



VILLAGE OF
STIRLING
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mayor's Monthly Message

April 2018

I was pleased to be able to attend the Stirling School Modernization Phase 1 Open House and Fundraiser on April 16th. Attendees were able to take a tour of the new library, learning commons, gymnasium and commercial kitchen facilities. It's quite the transformation from the old school. The local fundraising committee was also able to provide the first installment payment of \$259,988 from fundraising efforts to the Westwind School Division. So far, there are donations and commitments totaling \$564,988. As we continue to work on our community commitment of raising \$1 million towards the project, remember that you can donate on-line and check ongoing updates at the gostirling.com website.

Another exciting annual event was the Honoured Guest Party on Friday, April 20th. It is always a pleasure to hear from the wisdom of those who helped settle and develop this area. I appreciated the stories about the growth of Stirling and all that has changed over the years.

A big focus of Council's time this month was the tax rate bylaw. Look for a detailed newsletter in your mailbox soon along with your assessment notice. The Alberta School Foundation Fund which is the requisition from the province related to education increased in Stirling by 10.6% which translates into an average increase of \$160 to 180 for each household in our community. The Seniors Housing requisition from Ridge Country Housing increased by 5.8% which will impact each household by about \$5. It's important to note that the municipality has no control over these requisitions. The Village simply collects the money and remits to either the province or the housing foundation.

The Village also participates in a number of other regional organizations like the Chinook Arch Regional Library System and the Oldman Regional Services Commission among others. Each of these organizations has also passed along increased costs to us. Recognizing the impact on residents of these combined increases along with other cost increases that we are all facing like carbon levy and other inflationary pressures has forced Council to look at continued efficiencies and cost reductions to try and hold the municipal portion of property taxes flat. By leveraging continued growth, we expect the municipal portion of property taxes - i.e.: the part we can control - to increase by just 1%. A property's tax bill is also impacted by changes in the assessed value. All municipalities in Alberta use assessed value as part of the tax formula. (It's provincial law.) So, changes in the value of a property also impact how the final tax bill is calculated.

Looking forward to next month, there are a number of volunteer and involvement opportunities to bring to your attention. Highway Clean-up is planned for Saturday, May 5th. The Highway Clean-up is the largest fundraiser for youth programs offered in the community through the LDS Church. Community Clean-Up Day as organized by the Stirling Cemetery Society is planned for Saturday, May 12. Interested volunteers meet beginning around 8am at the Cemetery. The Village will once again provide lunch as a thank you to all those who participate. We appreciate all the volunteers who help keep our community looking great.

Lastly, Council invites you to attend a Townhall meeting on Wednesday, May 9th. Council will be presenting our five-year strategic business plan and seeking your input. We also expect presenters from Axia and Enmax Distributed Energy. More details will be available on the Village website soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Lewington', is written in a cursive style.

Trevor Lewington

Have a comment? Question? Idea? Suggestion?

I'd love to hear from you.

c: (403) 330 3701

e: Lewington@stirling.ca