



VILLAGE OF
STIRLING
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mayor's Monthly Message

August 2018

The smoke-filled skies have provided a near constant reminder in recent days of the dangers of persistent hot temperatures combined with an ongoing lack of rain. Due to the extremely dry conditions, a complete fire ban is in place for both the Village itself as well as the County of Warner. Indeed, the Province has also implemented a similar ban for crown lands in our region. The ban includes all open flame including recreational fire pits. Only propane BBQ's and similar appliances are permitted. Fireworks are also prohibited within the boundaries of the Village without the express prior written authorization of the Fire Chief under normal circumstances and any such approvals are suspended during a fire ban. The penalties for illegal fires during a ban can be significant as well as include the costs of fighting and responding to the fire. When it comes to managing the risk and protecting our community – prevention truly is the best solution.

Another area where prevention can help address recent issues is on the topic of rural crime. Smaller and more remote communities like Stirling can be easy targets for transient thieves looking for a quick buck. Prevention of property crime starts with making our communities less attractive for thieves. Ensuring vehicles, sheds and other accessory buildings are locked is often enough of an inconvenience that thieves will move on to other targets. Removing valuables from sight can also help. Proper lighting of doors, driveways and other areas will help to deter thieves and help neighbours keep an eye on your property. Remember to report any suspicious behavior to the RCMP.

Contractors will soon begin the installation of solar panels on a number of municipal buildings including the Community Centre and Fire Hall. In addition, a 456 panel ground mounted system will be constructed on municipal reserve land adjacent to the sewer lift station on 1st Avenue. We will be receiving approximately 25% of the total cost in capital grants from the Government of Alberta to pay for the Village's upfront contribution and we will finance the remaining costs over the next 15 years with Enmax Distributed Energy. We anticipate that our finance payments will be offset by our reduced electrical expenses, so the overall investment should be cash neutral and result in no additional expenses to the taxpayer over the long term. After the lease payments are paid in full, we anticipate that we will generate revenue from the solar production throughout the remainder of the panel's estimated 30 year life cycle. Enmax will handle the maintenance on the panels under their warranty during the 15 year finance agreement.

As the summer winds down, remember that kids will be returning to school in just a few weeks. Reducing your speed and paying close attention to school and playground zones will help ensure a safe back to school September for everyone.

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.

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