



STIRLING

# Mayor's Monthly Message

April 2024

Council offers congratulations to Jodi Tolley who travelled to Ottawa this month to receive a National Public Safety Award. (Pictured: RCMP Commissioner Michael Duheme, National President of USJE David Neufeld, Jodi Tolley and Member of Parliament Glen Motz.) Great to see Jodi's service to the RCMP, our community and our region recognized!



Council extends appreciation to everyone involved with organizing and hosting this year's *Honoured Guest Party* on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you goes to Sandra Nelson for her overall leadership of the planning of this year's festivities. A record 264 guests were registered to attend to recognize the builders of our community. Some travelled from as far away as Idaho to attend. Three centenarians were also recognized this year. Reaching a 100th birthday is a monumental milestone, a celebration of a century of life, experiences, and memories. A hearty congratulations and best wishes to Ruth Zaugg, Jean Hirsche and Glen Michelson.



STIRLING  
THEODORE BRANDLEY  
MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Speaking of volunteers... Council was pleased to approve the appointment of Rhonda Holden and Crystal Wilde to the Library Board at our meetings this month. The Library Board plays an important role in providing oversight and

governance of the Theodore Brandley Municipal Library. Council is grateful for the many residents who volunteer on a broad range of boards, committees and groups in the Village.

Council received a presentation from our external auditor, MWG CPA, regarding the 2023 Audited Financial Statements for the Village. No concerns were raised by the auditors with respect to the Village's financial controls and a clean audit report was provided. Audited Financial Statements are posted to the Village website all the way back to 2009 should you be interested to review or download them.

Council also discussed the Tax Rate Bylaw and setting of the mill rate this month. Once again, Council voted to hold the mill rate with **no tax rate increase for 2024**. So does that mean your property taxes won't go up? Sadly no.

The education requisition that the Village collects on behalf of the Government of Alberta increased by 15% from \$268,752.46 in 2023 to \$309,021.50 in 2024. Council has no control over the setting of this amount. In addition, the contribution for provincial policing costs that the Village must provide to the Government of Alberta increased by 53.4% from \$38,333.00 in 2023 to \$58,807 in 2024.

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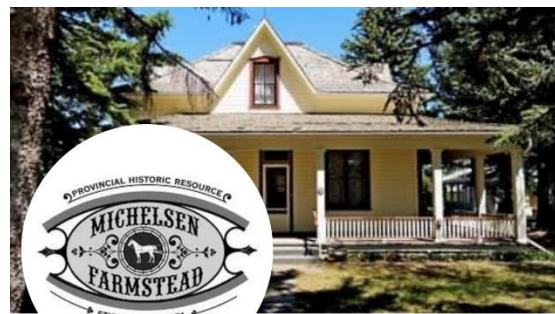
The Village has worked hard to continue to find efficiencies and reduced operating expenses. That includes offsetting the impact of continued inflation and rising costs. The 2024 budget includes the following reductions:


	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	% Decrease
Operational Services (roads, public works)	\$849,569	\$745,114	-12.3%
Administrative Services (insurance, utilities)	\$526,367	\$524,246	- 0.5%
Protective Services (fire, police, bylaw)	\$232,046	\$204,854	-12.3%
Recreation Services (parks, buildings)	\$383,273	\$376,641	- 1.7%
Library	\$ 74,429	\$ 73,621	- 1.1%

There was an increase to the budget for Community Services to reflect the increased costs of this year's Settler Days Community Celebration and Stirling's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There was also an increase to the Environmental Services budget reflecting debt servicing and engineering costs for critical infrastructure projects including the lift station upgrades and forcemain twinning to the lagoon.

Your property taxes are determined by the assessed value of your home. Assessment values fluctuate from year to year and vary from home to home. You will receive a combined Taxation Notice and Property Assessment in the mail from the Village office next month with all the detailed calculations.

A reminder that the Michelsen Farmstead will be hosting Stirling's 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm to commemorate the exact day in 1899 when 30 intrepid settlers first arrived to build our community. There will be cake, ice cream and homemade root beer to enjoy along with music and storytelling. Hope to see you there!



  
Trevor Lewington

**"Volunteers wear working boots but leave a trail of angel footprints." -Terri Guillemets**

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