



## Mayor's Monthly Message

April 2019

Council extends its congratulations to Grant Hunter on his re-election as our Member of the Legislative Assembly. We look forward to continuing to work with MLA Hunter on issues that are important to our community. Council also appreciates all of the other candidates (Laura Ross-Giroux, Jason Beekman and Amy Yates) who put their names forward in our constituency in the recent provincial election. Democracy only works when there is an exchange of different ideas from multiple points of view.

Council has been carefully considering the 2019 Tax Rate Bylaw and the final budget for the fiscal year. As always, there are many trade-offs to make to ensure the services residents demand can be provided in a cost-effective manner. It has been challenging to understand the full impact to our residents as requisitions set by Alberta Education and Ridge Country Housing that are collected by the Village but determined by those other parties were not set prior to the election call.

Alberta Municipal Affairs recently released the most up-to-date performance indicators for communities. The custom reports show comparisons between similar sized communities across Alberta. The 2017 Indicators Report is now uploaded to the Village website under the financials and strategy menu on the government section tab. You can access it directly from this link: <http://stirling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-Provincial-Financial-Indicator-Graphs-Stirling.pdf>

Each year the Village is audited by an external third party. Representatives from the Mercer Wilde Group attended the April 17 Council meeting to deliver their audit report for 2018. Stirling continues to receive a "clean" audit report and the external audit confirms that appropriate financial controls and processes are in place and being used by Administration. Once finalized, the audited financial statements will also be uploaded to the Village website. (Historical audited financial statements from 2009 to 2017 are already available for review on the website as well.)

The modernization of the Stirling School is substantially complete. Residents will notice a few finishing touches over the next few months as exterior work and landscaping is completed. The Stirling School Modernization Fundraising Committee still needs your help! Our community is behind in raising the goal of \$1 million to support enhanced facilities in the school like the community theatre, flexible lab spaces and the new gymnasium. These improvements were not part of the provincially funded modernization. If you have considered donating in the past but have not yet done so – please reach out to a member of the Committee (Chair Ben Nilsson, Sandra Nelson, Gary Bikman, Jeff Nelson and Matthew Foss) or visit [www.gostirling.com](http://www.gostirling.com). The Village issues tax receipts for donations.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy their Easter long weekend. Big thanks to the Stirling Fire Department for organizing this year's Easter Egg hunt at Reunion Square. A great turnout of youngsters (and parents) to meet Sparky and hunt up some chocolate treats!

Trevor Lewington

**Have a comment? Question? Idea? Suggestion?**

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