



Mayor's Monthly Message

September 2021

It's hard to believe that after 48 of these monthly updates we are nearing the end of another Council term. I originally started a monthly message as Mayor in an attempt to improve visibility of Council discussions and decisions. (Past messages are archived on the Village website under the Council section of the Government tab.)



My sincere thanks to my colleagues for their hard work and countless hours over the last four years. While we have not always agreed on every issue, there has been passionate but respectful debate grounded in a sincere desire to make Stirling a better place. In particular, I'd like to thank Deputy Mayor Kevin Nelson and Councillor Rob Edwards for their service as they both have chosen not to run again.



This past term saw progress made against our strategic plan with the completion of an infrastructure master plan and work to update the Municipal Development plan is well under way. Ridge Utilities as a municipally controlled corporation was born and continues to grow. Major capital projects like the upgrade of utilities under and redevelopment of 3rd street were completed. We've also faced the challenges of COVID-19 as a community and worked to maintain as close to "normal" operations and delivery of services as possible over the last 19 months.



Your Village
Your Vote
2021

There are a total of five Councillor positions in Stirling and at the close of nomination day on Monday, September 20th there were 5 residents who put their names forward. Consequently, Council was acclaimed for the 2021 to 2025 term and will include myself along with returning incumbent members Larry Nilsson and Matt Foss. Joining us this term will be Devynn Bohn and Gary Bikman. Gary is no stranger to the Council table having served a number of terms in the past including time as Mayor.

While there will not be an election for Council this term, a vote will still be conducted on Monday, October 18 for Westwind School Trustee, Alberta's Senatorial Selection process as well as 2 provincial referendum questions. I encourage everyone to make a point of voting in these processes and ensuring their voice is heard. Watch for more information on the Village website in the coming weeks.



The current Council continues to serve until the adjournment of the Organizational Meeting of the new Council that takes place on November 1st. At that meeting, the new Council will appoint the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as well as make Committee Assignments. Upcoming meeting agendas and minutes will continue to be posted to the Village website as usual.

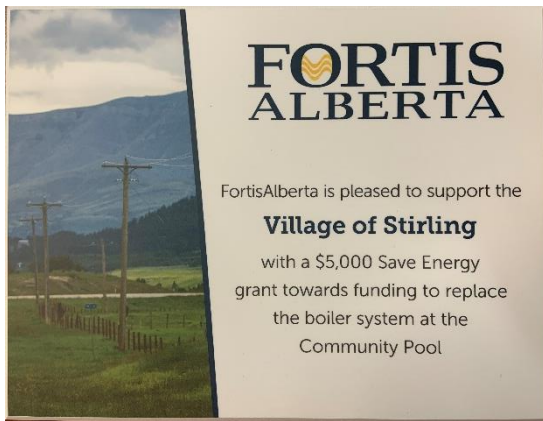


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Rail Safety Week might be over but it is a good reminder on how we can all help to prevent “track tragedies”. Every year, more than 100 Canadians are seriously injured or killed as the result of railway crossing or trespassing incidents.



Almost every one of these incidents is preventable. You can find more information on the Operation Life Saver website here: <https://www.operationlifesaver.ca/>.



We are excited to announce that the Stirling Pool received a \$5,000 grant for Fortis. We appreciate Fortis for their continued investment in and involvement with our community. The funds will be put towards upgrades to further improve energy efficiency at the pool and lower our operating costs.

Have you noticed a burned out, flickering or otherwise malfunctioning streetlight in Stirling? Fortis owns and operates the electrical distribution system in the Village and provides our street light service. You can report issues with streetlights using the Fortis app on your smartphone

or the convenient web reporting tool here: <https://service.fortisalberta.com/streetlights>. Just zoom in and select the affected light on the map and enter the required contact information. Lights that have already been reported will show up on the map in red.

The Stirling Fire Department has been working closely with the team at Ivartek Heavy Equipment Services. We were pleased last week to kick off a new partnership with Ivartek. They are providing reduced service rates and priority service commitments as a key sponsor of the Fire Department. In exchange, we will be proudly featuring the Ivartek name on fire apparatus and in our communications with the community. The partnership will help us save money and ensure our equipment is in tip top shape. You can learn more about Ivartek here: www.ivartek.com.




Trevor Lewington