

AD-DA.ca, RSS Feed Reader

Description

The RSS Feed Reader plugin brings syndicated web content into a Q-SYS design: news, weather and traffic alerts, campus or corporate notices, blog posts. It downloads a feed from the web, reads its title and description, and shows its latest items — title, link, date, description and picture — on controls that can be wired, scripted or placed on a UCI.

The plugin reads RSS 2.0, RSS 1.0 (RDF), Atom and JSON Feed. It checks the feed again at a set interval, and on demand with [Refresh](#).

The Q-SYS Core needs access to the web: a gateway and DNS servers set on its network interface, and outbound HTTP and HTTPS (ports 80 and 443) allowed by the firewall.

Key Features

- **Four feed formats** — RSS 2.0, RSS 1.0 (RDF), Atom and JSON Feed, recognised automatically.
- **One to eight items** — the number of items shown is set by a property; unused slots are left empty.
- **Pictures** — the picture of each item is downloaded and shown on its own control, from JSON Feed [image](#), RSS and Atom image enclosures, [media:content](#), [media:thumbnail](#) or an image in the item's content.
- **Clean text** — HTML tags are removed and common HTML entities decoded, so titles and descriptions read as plain text.
- **Automatic refresh** — the feed is checked every 1 to 60 minutes, and right away when its address changes or [Refresh](#) is pressed.
- **Status reporting** — [Status](#) tells why a feed cannot be shown: wrong address, server error, unknown format.

Properties

License

Type: [string](#)

Default Value: *(empty)*

Description: License key of the primary Core. A license is tied to one Q-SYS Core. Without a valid license the plugin does not read any feed and reports [Fault - Invalid or missing license](#); in

emulation it works without a license, so a design can be prepared without a Core. To purchase a license, go to <https://ad-da.ca>.

License Backup

Type: `string`

Default Value: *(empty)*

Description: License key of the backup Core, used when the primary key is not valid on the Core running the design.

Item Count

Type: `integer`

Range: `1` to `8`

Default Value: `2`

Description: Number of feed items shown, from the newest. Each item adds its own set of controls and pins: `Item Title`, `Item Link`, `Item PubDate`, `Item Description` and `Item Image`. When the feed has fewer items, the remaining slots are left empty.

Controls

Status

Controls name: `Status`

Type: `Indicator-Status`

Pin Style: `Output`

Pin Name: `Status`

Description: Operational status of the plugin. `OK` once the feed is read; `Fault` with the reason when it cannot be, in which case the feed information and every item are cleared.

OK

Fault - URL is not a valid RSS URL (HTTP 404)

Fault - Please enter a valid RSS feed URL

Fault - Invalid or missing license

► Fault messages

RSS Feed Reader


AD-DA.CA

Version 1.0.0.0

Fault - URL is not a valid RSS URL (HTTP 404)

RSSFEEDCONTROL

RSS Feed URL

https://news.northfieldcollege.ca/rss/archive-2019.xml

Poll Interval (min)

5

Refresh

Last Updated

FEEDINFORMATION

Feed Title

Description

ITEM 1

Title

Link

Date

Description

RSS Feed Reader Page

3 / 7

RSS Feed Reader



Version 1.0.0.0

OK

RSSFEEDCONTROL

RSS Feed URL

<https://news.northfieldcollege.ca/feed.json>

Poll Interval (min)

5

Refresh

Last Updated

2026-10-14 08:30:12

FEEDINFORMATION

Feed Title

Northfield College — Campus News

Description

News, events and service notices from the Northfield College campus.

ITEM 1

Title

Library extends its hours for the exam period

Link

<https://news.northfieldcollege.ca/2026/10/library-exam-hours>

Date

2026-10-14T07:45:00-04:00

Description

From December 2 to December 20, the Bergeron Library stays open until midnight, seven days a week. Group study rooms can be booked online up to one week ahead.



ITEM 2

Title

Fall open house on Saturday, October 25

Link

<https://news.northfieldcollege.ca/2026/10/fall-open-house>

Date

2026-10-13T16:20:00-04:00

Description

Future students and their families are welcome from 10:00 to 15:00. Guided tours leave from the main hall every 30 minutes; parking lot B is free for the day.



ITEM 3

Title

Snow clearing: parking lot C closed overnight

Link

<https://news.northfieldcollege.ca/2026/10/snow-clearing-lot-c>

Date

2026-10-12T11:05:00-04:00

Description

Lot C will be closed from 23:00 to 06:00 on the nights of snow clearing. Vehicles left in the lot will be moved to lot A at the owner's expense.



RSS Feed Control

RSS Feed URL

Controls name: RSS Feed URL

Type: Text

Pin Style: Input / Output

Pin Name: Controls~Feed URL

Description: Full address of the feed, starting with `http://` or `https://`. Entering an address reads the feed right away and starts the automatic refresh; clearing it stops the refresh and empties every field. The address is kept with the design, so the feed is read again when the Core starts.

To check an address, open it in a web browser: an RSS or Atom feed shows XML starting with `<rss`, `<rdf:RDF` or `<feed`, a JSON Feed shows JSON with a `version` and `items`. A website's own page is not a feed; look for an RSS, Atom or feed link on it.

Poll Interval

Controls name: Poll Interval

Type: Knob-Integer

Pin Style: Input / Output

Pin Name: Controls~Poll Interval

Description: Time between two automatic reads of the feed, in minutes, from `1` to `60`. Default `5`. A new interval applies at once: the next automatic read happens one full interval after the change. Most feeds change every few minutes at most; a short interval only adds traffic to the feed's server.

Refresh

Controls name: Refresh

Type: Button-Trigger

Pin Style: Input

Pin Name: Controls~Refresh

Description: Reads the feed now, without waiting for the next automatic refresh.

Last Updated

Controls name: Last Updated

Type: Indicator-Text

Pin Style: Output

Pin Name: Controls~Last Updated

Description: Date and time of the Core when the feed was last downloaded, as `YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS`.

Feed Information

Feed Title

Controls name: Feed Title

Type: Indicator-Text

Pin Style: Output

Pin Name: Feed~Title

Description: Title of the feed, as published by its source.

Feed Description

Controls name: Feed Description

Type: Indicator-Text

Pin Style: Output

Pin Name: Feed~Description

Description: Description of the feed (the subtitle of an Atom feed), as plain text. Empty when the feed has none.

Item

One block per item, numbered from 1 to Item Count. Item 1 is the first item of the feed, usually the newest.

Item Title

Controls name: Item Title 1 ... Item Title 8

Type: Indicator-Text

Pin Style: Output

Pin Name: Item~1~Title ... Item~8~Title

Description: Title of the item, as plain text. No title when the item has none.

Item Link

Controls name: Item Link 1 ... Item Link 8

Type: Indicator-Text

Pin Style: Output

Pin Name: Item~1~Link ... Item~8~Link

Description: Web address of the full article.

Item PubDate

Controls name: Item PubDate 1 ... Item PubDate 8

Type: Indicator-Text

Pin Style: Output

Pin Name: Item~1~Date ... Item~8~Date

Description: Publication date of the item, exactly as the feed writes it: Tue, 14 Oct 2026

07:45:00 -0400 in RSS 2.0, 2026-10-14T07:45:00-04:00 in Atom and JSON Feed. In an Atom feed, the date the entry was last updated, or else its publication date.

Item Description

Controls name: Item Description 1 ... Item Description 8

Type: Indicator-Text

Pin Style: Output

Pin Name: Item~1~Description ... Item~8~Description

Description: Summary or content of the item, as plain text: the `description` of RSS (or `content:encoded`), the `content` or `summary` of Atom, the `content_text`, `content_html` or `summary` of JSON Feed. Long texts may be shortened to 500 characters, ending with `...`.

Item Image

Controls name: Item Image 1 ... Item Image 8

Type: Button-Trigger

Pin Style: Output

Pin Name: Item~1~Image ... Item~8~Image

Description: Picture of the item, shown on the button. The plugin takes the first picture it finds in the item — JSON Feed `image`, an enclosure of type `image/...`, `media:content`, `media:thumbnail`, `image`, or a picture in the content — and downloads it. Empty when the item has no picture or the download fails. To show the picture on a UCI, copy this control onto the UCI; the button does nothing when pressed.