



## Mayor's Monthly Message

October 2018

You may have noticed that several municipal buildings have begun to look a little different. Solar panels have now been installed on the Fire Hall, Lion's Hall/Community Centre as well as the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Building. A ground mount system will also be constructed in the field adjacent to the sewer lift station on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Stirling will shortly become a net-zero community from a municipal perspective. This means that we will generate enough electrical power through our solar panels over a full year to offset the equivalent of all electrical use for Village purposes including street lights. Council began exploring the potential of solar panels to offset municipal power needs after the provincial government announced specific grant funding for municipalities interested in reducing their carbon footprint.

We reviewed several solar companies and decided that Enmax Distributed Energy offered the best overall program and there were no concerns with them being able to fulfill their obligations of a 15 year full service lease-to-own program. Market forecasts show that the pool price for electricity will likely increase in the coming years as a result of many external factors including provincial/federal policies to close coal power plants and increase carbon tax levies. Stirling will have more stable and predictable costs for our electricity for up to the next 40 years over the life of our panels. We will be able to sell our excess power back into the grid.

October has also seen two draft bylaws land on the Council table for discussion and debate. The first is a bylaw to regulate the public consumption of cannabis that I wrote about in my Mayor's Monthly Message in September. There have also been a number of posts on the Village website related to this topic if you require further information.

The second bylaw is a new regulation to set out parameters for responsible cat ownership. To be clear, there are no plans to license or register individual cats in the Village. However, the public works team does get requests from residents for cat traps from time to time. Complaints regarding nuisance and abandoned cats are also something that require guidelines to be in place to enable our bylaw officers to deal with appropriately. The proposed bylaw basically documents our current practices.

A key focus for November will be the continued recruitment and execution of a selection process to find a new Chief Administrative Officer for our community following the resignation of Mike Selk from the role.

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](mailto:Lewington@stirling.ca)