



## Mayor's Monthly Message

**March 2023**

A very busy month for Laker Athletics and the Stirling School in March. Congratulations to the boys' wrestling team for their silver win in provincial competition. The boys' basketball team competed in Peace River at the 2A level and brought home a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. The girls' basketball team hosted provincials at the school and scored bronze in the tournament. Thanks to all school staff, volunteers, coaches and community partners who helped to make the tournament such a success and showcase Stirling hospitality to visiting teams and fans from across the province.



*Home of the Lakers*



Council reviewed Administration's recommendation for this year's tax rate bylaw. The Village's staff have been working hard to offset inflationary pressures on the budget with continued innovation and creativity. Administration has put forth a tax rate bylaw and budget that will see **no** increase to the residential mill rate. Council knows that our residents are faced with rising costs on just about everything so holding the line on tax increases is important to ensuring Stirling remains an affordable community in which to live. The province also announced that the education mill rate will decrease slightly this year. It is important to note that your overall property taxes could still increase depending on the assessed value of your home. The tax rate bylaw will be formalized next month and tax notices mailed out to property owners shortly thereafter.

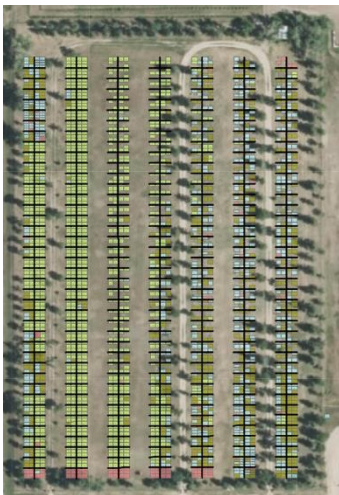
Council appreciated the many volunteers who supported the FCSS Clothing and Toy Fest that was held at the Community Centre on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Generous donations of clothes and toys from across the community allowed many families in need to pick out new-to-them clothes for free. Thank you for generosity Stirling!





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Council had been exploring options for refreshing Stirling's branding. Survey results and feedback from other community engagement sessions clearly communicated that residents both identify with our current logo and are proud of our community's history that it represents. Over the coming months, you will see variations on the wordmark used in the logo to provide more focus on "Stirling" itself rather than references to being a Village or our status as a national historic site. The wheat and railway component of the logo will remain unchanged.



The Stirling Cemetery has been added to the Village's geographic information system or GIS. You can find a detailed map that includes information about those interred in specific plots as well as search function for the location of a loved one. The map also shows plots that are reserved and others that remain available for purchase. Information in the database is based on records provided to the Village. Please let the Village office if you notice an error or require addition information. You can access the new tool here:

<https://stirling.ca/services/cemetery>

During the early months of the year, spring runoff can create water quality concerns. Sometimes you may notice your water has a slightly different taste. Often this is a result of a recent snowmelt and there is a high level of debris in the water entering the Ridge Water Commission's Water Treatment Plant. The water remains safe for drinking, cooking and bathing. Chlorine is used to disinfect water so it is safe for drinking purposes. This chemical destroys micro-organisms such as bacteria and viruses that can pose a threat to public health. When this happens, residents may notice a stronger than usual chlorine odor and taste to our water supply.

Trevor Lewington

**"Democracy is not something we have by divine right. It is a hard-won privilege granted to us by those who came before us and fought for it. These were people who knew the tyranny and injustice of oppressive masters who would deny ordinary people a voice and basic human rights, such as freedom of expression and association. But we forget that democracy requires an active, informed, and engaged citizenry that seeks the well-being of all, not just their gang, in order to thrive."** — *Diane Kalen-Sukra*