



Mayor's Monthly Message

September 2020

It's hard to believe that we are almost through September already and that for the most part harvest has come to a close. A big shout out to all of the teachers, staff and students of the Stirling School as they worked through the complexities of a return to school like no other in recent memory. Council also appreciates everyone's patience with final touches to the replacement of underground utilities around the school that spilled over into September. Final paving and beautification of the block will happen in the spring of 2021.

Council received a detailed presentation from MPE Engineering this month. MPE was retained to evaluate infrastructure like roads, water piping and sewers throughout the Village. MPE has prepared an Infrastructure Master Plan or IMP. The IMP outlines priorities for future capital budgets and updates a previous evaluation completed in 2010. Council will be reviewing the IMP in detail and using the recommendations as a key part of the discussions in our annual strategic and budget planning process.

The Government of Alberta has announced changes to how property tax assessment will be calculated for oil and gas properties in rural municipalities. Our friends in the County of Warner stand to lose significant sources of revenue because of the change. Stirling's Council provided a written letter outlining our concerns to the Hon. Grant Hunter as our member of the Legislative Assembly as well as to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.



There have been some questions in the community about potential restrictions on Halloween this year due to the coronavirus. At this time, there are no additional public health restrictions in place that would limit residents from celebrating the fun and festivities of the spooky season. (Existing restrictions on gathering sizes would still apply.) The Village will be working with Alberta Health Services to communicate with residents if the situation changes. However, as COVID infection rates have increased in some regions of the country in recent weeks, we can all do our part by following the 5 key prevention principles – washing our hands, disinfecting high contact surfaces regularly, practicing proper etiquette when we sneeze or cough, staying home if we don't feel well and

maintaining physical distancing.

Trevor Lewington