Ice can look solid and inviting, but as temperatures rise and fall, conditions can change quickly from one area to another. No ice is ever completely safe, so a little extra awareness helps keep everyone protected.

Storm ponds are not safe to walk or play on at any time. They may appear frozen, but constant water movement and sudden level changes during freeze and thaw cycles make the ice extremely unstable. Please use one of the many city-maintained ice rinks for a safe and fun winter experience.



Chestermere Lake may freeze more predictably, but colour and thickness still matter. Clear blue ice is the strongest. White or “snow ice” is only about half as strong. Grey ice is unsafe because it signals water below. Captain Paul McClure from Chestermere Fire Services explains it simply: “Blue ice is the strongest. Grey or brackish ice is more brittle and vulnerable to dirt and chemicals. No ice is entirely safe.”

Thickness is the best way to judge safety. A minimum of 15 cm is needed for walking or skating alone, 20 cm for group activities, and 25 cm for snowmobiles. Snow can conceal cracks and weak spots, creating hidden hazards that make ice less reliable. Wind and repeated freeze-thaw cycles further weaken ice, making conditions unpredictable. Water movement around storm ponds and contaminants such as dirt or salt also reduce ice strength.

If you see someone fall through the ice, call 911 right away. Do not step onto the ice to attempt a rescue. Stay on solid ground and extend a branch, stick or rope while coaching the person to self rescue. Guide them to put their elbows on the ice, kick their feet, then roll away from the opening and move toward shore. The 1-10-1 rule is a helpful reminder: one minute to control breathing, 10 minutes of meaningful movement, and about one hour before hypothermia becomes severe.

City crews check ice thickness from mid December to early January when it is safe for staff to access the lake. Updates are shared on City’s website to help residents make informed decisions, although conditions can still change quickly. Treat every frozen surface with caution, enjoy the season and make safety part of your winter routine on the lake.

For ice depth readings & rink conditions, visit thecityofchestermere.ca/residentialservices/winter-activities.



Two Calgary residents drill a hole in the ice on Chestermere Lake on Feb. 20, 2024, as they prepare to teach their grandchildren how to fish. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



Two people ride an ATV across a snow-covered Chestermere Lake, on Feb. 20, 2024. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



A child waits patiently with a fishing rod at a hole on Chestermere Lake on Feb. 20, 2024, hoping to reel in her first catch. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



Get your Library Card for FREE

Get your Chestermere Library Card for FREE and access thousands of books, movies, shows, games, and more! The Chestermere Public Library is connected to over 170 Libraries across Alberta.

See how to get a card here:

chestermererepubliclibrary.com/Library-Services/How-Do-I/How-Do-I-Get-a-Library-Card

Winter Programs

Register for our programs or learn more at chestermererepubliclibrary.com

All programs are FREE to participate in, see all programs below.

Self Run Book Club

Want to host your book club at the Library? We will help you get everything you need and provide a space for your group to get together. Contact us at info@chestermererepubliclibrary.com to arrange your meeting. We currently have some groups looking for more people. Contact us to learn more.

Rocky View Immigrant Services (RVIS) at the Library

Do you have questions about life in Canada? Come see Rocky View Immigrant Services at the Library Mondays from 10:00AM to 12:30PM. They provide services and support for immigrants and refugees in Chestermere. Learn more or book an appointment by emailing ewahl@ccisab.ca. Drop-ins welcome!



Prospect at the Library

Struggling with your job search or feeling stuck in your career path? Prospect can help for FREE on Tuesdays from 11:00AM to 3:00PM! Drop by to get help from Prospect's expert Career Advisor with resume and cover letter drafting, job search strategies, career planning, and polishing interview skills. Please call **1-877-483-2562** to book an appointment.

Afterschool @ CPL

Join us Monday, Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays for afterschool activities for kids between the ages of 6-12. **Registration is required for each program.**

Early Literacy Programs

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15AM – Storytime. All Ages. **No registration required.**

Tuesdays at 10:15AM – Playdate. Ages 0-5. **No registration required.**

Wednesdays at 10:15AM – Wee Groove. Ages 0-5. **Registration Required.**

Fridays at 10:15AM – Drop in Baby Storytime. Ages 0 – 23 Months. **No registration required.**

If you have any questions or comments, you can email us at:
info@chestermerelibrary.com

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- Facebook @chestermerelibrary
- Twitter @chestermerelib
- Instagram @chestermerelibrary
- chestermerelibrary on YouTube

Contact us:

- 403-272-9025
- www.chestermerelibrary.com

Our Hours

Sunday 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Monday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Tuesday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Wednesday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Thursday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Visit us at:

105B Marina Road Chestermere, Alberta T1X 1V7

Hodgson Farm

Remembering a Chestermere Area Landmark

The Hodgson Farm stood for nearly a century on the edge of Chestermere, the red barn being a familiar landmark for anyone driving along Chestermere Boulevard. Known locally as Hodgson Corner the farm has a fascinating history.

Frances and Jack Hodgson established the farm in 1923 after their marriage. Their two-story home was moved from Victoria Square east of Calgary. By 1924, a large dairy barn was built from materials salvaged from the jam factory in Victoria Square. The Hodgsons began planting trees and hedges that would define the property. Frances was known for her hospitality and love of cooking, and the home became a hub for community meetings and social gatherings. They raised two children, Everett and Marilyn.

After Jack's death at the age of 60, Frances and Everett carried on with the farming. In 1954 Everett married Joyce Gowdy, and together they raised four children, Debra, Larry, Randy and Michael. The family continued the tree planting tradition, adding lilacs, evergreens and seedlings grown from apples Joyce picked in Strathmore.

The farm was not only a place of work but also of community involvement. Everett drove the school bus for Conrich for many years. The family participated in events such as turkey dinners, Cubs and Scouts, and local discussions about issues including proposals for a jail (see this story p. 196 Chestermere a Home for All Seasons 2024) and a power plant near Chestermere.



An aerial view of the Hodgson family farm, once a familiar landmark along Chestermere Boulevard, before its demolition for new development. (Photo courtesy Chestermere Historical Foundation)

Over the decades the farm faced many changes. A gas well was built in 1967. Highway 1A was widened in 1972 taking a strip of land from the property and forcing the relocation of Frances Hodgson's cherished apple trees. Portions of the farm were eventually sold, including land that became Lakeside Greens Golf Course. Randy Hodgson started Smokey Farm Meats on the property, adding another chapter to the farm's history.

By 2007 Joyce decided to sell the land and move into Chestermere. The farm sat idle, with wildlife reclaiming the space. In 2018 the trees were cut down including Frances Hodgson's crab apple trees. Soon after the remaining buildings were demolished to make way for new development.

In 2021 developer Anthem United partnered with the Chestermere Historical Foundation and the Hodgson family to ensure the farm's history was remembered. Joyce had ensured that this would happen through her sale agreement. Their collaboration led to the creation of Hodgson Park in the Chelsea district.



A metal apple tree sculpture stands in Hodgson Park in Chelsea as a tribute to Frances and Jack Hodgson's tradition of planting trees on their family farm. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

On Sept. 17, 2022 a crowd gathered for the unveiling of the park. Family members, community leaders and residents celebrated with stories, photos and a ribbon cutting ceremony. A full-sized metal apple tree crafted by Rick Carlson was installed as a tribute to Frances and Jack Hodgson's love of planting. New apple trees were planted near a memorial plaque, ensuring the legacy continues.



If you are intrigued by this story, there are many others in 'Chestermere a Home for All Seasons.' Copies are available through The Chestermere Historical Foundation chestermerehistoricalfoundation.org



An interpretive sign at Hodgson Park in the Chelsea neighbourhood of Chestermere shares the history of the Hodgson family farm, a local landmark for nearly a century. (Photo by City of Chestermere)

Winter Safety Tips

From the Chestermere RCMP

Frost-covered trees and homes at Invermere Park in Chestermere during a winter sunrise in 2024. (Photo by City of Chestermere)



Chestermere RCMP reminds residents to stay safe during outdoor winter activities.

Winter in Alberta offers incredible opportunities for outdoor fun, from skiing and snowshoeing to hiking and sledding. However, cold temperatures, icy conditions, and unpredictable weather can create safety risks for those enjoying the outdoors

The Chestermere RCMP encourages residents to take precautions to ensure safe and enjoyable winter adventures:

- Wear layers, waterproof clothing, and warm footwear to protect against cold and wet conditions.
- Check weather conditions before you head outdoors. Avoid outdoor activities during severe weather or poor visibility.
- Plan your route before you go and let someone know your destination and expected return time. Carry a fully charged phone and a map or GPS device.
- Always stay on designated trails and areas. Ski trails, snowshoe routes, and hiking paths are maintained for safety. Avoid venturing onto unknown or unsafe terrain.
- Be aware of ice and water hazards if you're venturing out near frozen lakes or rivers. If skiing or hiking near bodies of water, exercise extreme caution. Ice conditions can change rapidly.
- Always carry safety essentials on you. Include items such as a flashlight, first aid kit, snacks, water, and emergency blankets.
- Have fun but also know your limits. Fatigue and cold can affect judgment. Take breaks, stay hydrated, and avoid risky shortcuts.

For more seasonal safety tips, visit us on Facebook [@RCMPinAlberta](#) and on X [@RCMPAlberta](#).



What would you like to see in the Chestermere Wave?

The Wave is **YOUR** community guide.

We want to hear from you! Whether it's events, programs, or community stories. Your feedback helps us bring the Wave to life.

Send your suggestions to **comms@chestermere.ca**, we'd love to hear from you!



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For more information about Mayor & Council visit: thecityofchestermere.ca/cityhall/city-council