



**Early Childhood & School Age Community Conversation Notes:
January 10, 2024**

Maggie MacDowell and Carla Gallop, 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.
- Circle of Security will be offered again soon, Maggie currently taking training for a program aimed at educators and service providers.
- New Baby and Me pop-up at Jasper Park Lodge – well attended and received
- Baby and Me every Thursday afternoon, with pop-ups at Cubs Café
- Indoor Playgroup every Wednesday and Friday at Multi-Purpose Hall 9:30 -11:30am.
- KAOS String art program Feb 8. Spaces limited.
- Rec Room every Tuesday 7pm at the Legion. Consistently high attendance.

Jodie Anderson, Out of School Care and Wildflowers Childcare

- Childcare hiring 2 new positions. Challenge continues to be finding staff.
- Currently have maximum enrollment for number of staff can offer position to those on waitlist soon.
- Trend: Many new positions offered are shared part time with other families. Less need for full time care.

Jo Ann Sherlow, Fitness & Aquatic Centre

- 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.

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.
- Saturday Storytimes at 10am, Tween Takeover every Tuesday 3:15pm
- Library are looking for locals willing to share their knowledge and interests for future programming.



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.

Melissa Day, Community Development

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept 30 in Commemoration Park was beautiful.
- Welcoming Week and Community Culture Night Oct 21-28th. This was a week full of programs for the whole community celebrating newcomers in Jasper.
- Community-wide research including a survey of newcomers and employers will take place in October and November beginning during Welcoming Week.
- Community Dinner Coordinator in place for 2024 season.
- The Library of Things is still open at the Jasper Activity Centre. [Check out what's available on the website.](#)
- The [Neighbourhood Connections](#) program is available. Residents can pick up a welcome new neighbour bag from COS and can also apply to host a block party or other gathering of neighbours.
- 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:

Lisa Riddell, Community Development Manager
Municipality of Jasper | 627 Patricia St.
780-852-2100 | lriddell@jasper-alberta.ca