



June 2023

Work at the pool continued this month to get ready for the summer season. Many energy efficiency upgrades were made to the pool over the winter including the addition of a solar pre-heating system. The opening of the pool was delayed slightly by some challenges related to the aging concrete basin. Council appreciates everyone's patience as the operations team works hard to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer at the pool.



Speaking of water... we also appreciate everyone's help to conserve water while repairs are made to the reservoir system that provides potable water to the Village. The system is operating and it is totally fine for residents to use water. The system is, however, operating at less than full capacity and the request to reduce unnecessary water use was made to ensure there is enough for everyone's basic needs. Please continue to avoid washing cars, watering lawns, using hoses to wash down driveways or other optional water uses that can be avoided until the system is restored to full capacity.

And one other final water update, Council received a report this month on the available capacity in our rural water system. The Village operates and maintains a potable water system for some users in the rural areas around our community. Moving forward, there are very limited opportunities to add new users to that system. This means that any new homes or development in the County outside the Village will likely require cisterns or wells to provide a source of water. The Village's internal water system is continually being upgraded to accommodate future growth and new homes inside our community.

I am sometimes asked why the Village is not building new facilities or amenities. For example, we have been asked about a curling and hockey arena, new fire hall, walking trails, dog park and many other potential projects. All of these potential additions to the Village would certainly be exciting but would add new operating costs to our limited budget. In addition, we are working through upgrades to existing infrastructure in accordance with our Infrastructure Master Plan completed a few years ago. The plan identified roughly \$10 million in priority items to ensure the Village's core infrastructure would be viable into the future. Admittedly, replacing water and sewer lines isn't exciting but it is critical for our future.

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The Stirling Cemetery Society has identified several potential projects to help with the future beautification and development of our cemetery. The group has been exploring the addition of a columbarium to accommodate the permanent interment of cremated remains. Council looks forward to working with the Cemetery Society on further enhancements to the grounds and facilities of the cemetery.



I am very much looking forward to the festivities of this year's annual Settler Days Community Celebration. Look for updated information coming to the Village website soon with all the details for events from Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through to Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. The hard-working volunteers of the Community Events Committee deserve our collective appreciation for their tireless efforts to bring this year's Settler Days to life.

All the best for a safe and exciting Canada Day long weekend. We truly do live in one of the best countries in the world.

Trevor Lewington

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." – *Winston Churchill*

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