



Special Mayor's Message

Coronavirus Update #8 - May 7, 2020

A special video version of this update aimed at our youth can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/jeWlj3uS394>

The coronavirus or COVID-19 public health emergency has disrupted many areas of our daily lives. From the loss of employment with the forced closure of non-essential businesses to the cancellation of sporting and other events due to restrictions on gatherings or even the closure of schools – everyone has been impacted in some way and been forced to make significant adjustments.

Council reviewed several key issues related to community events and facilities at its regular meeting last night. The following announcements will likely come as no surprise but this notice will provide formal confirmation that:

1. In order to ensure compliance with public health orders prohibiting gatherings or more than 15 people, **this year's annual Settler Days events and all related activities are cancelled.** Making this decision now ensures volunteers do not invest any further time or effort into planning the event and that funds originally budgeted Settler Days can be set aside and put towards a potential event later in the year.
2. As a result of public health orders restricting the operation of recreational facilities combined with the prohibition on gatherings, **the Stirling Pool will remain closed for the 2020 summer season.** I know this will be disappointing to many families. Our public works team will use the time to upgrade mechanical systems and refurbish the pool if possible.
3. We have been advised by the Stirling Historical Society that the spring community garage sale normally planned for this month has also been cancelled.

As a reminder **other municipal facilities will remain closed on a temporary but indefinite basis** and will be made available as soon as restrictions are lifted by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health. It should be noted that the lifting of restrictions will happen in phases staged over time and may apply to our facilities and programs differently. Impacted facilities that are currently closed include: Community Centre, Library, ATB Agency, Village Office (to in-person traffic only), Seniors Centre, FCSS Building, Reunion Centre, Campground, and the Fire Hall (to visitors only).

Thank you for your continued patience as we all navigate this situation. Thank you for continuing to look out for your neighbours and for protecting the most vulnerable through physical distancing, washing your hands and staying home. We are each other's best defence.

Trevor Lewington