



## Mayor’s Monthly Message

**July 2020**

The rate of COVID-19 infections has continued to rise in recent weeks across Southern Alberta. Local facilities like the campground, Reunion Centre, Community Centre/Lion’s hall, Village Office and parks remain open at the present time with appropriate restrictions for gathering size, physical distancing in place or the use of masks when required pursuant to current public health guidance. Stirling residents are encouraged to follow all current public health guidance including frequent washing of hands, maintaining 2 metre physical distancing, avoiding unnecessary travel and staying home when not feeling well. Together we can take steps to protect ourselves and others.

In light of the continued restrictions on the size of gatherings and after consultations with the Stirling Historical Society, Council voted to cancel this year’s Fall Festival that would normally have taken place in September. Making the decision now allows our dedicated volunteers to avoid spending time on planning activities and buying supplies for an event that very likely cannot take place.

<b>Information &amp; Resources:</b>	Federal information & income supports	<a href="http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus">www.canada.ca/coronavirus</a>
	Provincial information (including gathering restrictions, protections for renters) & income supports	<a href="http://www.alberta.ca/covid19">www.alberta.ca/covid19</a>
	Industry specific information for Alberta’s “Relaunch”	<a href="https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx</a>
	Lethbridge Region Economic Recovery Task Force	<a href="http://www.chooselethbridge.ca/recovery">www.chooselethbridge.ca/recovery</a>

A summer reminder from the Ridge Regional Public Safety Services Commission and our Peace Officers about wearing helmets. Whether you are cycling, in-line skating or riding a skateboard or scooter – wear the gear. Helmets protect riders of all ages but it is law in Alberta that anyone under 18 must wear proper head protection. Be sure to wear the right helmet for the right activity as they come in many different types and sizes. Helmets should meet approved safety standards and fit properly.

Did you know that, on average, over 50 people drown in Alberta each year? July 19 to 25 was National Drowning Prevention Week. Most drowning accidents happen when people actually intend to be in the water engaging in activities like swimming and non-powered boating. In most cases, drowning victims are not wearing a personal floatation device like a life jacket or are alone. Remember to always swim with a buddy and wear a life jacket when boating.



VILLAGE OF  
**STIRLING**  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

With the closure of the Stirling pool this year, many residents have opted to purchase “on ground” pools to beat the heat this summer. Alberta’s Building Code defines any pool with a water depth of more than 24 inches or 600 mm, regardless of whether the pool has a circulation system, as a so called “private pool” for safety code purposes. That means that the entire area of an outdoor pool must be protected “by a fence, building wall or enclosure that can prevent access by unauthorized persons.” Fences are not required if the pool comes with a lockable cover that meets the ASTM F1346-91 standard or if the wall of the pool is at least 6 feet or 1.8 metres tall and the pool is only accessible through a gate or other protective measure.

It is the home owner’s responsibility to obtain the relevant building permit and ensure a building/safety codes inspection is completed. You may also want to check liability clauses in your homeowner’s insurance. You can find more information by clicking here:

<http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/Public/Documents/Safety%20Tips%20%E2%80%93%20Private%20Swimming%20Pools,%20Hot%20Tubs,%20and%20Spas.pdf>

And one final comment related to safety. Road construction work has begun on the 400 block of 3rd Street otherwise better known as the road in front of the Stirling School. Crews will be digging down to deep utilities like water mains and sewer lines to upgrade our core infrastructure. Phase 1 of the project will take a total of about 6 weeks. Phase 2 which will include the final pavement and streetscaping will take place in the summer of 2021. Deep excavations are dangerous. Residents are reminded to avoid the construction zone and respect all barriers that are in place for your protection. The road is closed to all traffic except where temporary access has been maintained for residences on that street. Your cooperation is appreciated and will help to ensure the project is completed both safely and on time.

Council recently approved the formation of a municipally controlled corporation. We appreciate the residents who attended the public hearing on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to learn more and provide their input. The new company, Ridge Utilities Ltd., will be reselling natural gas and electricity at competitive rates. The benefit of buying your residential power and gas from the new company is that any profits will be reinvested back in our community rather than going to the shareholders of a large foreign firm like Direct Energy. Look for more information and details on how to sign up in your mailbox in September.

Council also gave first reading to a Borrowing Bylaw this month. Money from the proposed debenture will be used to support our capital projects. The large expense related to the school block utility and road replacement project prompted Council to secure additional financing to cover any contingencies and allow us to move forward with other projects in the community.

A reminder that Council deferred late payment penalties for property taxes to assist people impacted by the pandemic but taxes are due no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>. Late payments are subject to a penalty of 12%. (The penalty does not apply to those households already on a monthly payment plan.) Lost your assessment or have questions? Call the Village Office.

Stay safe. Enjoy the sunshine!

Trevor Lewington