



Mayor's Monthly Message



Well, what a year it has been. We all have our own unique perspectives of the pressures and challenges we have faced. Students and teachers have adapted to on-line instruction and managing distractions of learning outside the classroom. Business owners have faced closures and the need to rapidly accommodate changing public health restrictions. Jobs have been lost and for many, financial difficulties have grown. Travel plans have been postponed. Milestone occasions like weddings and funerals have taken on a completely different look and feel than we perhaps ever imagined possible just a year ago.

Nevertheless, many things give me hope. The compassion and resilience of front-line health care workers is inspiring. Students continue to learn and grow. Community services like our library have adapted by providing curbside pick-up options. The relief brought by acts of kindness and compassion in our own community as neighbours look out for neighbours shows me what Stirling is really all about.

This month Council approved interim operating and capital budgets to guide us through 2021. Budgets will be finalized once transfers from the province are known in the spring. Council appreciates the creative efforts of our administrative team in finding savings from efficiencies to ensure increases to most fees and charges are not required next year. Our goal is to also hold property taxes flat with no increase which is what the approved interim budget reflects. Council appreciates that residents are stretched by current economic circumstances and simply passing along increased costs in the form of higher property taxes and user fees is not an option. Offsetting inflation requires choices in how we fund programs and services. Further adjustments may be required if provincial funding to the Village sees significant reductions once the provincial budget is made public sometime in February or March.

Council scheduled an online or virtual Town Hall meeting for Wednesday, December 16 to provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions and engage directly with Council. The event was advertised in advance on our website, marquee sign, Facebook page and bulletin boards. There were no public attendees so the meeting was adjourned. Council welcomes feedback and input. We encourage you to reach out to your member of Council with any questions, suggestions or ideas.



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The holiday season can bring additional stress and pressure. The Stirling Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) centre is open by appointment for one on one as well as family supports. Stacey Maynes is booking playgroup classes and one/one parenting sessions. Simply call Stacey at 403 756-3572 if you are interested in booking. Parenting classes like Infant Massage, Baby and Me, and support groups are still being offered virtually. Go to www.fcss.ca for a complete list of current programs and to register. Counselling services are available in person or online - call 403 587-3728 to book a session.

I'm excited to participate in the "Light the Night" event being organized on Tuesday, December 22nd. In fact, I don't remember seeing our community as dressed up in past years with this many Christmas decorations and lights. It looks great out there and provides some much needed festive cheer at the end of a challenging year. More details about the event are available on Facebook in both Stirling community groups. I've even heard that Santa will be making an appearance and borrowing a fire truck as his preferred mode of transportation while making the rounds in the Village.

Wishing you the very best this festive season has to offer. Here's to a safe, relaxing and very Merry Christmas!

Trevor Lewington