



Mayor's Monthly Message

June 2020

Information & Resources:	Federal information & income supports	www.canada.ca/coronavirus
	Provincial information (including gathering restrictions, protections for renters) & income supports	www.alberta.ca/covid19
	Industry specific information for Alberta's "Relaunch"	https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx
	Lethbridge Region Economic Recovery Task Force	www.chooselethbridge.ca/recovery



A hearty con-grad-ulations to the Stirling School Class of 2020! It was great to see so many people join the drive by celebration on Friday, June 12 to recognize this year's graduating class. Our grads have had to contend with significant disruptions to their lives through all the cancellations and closures brought on by the coronavirus. Summer jobs may also be more challenging to find this year. Thanks to all the teachers, staff and volunteers who support our school and ensure that a high quality education is available for all right in the heart of our community.

Council regrettably accepted the resignation of Bob Payette as Chief Administrative Officer this month. Bob's last day will be June 30th. Council appreciates Bob's hard work in Stirling over the last 14 months making many necessary changes to keep up with requirements of the provincial government. We wish him well as he and his family relocate back to British Columbia to pursue other opportunities. Council has already begun the process of recruiting a new CAO to join our team.



RELAUNCH STAGE 2 // JUNE 9, 2020

STAGE 2: NEW ALLOWED ACTIVITIES



K-12 schools
(diploma exams and
summer school)



Libraries



More surgeries



Community
halls



Team sports



Wellness and
personal services



Movie and
live theatres



Indoor rec,
fitness & sports
facilities



Instrumental
concerts



Casinos and
bingo halls



VLTs in
restaurants &
lounges

The Government of Alberta recently announced the move to Stage 2 of the province's "Relaunch Strategy". Not only was the timing of stage 2 moved up by a week but many new businesses and activities were shifted from Stage 3 to Stage 2. The Stirling Library Board has met and is working on a phased approach to gradually reopen the facility in its expanded new location.

As we previously announced on May 7, regrettably the Stirling Pool will remain closed this season. Current public health requirements for physical distancing and capacity limits make the pool far too difficult to operate. The campground, Reunion Centre and Community Centre will all reopen and begin taking bookings in the coming weeks. There are still a number of limits still in place including the requirement for physical distancing of 2 metres and restrictions on the number of people such as indoor gatherings limited to a maximum of 50 people while outdoor gatherings are limited to 100 people.

Our public works team has been busy in recent weeks with operational checks on fire hydrants, flushing of sewer lines and the ongoing maintenance of green spaces. Road rehabilitation is also underway as part of our multi-year commitment to improve road conditions, address drainage issues and invest in our core infrastructure. You can find more details on current projects in various postings on the Village website and/or Facebook page.

By now, everyone should have received their tax notice and property assessment in the mail. Since tax rates were held flat, the vast majority of property owners should have seen very little change in their taxes from 2019 to 2020. (Changes in the assessed value of your property can impact this.) Tax assessments are completed by a neutral third party firm. All assessment complaints and appeals must be filed before July 27th. Taxes are normally due at the end of June each year. In light of the many challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council extended the due date to the end of September before financial penalties would apply. We would still encourage those who can to pay on time to do so as your property taxes directly fund the operations of our community and we are required to remit education taxes to the province regardless of when those amounts are received.

Wishing you a safe and fun filled summer!

Trevor Lewington