



Mayor's Monthly Message

July 2021

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to the army of community volunteers, our Fire Department members, Village public works staff and Village office staff who helped make this year's Settler Days a huge success. With all activities cancelled last year due to the pandemic combined with a great deal of uncertainty remaining this year with shifting public health guidance - there was a LOT of last minute planning to do. It takes many hard-working people to organize, set-up and run three days worth of activities and events. **Special thanks to Jacquelyn Cornish, Sean Fawcett, Stacey Maynes, Karma McClenaghan, Tom Memmott, Sandra Nelson, Greg Robinson, Billie Shipley, Phil Still and Brennan Lightfoot. (And many, many more!)**

Thank you to our sponsors, partners and friends who contributed their money, equipment and other resources to ensure mostly free family fun for everyone. The broad range of events that make up our community celebration would simply not be possible without the financial support of local businesses and other organizations. In particular, we appreciate the sponsorship of **Village Dental, Hickory Street, Lethbridge Custom Canvas, Edible Elegance, Hyatt Dispensary, Grandma's Oven, SIPS, Jerry's Pop Shop, Dairy Queen, Ridge Utilities, Stirling Silver Saddle Club, Stirling Historical Society and the Stirling Fire Department Auxiliary.**

And finally, thank you to all of you for coming out to reconnect with your neighbours and celebrate all the reasons that make Stirling a great place to live, raise a family and start a business. We've come a long way since the first group of Settlers arrived in May of 1899.

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Council typically meets only once each month during the summer compared to the usual two meetings per month during the rest of the year. The Municipal Planning Commission also met in July prior to the scheduled Council meeting to consider a development application and an unrelated subdivision application. July's Council meeting included a busy agenda with a number of updates from Administration including raw water for irrigation, fire department sponsorship, proposed clean energy improvement program and resident concerns about off highway vehicles.

The Village has been exploring the opportunity to bring in raw water to use for irrigation of public spaces like our parks and sports fields. Raw or untreated water is provided by the Raymond Irrigation district and requires separate pipe infrastructure from our potable water distribution system. Initial estimates of required capital investment and preliminary engineering details were provided to Council for consideration in future capital budgets. Council must carefully consider the potential savings from reduced use of treated potable water against the capital costs of installing and then maintaining raw water infrastructure.

The Stirling Fire Department received a sponsorship proposal from Ivartek Heavy Equipment Services (www.ivartek.com) that would provide reduced costs for maintenance of the department's apparatus as well as improved service levels. Council approved the sponsorship proposal. We appreciate Ivartek's support of our Fire Department and look forward to working with them.

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Council was provided with information about a Clean Energy Improvement Program or CEIP that would see Stirling residents provided with the opportunity to finance energy efficiency home improvements like high efficiency furnaces, on demand electric water heaters, insulation upgrades and even the addition of solar panels for micro generation. Accessing affordable financing is one of the biggest barriers property owners face when deciding to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades. The Clean Energy Improvement Program is a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)-style program that helps people make energy efficient upgrades to their properties without having to put money down. The cost of the upgrade is recovered through the owner's property taxes. Property owners who choose to make improvements would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, stimulate local economies and save money on their energy bills. Council provided direction to Administration to move forward with drafting a bylaw and working with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association to develop a customized program for our community. Look for more information coming forward in the spring.

There have been a few complaints about the improper use of off highway vehicles like quads and dirt bikes in the community. Users of such vehicles are reminded of their obligations under the Traffic Safety Act and to respect their neighbours. Not everyone appreciates the noise and disruption created by these toys.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Trevor Lewington

