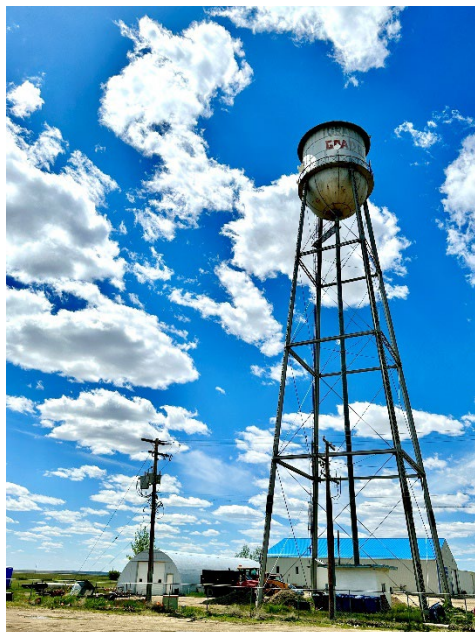




Town of - Ville de
Gravelbourg

PRESS RELEASE

Gravelbourg Says Goodbye to its 1928 Water Tower



Gravelbourg, SK—For 96 years the water tower has been a beacon of home for the residents of Gravelbourg. At over 150 feet, the Tower is the tallest structure in the town of 1000 and is visible from the east or west for several kilometers. Thanks to Investing in Canada’s Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding from the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, the town can go forward with a major infrastructure project focused on replacing its aging and outdated water mains. This funding includes the dismantling and decommissioning of the iconic water tower.

The Town of Gravelbourg announced that work to decommission and dismantle the 1928 water tower is scheduled to begin on August 19 for completion before the start of the school year. Due to ongoing leaks and other issues, the tower has been out of service since late 2022 and is no longer required for its original purpose. Its substantial height, age, structural integrity, and proximity to a school, daycare,

residences, and the Town and Prairie South School Division shops make it a risk to public safety and financially prohibitive to repair, maintain or move to a safer location. Though its striking presence will be missed, Council and Administration hope the public can understand why the tower must come down.

“We can’t save them all.” –resident, June 27 Water Tower Public Information Session.

Most of Gravelbourg’s historic buildings date back to the 1920s. From the stunning Our Lady of the Assumption cathedral to the majestic Court House (now the Town Office), the value of heritage is on full display all over the town and is a key part of its appeal to tourists. Despite the love of these structures, there is a limit to the capacity of ratepayers and the generosity of donors to preserve landmarks. Gravelbourg’s 1915 Western grain elevator is the oldest of its kind still in its original location but saving this beloved prairie structure hasn’t been easy. After 30 years of dedicated fundraising and grant submissions, the elevator is only now in the final stages of restoration and preservation.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to share photos of the structure on social media to “Toast the Tower” during its final days as part of the Gravelbourg skyline.

For detailed information and updates on the water tower and Gravelbourg’s infrastructure project, please visit https://www.gravelbourg.ca/residents/watermain_project.html

Water Tower Decommissioning & Dismantling

TIMELINE: August 19-30, 2024

- Weather permitting, the tower project is expected to take approximately 9 days total with approximately 2 days allocated to dismantling the tower.
- Residents and businesses along 1st Ave W can expect minimal disruption to daily activities and may remain in their homes and places of business.
- No road closures or property evacuations anticipated.
- To prevent distracted driving, traffic on 1st Ave W may be paused while the tank is lowered to ground level.
- The water tower site will be fenced off and off-limits to the public.

To view the detailed demolition plan certified by Priestly Demolition Inc., please visit https://www.gravelbourg.ca/residents/watermain_project.html

Toast the Tower

Our skyline is losing one of its most distinguishing features. After 96 years of standing guard over Gravelbourg, this structure surely has stories to tell! The Town invites everyone to commemorate the tower over the next few weeks by sharing photos, artwork, and memories.

How to participate on social media:

- Share a photo of the water tower
- Tag @gravelbourg.sask (Instagram) or @TownOfGravelbourg (Facebook) in your post, story, or reel
- Use #ToastTheTower in your post

If you'd prefer to submit your image via email, you may send it to edo@gravelbourg.ca with Toast the Tower in the subject line. Your image may be used in a compilation and shared on the website and the Town of Gravelbourg's social media accounts.