



Mayor's Monthly Message

June 2021

A friendly reminder that property taxes are due on or before Wednesday, June 30th to avoid penalties. If you have any concerns about your assessment notice or questions about property taxes, please stop in or call the office for assistance.



Council is excited to see plans move forward for a modified version of the Annual Settler Days community celebration next month. We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to navigate public health restrictions imposed by the province that are still subject to change before the event even takes place. There will no doubt be changes along the way! Please stay tuned to the Village website and Facebook page for updates and a confirmed schedule in the coming weeks. We also appreciate community volunteers who have stepped forward to help with planning and organizing events. At present, some of the initial (and still tentative) plans include:

- Thursday, July 15th - Music on the Veranda at the Michelson Farmstead (courtesy of the Stirling Historical Society)
- Friday, July 16th – Movie in the Park, Fire Department skills demonstration
- Saturday, July 17th – pancake breakfast, morning Parade, fishing derby & evening fireworks display

In case you missed it, the Village was approved for grant funding from the Commemorative Partnership Program at Veterans Affairs Canada to complete a Cenotaph. I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring a permanent memorial to our community. Look for more details on a community Remembrance Day ceremony in the fall. Several local media outlets also covered our media release about the project – you can click the stories at the links below:



Global TV - <https://globalnews.ca/news/7933267/stirling-cenotaph-project/>

Bridge City News - <https://bridgecitynews.ca/grant-funding-awarded-to-stirling-for-cenotaph-project/>



This month Council initiated the process to renew our Franchise Agreement with ATCO. The 10 year agreement provides ATCO with the ability to use utility right of ways for their pipelines and infrastructure to supply natural gas to our community. Stirling has worked with ATCO since the 1950's to ensure reliable natural gas service to our residents. A bylaw passed by Council is required to initiate the renewal process subject to approval by the Alberta Utility Commission.

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Council also proposed a resolution to the fall conference of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) to urge the Government of Alberta to allow municipalities to clearly communicate the newly imposed and increased costs of policing. Stirling’s resolution, if adopted, will encourage the AUMA to lobby the government to allow us to show the provincial requisitions for policing on property tax assessment notices. Council also appreciates the support of the Town of Magrath who seconded our resolution for submission to the AUMA.



Council also passed 3 rezoning bylaws this month after holding the required public hearings. Each bylaw was to reclassify a previously closed road allowance and clean up property title information for the impacted parcels. This process is necessary to allow future residential development on the newly created larger or consolidated parcels. Although largely administrative in nature, it is important for the Village to ensure all development matters follow proper government processes so there are no issues in the future.



There are many construction and road rehabilitation projects underway around the Village. Our public works team is working hard to make the most of the pleasant weather to get as many capital priorities completed as possible. Council appreciates the patience of residents as temporary detours may disrupt normal traffic patterns. Please remind children to avoid open excavations and construction zones.

Finally, let me say congratulations to this year’s graduates of Stirling High School. You have successfully navigated another very challenging school year and adapted with grace to even more disrupted extra-curricular activities. As you look ahead to your summer, I hope you will think about all that you have learned in the classroom, in the lab, in the gym and in your community. You are all destined for great things and will change the world. Consider the wise words of Steve Jobs, “Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.”



Trevor Lewington