



Mayor's Monthly Message

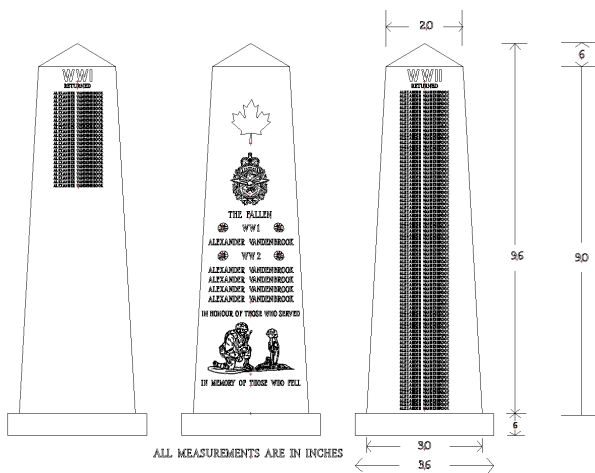
October 2020

An exciting new chapter has begun with the launch this month of Ridge Utilities as a municipally controlled corporation. The company will market electricity, natural gas, internet services and green generated power to residents, farmers and businesses across southern Alberta. (Although Stirling residents are far better off with Axia fibre which is not available through Ridge's internet provider QWAVE.)



As part of the Utility Network & Partners Inc. family of energy marketers, Ridge Utilities will invest profits from its operations back into projects in communities where its customers live through a community investment fund. As the sole shareholder, the Village of Stirling will benefit from a new revenue source to help support future financial sustainability. To explore available rates and to sign-up visit www.ridgeutilities.net for more information. You can also reach the customer care team at (403) 308-8850 from 9am to 5pm from Monday through Friday.

A big thanks to local resident and graphic design guru Brennan Lightfoot of Pixalis Media for his work developing the branding and visual identity for Ridge Utilities.



Council approved my initial work and ongoing efforts in seeking a federal grant for a potential Cenotaph project in our community. It is something that has bothered me for a long time in that the wartime service of our community's residents have not be commemorated. There were twenty men and women from Stirling who participated in the war effort from 1914 to 1918. Unfortunately, Clinton Young did not return and is buried in Flanders Fields in France. A total of eighty-one members of our community rose to the challenge in World War Two. Of those, four paid

the ultimate sacrifice as Ray Adamson, John Turachek, Lloyd Siewert and Walter Gedrasik did not return. If the grant is approved, our intent would be to build a monument to permanently capture all one hundred and one names – lest we forget. The image shows a sample of what the monument would look like with a placeholder name to help us figure out if we can get all the names to fit!



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Council approved ten new Human Resources policies this month put forward by Administration. Council has tasked our new CAO, Scott, with a comprehensive review and update to all of our operational policies. Many legal requirements have changed in employment standards, health and safety and general municipal government administration since most of the original policies were first implemented. The review process will take place as time allows over the next six months or so as we explore ways to ensure the Village remains an employer of choice but at the same time has clear strategies to ensure compliance with all the regulatory requirements that affect our operations.

Council has also approved first reading to a series of amending bylaws to update requirements related to the Municipal Government Act. For example, Council is required to formally designate our external tax assessment company through a bylaw. This month we also passed a Utilities Bylaw that formalized the procedures and operations of our water, waste water and storm water systems. The proposed bylaws are available for review from the Village Office and can also be emailed upon request.

Life can be difficult for many people at the best of times, but the COVID-19 pandemic has created a new layer of stress and anxiety for everyone. Information is changing rapidly. Demand for critical social services and community programs has increased and in many cases the way these supports are delivered has had to change. 211 Service is now available in our region to you, your family and every person living in Canada to find the support they need.

211 is free, confidential, and acts as the front door to support, helping people navigate the complex network of government and community programs and services quickly to find what they need for their unique situation. When someone contacts 211, they are connected with a real person who will ask questions about their situation and then suggest programs or services that can help. This helps

eliminate the stress of trying to wade through the changing information we are all processing each day. Phones are answered 24/7 in 150+ languages. To access the service, dial 2-1-1 or visit 211.ca.

Financial assistance
Food access
Programs for seniors
Newcomer support

211®
HELP STARTS HERE

Dial 2-1-1 or visit 211.ca

United Way
Centraide

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Halloween!

Trevor Lewington