



## Mayor's Monthly Message

November 2017

After a busy series of orientation and onboarding meetings last month, regular council meetings in November have seen the agenda return to managing the ongoing affairs of our community. In addition, your Council members have begun attending meetings for various external Boards and Commissions on which we have representation to ensure Stirling's voice is heard in regional initiatives or programs that affect us. You can see a complete list of these Board and Commissions at this link: <http://stirling.ca/archives/5181>

A big focus this month has seen your Council reviewing background information and evaluating preliminary operational and capital budgets for 2018. Operational budgets typically cover the revenues and expenses of the day to day business of the Village including things like heating buildings, paying staff, maintaining insurance coverage etc. Capital budgets on the other hand are the bigger ticket items that have an impact over many years on more significant expenditures like roads, sewer and water infrastructure. Council is required to pass interim budgets for next year prior to the end of the current year. These budgets are not "set in stone" but rather serve as a guide until the final version of the budget is approved in April/May. Key inputs into our own budget process like the funds we will receive through provincial transfers are not known until the spring and have a big potential impact on our financial position, so it is important to wait on the final budget until all of the external risks are known and accounted for.

Council members also attended the annual conference for the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association also known as AUMA in Calgary this month. This conference has council members and administrators from just about every urban community in the province gather together to receive training, hear updates from federal and provincial governments and meet vendors who provide goods and services to municipalities. We had the opportunity to connect with a number of provincial departments and vote on resolutions to advocate for concerns important to Stirling.

In closing, I wanted to express my thanks to all those who organized and participated in Remembrance Day programs in the community. We must never forget the sacrifices made by those before us to preserve and protect our freedoms.

Trevor Lewington

### **Have a comment? Question? Idea? Suggestion?**

I'd love to hear from you.

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