



VILLAGE OF  
**STIRLING**  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## Mayor's Monthly Message

February 2018

This month Council recognized the sometimes-forgotten heroes of our public works team. They are the ones working in the early morning hours braving cold and often miserable conditions to keep our roads cleared and ensure the safe movement of vehicles in our community. We have seen significant snowfall amounts over the last few months that have kept the team very busy. Hats off to Shane Still, Jerry Nelson, Mason Barton and Brady Adamson for their extra efforts to battle whatever Mother Nature has been able to throw at them.

There have been numerous other unsung heroes throughout the Village clearing driveways and sidewalks. It's been inspiring to watch neighbours helping neighbours as we all figure out a place to pile the white stuff. A big thank you to everyone that has plowed a driveway for a stranger, used their snow blower to clear a little further down the block or deployed family members to use good old-fashioned shovel power to come to the aid of some of our community members who are physically unable to clear snow themselves.

Another remarkable accomplishment came to Council's attention earlier in the month. Stirling resident Cadet Willem Rijpstra, a member of the 2296 20th Independent Field Battery, Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps of The Army Cadet League of Canada, was recently chosen to partake in an international expedition to Parque Nacional Torres del Paine in the Chilean mountains, as part of the National Army Cadet Expedition Program. He is one of only 18 cadets chosen from over 19,200 Army Cadets from across Canada. Council offers sincere congratulations to Cadet Rijpstra for this recognition and wishes him safe travels during the expedition.

Council has now entered into contract discussions with Enmax Distributed Energy to install solar panels on a number of our public buildings. We are also investigating a ground mounted array. Our goal is to move towards a "net zero" community where our solar arrays will generate enough power to offset our municipal consumption. There is a lot of complexity in modelling the financial impact of electrical rates in Alberta – just look at the number of lines and different tariffs on your own home power bill! However, we have looked at a number of successful installations locally and across the province that have been cash flow neutral initially and move to a cash positive position in subsequent years. In addition, this project will help protect the Village from increasing electrical rates that are forecasted in the next few years. The project will help our community to take advantage of current provincial incentives, reduce our exposure to rate inflation in the future while at the same time help us take a leadership position in reducing our environmental footprint. Look for more details to come at our May Town Hall meeting.

Finally, Axia will be hosting a community learning event in March. Technology experts from the Axia team will be presenting a workshop to help residents get the most out of the high speed fibre connection. Look for more details on the Village website and on Facebook in the coming weeks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Lewington".

Trevor Lewington

Have a comment? Question? Idea? Suggestion?  
I'd love to hear from you.

c: (403) 330 3701      e: Lewington@stirling.ca