



Mayor's Monthly Message

November 2022

I wanted to express my appreciation to those residents who took the time to attend our Remembrance Day service at the Lion's Hall/Community Centre. We must remember them.



I'm thankful for the continued engagement of the 20th Independent Field Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery, RCMP, Provincial Sheriffs and Stirling Fire Department in the event and our community. Special shout out to Geoffrey Brayne of Lethbridge for including Stirling in the flyover with his Harvard IV aircraft.



Another great event this month was the Stirling Fire Rescue Association's Beef Dinner and Auction with proceeds benefitting the Stirling Fire Department. Live music from El Mule was a big hit.

It was also quite possibly the largest collection of auction items I've seen at an event. The evening highlighted for me the generosity of businesses across our region and of community members who bid on the items. Thank you to all who helped make the evening a successful fundraiser as well as to the Fire Rescue Association team for hosting a fantastic meal.

This month Council was focussed on reviewing and debating a proposed interim operating budget for 2023. As you might imagine, there are many inflationary pressures affecting residents, households and the Village itself. From fuel for vehicles to building materials to equipment parts – just about everything is more expensive than it was a year ago. Our administration team has been working hard on finding creative solutions to hold the line on costs while continuing to deliver a high level of service to Stirling residents. Continued growth from new homes and new businesses helps to provide incremental revenue as well. Council will shift its focus to the capital budget in our December meetings.

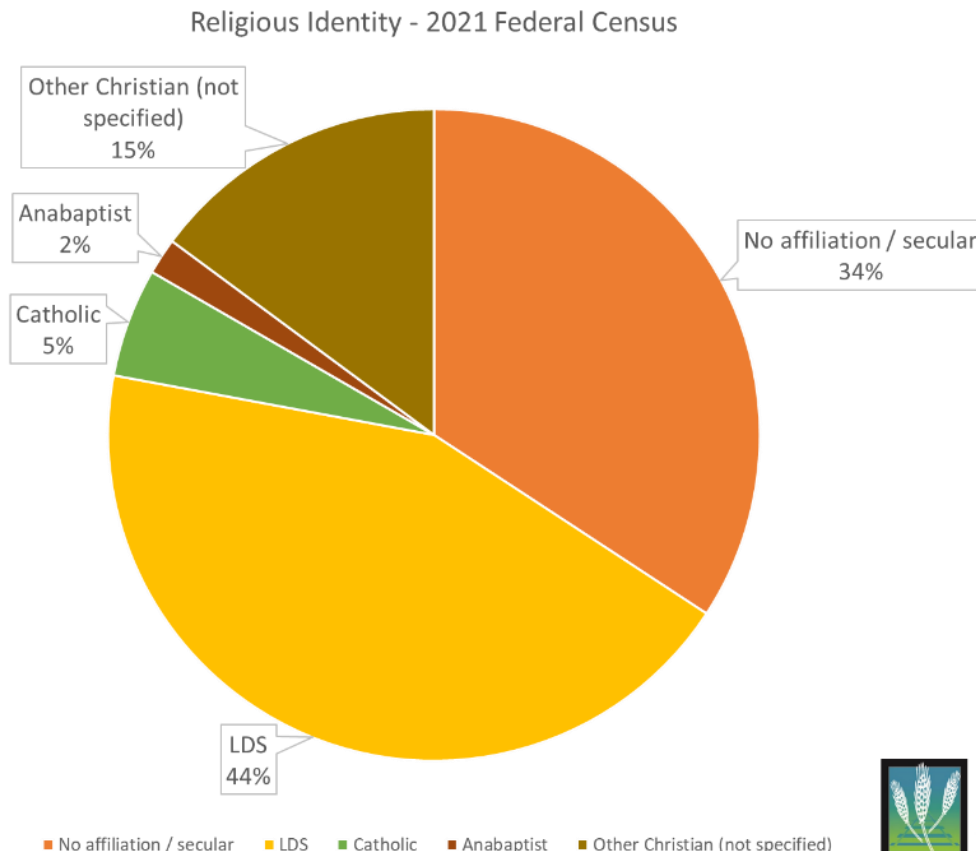
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Council also reviewed the results of a recent community survey. Residents were asked to comment on the Village’s current brand and visual identity. There were also questions related to our dog control bylaw. Council appreciates the 107 people who took the time to have their voice heard and provide input into our decision making process. The survey results are posted on the Village website but can also be viewed directly at this link: <http://stirling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Oct-2022-Village-Survey-Summary.pdf>.

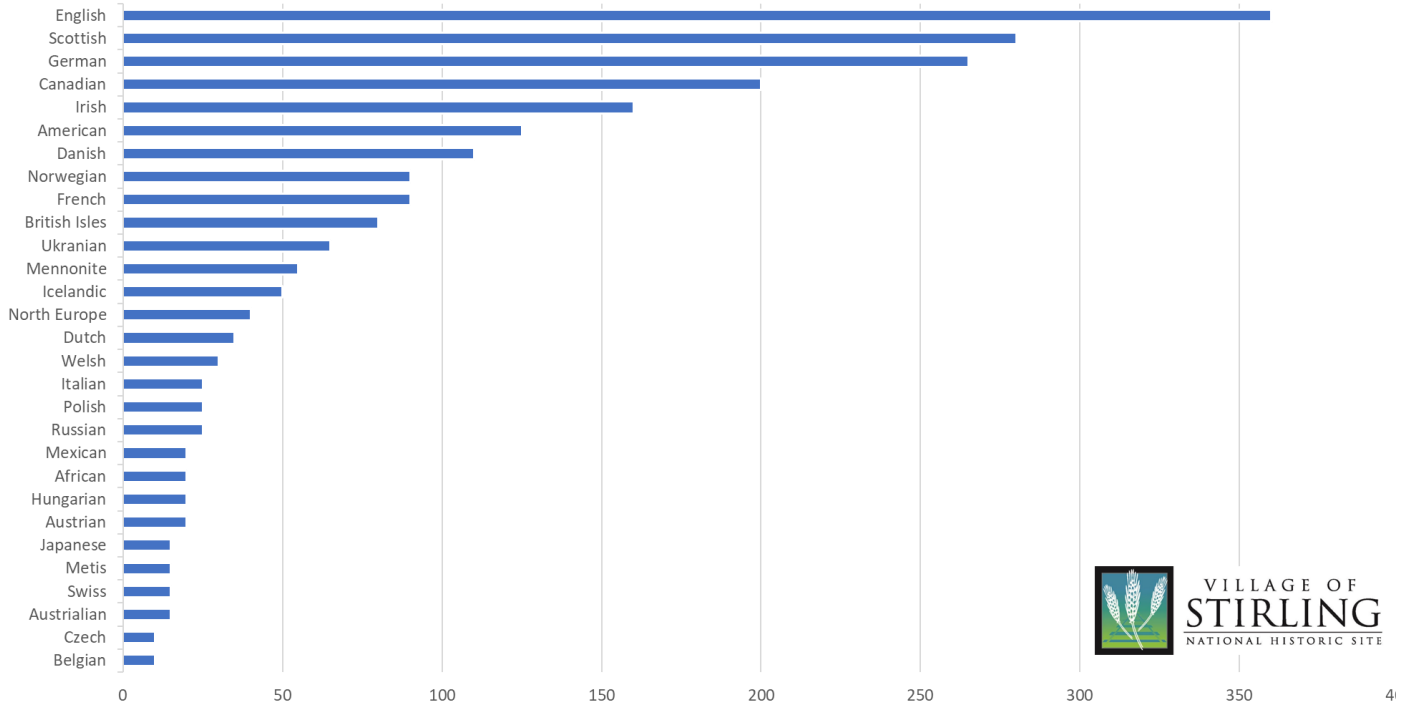
Provincial law requires that municipalities and schools enter into Joint Use and Planning Agreements to develop guiding principles about how public lands and school sites are used and how future growth can be accommodated. These agreements must be in place by June 10th of next year so Council has directed Administration to invite the Westwind School Division to discussions to move forward on such an agreement for the Stirling School.

Statistics Canada continues to release additional data sets from the 2021 federal census. The most recent release provided insights into religious affiliation and self-declared ethnic or cultural origin. Several charts are below that I certainly found interesting.





Ethnic or Cultural Origin - 2021 Federal Census



The approaching holiday season can be a source of stress and pressure for many families. Counselling services are available through Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) at minimal or no charge. Arrangements can be made for in-person services at the Stirling FCSS location. Call (587) 370-3728 or email counsellingserices@fcss.ca for more information.

Trevor Lewington

“Even coming from small towns, the biggest dreams are possible.” — Stephanie Labbe