



Adult Community Conversation Notes: January 10, 2024

Community Outreach Services:

- Thank you to all who donated and supported Santas Anonymous last year, the program served a record number of over 200 families in the community.
- Trend: Outreach staff are seeing a higher number of people in difficulty; especially concerning financial security.
- Jasper LIFE program for adults of all ages running every Wednesday nights in the Quorum Room (library basement)
- Winter Bucket List out now.

Holly Llewellyn, Jasper Library

- Library is now open on Mondays 10am -5pm.
- Staff are aiming to respond to community needs through adult programming: many new programs coming up in response to what has been heard in these community meetings.
- Food for Fines will run the entire month of February. Make a non-perishable food or cash donation to the food bank box at the library and have your fines waived!
- New upcoming programming: Free Yoga class 'Poses and Prose' on Jan 25, Nutrition on a budget on Jan 31st, Insight into homelessness on Feb 8 and Visible mending for clothing in February.
- From the Stacks every second Thursday, Knitting group on Wednesdays 10:30 am
- Library are looking for locals willing to share their knowledge and interests

Cristin Murphy, Jasper Food Bank

- Week before Christmas saw a record number of individuals and families served with 150 people accessing the program.
- Food bank open 5:30-6:30 PM Thursdays in basement of Anglican Church. There is no need to line up – everyone will be served.
- Food bank delivery and monthly boxes are available for those with limited mobility or diverse needs.
- Trend: Reduced hours and seasonal layoffs directly impact food security.
- [Coldest Night of the Year](#) Fundraiser coming up February 24th. Sign up to a local team or create your own and help raise funds for the Jasper Food Bank and Community Caring Fund. 100% of funds raised go directly to meeting and providing peoples basic needs in Jasper: Shelter, food and clothing. Option to walk 2 or 5 km with rest stops along the way serving hot chocolate. Community Soup Dinner sponsored by local restaurants will be held at the Activity Centre after the walk for all participants.
- Food Bank have received a six month grant to give out Menstrual products in partnership with COS and Junior/ Senior High School.

Jo Ann Sherlow, Fitness & Aquatic Centre

- Renovations are going as scheduled
- Gym busy, reaching maximum capacity in peak hours of use.
- Potentially offering Aqua Fit and limited swimming Lessons in February in collaboration with Tonquin Inn. More details to come.
- New indoor walking program 3 Days a week in Multi-Purpose hall - FREE. Monday 10-12, Wednesday 2-4, Saturday 11-1:30.
- Trend: Staff have seen an increase in requests for subsidized/ free passes through COS.
- Staff and curling club have seen increased interest in the learn to curl program.
- Jo Ann is working with local physiotherapist to start a new program for seniors.



- Activity Centre remains open with lots happening including shinney hockey, free skate, roller skating, Coffee Connections, free soup program & Food Recovery fridges.

Michael Delvecchio, CN Common Connections

- Common Connections is a volunteer group of CN employees who support new and existing staff to build connections and adjust to life in the community with a focus on mental health awareness.

Kelly Wilson, Jasper Fire Brigade

- FireSmart day is April 24th.
- Encouraging neighborhoods to [apply for a FireSmart Grant](#). The \$500 grant allows locals to host a FireSmart clean up or BBQ on your street. Applications are easy and close January 31st.
- Currently training staff and volunteer fire brigade in FireSmart assessments to build more awareness around fire smart.
- New peer led Mental Health training for front line staff has begun weekly in partnership with OSI-CAN.
- Looking into offering CRASH course for student (Community Responders Against Student Harm) as a more empathetic and casual approach to substance use education and awareness for students.

Lisa Darrah, Jasper Crisis Team

- Crisis team are a referral-based service to fill gaps between COS afterhours, Victim Services and the RCMP.
- Offer financial and emotional support to community and family members in response to non-criminal trauma.
- Crisis team line is open 24/7: 780-852-8326 (TEAM)
- Trend: team notice that strain on other community resources reflects in an increase in Crisis response calls and needs.

Sergeant Rick Bidaisee, Jasper RCMP

- RCMP Recruitment information session Jan 22nd at Andromeda café
- Staffing resources are strained by calls relating to mental health crisis and accompanying people at hospitals and in transfer.
- Rise in reported cases of domestic violence over the holiday period
- Looking into programs such as Bar Watch to encourage local businesses to limit service to patrons with dangerous levels of intoxication.

Brittney & Jennifer, Jasper Employment and Education Centre

- Seasonal jobs are low with many reduced hours and layoffs
- Assistance for EI Applications have increased
- English Language courses and drop-in classes are running.
- Currently 50+ students attend on a regular basis.
- GED completion program available. Cost is \$100.
- If cost is a barrier for any courses contact JEEC.
- Looking for volunteer language and GED tutors.

Tannis, Yellowhead Women's Emergency Shelter and Outreach

- Shelter was full before and over holidays. Currently has space for one or two more women.
- Shelter is available to anyone in crisis or in need of immediate or safe shelter.
- In addition to shelter staff run support groups for people who have experienced or participated in abusive relationships with a goal of empowering people and building skills.



Women's group runs every Wednesday, men's group every Thursday.

Rev. Linda McClaren, United Church

- Thrift store open Monday & Thursday afternoons and Monday & Wednesday evenings. Reminder that the church cannot accept furniture.
- Donate items in weather-proof bag to keep items in a reusable state.
- The United Church is an open and welcoming space, willing to respond to needs in the community
- Mod Squad Book Club: Books and conversations around current world issues. Thursday Jan 25th, 4:30pm at church or via zoom. Open to all to attend. January book is 'The Long Road Home' on blackness and belonging, Canadian Author. Sessions are recorded.
- United Church has a Coldest Night Of The Year team – all welcome to join.

Counselor Wilson and Counsellor Waxer: Council Updates

- Council passed 2024 budget with a 9.1% increase. Note to residents to keep in mind that this reflects increases to RCMP Administration costs and Parks Canada Land Use in addition to public facility renovations.
- Council will advocate for Jasper to receive Resort Town status to potentially alleviate pressure on municipal taxes.
- Council passed the application to apply for 5 years of funding from the IRCC for Settlement Services, Jasper Local Immigration Partnership & participation in a National project.
- Council also received a presentation and annual review of Community Conversations, lighting the value of sharing information in a life stage approach. See Council minutes and agenda for more information.



Melissa Day, Community Development

- Community Dinner launched with great turnout of over 450 residents. Seniors and people with diverse needs will be seated first at the new time of 4:30pm. Families with young children at 5pm and everyone welcome from 5:30pm.
- Food Security Survey is open to take through Jasper Food Alliance.
- The Library of Things is still open at the Jasper Activity Centre. Check out what's available on the website.
- ESS are always looking for volunteers with training opportunities
- Community-wide survey of newcomers and employers happening this month.
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- ESS are always looking for volunteers with training opportunities

What do you think?

- ✓ [Engage Jasper – Jasper's brand-new online engagement portal. It's a place to share your ideas and provide feedback.](#)
- ✓ [Municipal public engagement opportunities](#)
- ✓ [Give feedback, contact council or report an issue.](#)
- ✓ [You can also contact council by emailing them.](#)

Promote your program or event:

- ✓ [Check the Community Calendar to find out what's going on in Jasper.](#)
- ✓ [Add your program or event to the calendar.](#)

Share your passion:

- ✓ [Fill out this form](#) and we will contact you to discuss your idea!

All things Community Conversations:

- ✓ [Community Conversations schedule and information](#)
- ✓ [Community Conversations most recent notes](#)
- ✓ [Register to join Community Conversations](#)
- ✓ [Municipal Community Conversations policy.](#)

Do you have neighbours or colleagues who are new to Jasper?

- ✓ The [New to Jasper page of the website](#) has helpful information for them.
- ✓ Welcome them to your neighbourhood using our [welcome bags](#).
- ✓ [Plan a neighbourhood gathering using our Neighbourhood Connections program.](#)

Contact:

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