

TOWN OF STRASBOURG NEWSLETTER



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July-September 2017

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Thank you to everyone who attended our Town Hall meeting on June 13th. Since the Town has been having regular Town Hall meetings, there has been a smaller and smaller turnout each year. While Council would like to think that a small turnout is indicative of satisfaction within the community, they know that is not always the case. Council would like to encourage you to attend these meetings to ask questions of them to help alleviate any concerns you may have. As requested from ratepayers who attended the meeting, below is a summary of the information discussed and information requested:

COUNCIL COMMITTEES – When elected, Council is assigned to certain internal and external committees. The committees meet as necessary and bring recommendations to Council as a whole. At the Town Hall meeting, it was requested to have a list of who sits on what committee. If a ratepayer has a particular issue, they are welcome to speak to the Councillors who sit on the committees to discuss it with them.

Bylaw Committee – *Responsible for liaising with the Bylaw Enforcement Officer and discussing issues and solutions for bylaw complaints with ratepayers.*

Lance Cornwell (306) 725-7602 • Cliff Eisler (306) 725-8127 • Bernie Josephson (306) 725-3001

Public Works Committee – *Responsible for issues with infrastructure, utility, garbage/recycling, cemetery, equipment, etc.*

Murray Kondratiuk (306) 725-3014 • Kevin Flavel (306) 731-7040 • Ernie Oblander (639) 914-7174

Personnel Committee – *Responsible for administration and public works employees.*

Kelvin Schapansky (306) 725-4512 • Kevin Flavel (306) 731-7040 • Lance Cornwell (306) 725-7602

Protection Committee – *Responsible for liaising with fire department and RCMP, as well as being a member of the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO).*

Kelvin Schapansky (306) 725-4512 • Ernie Oblander (639) 914-7174 • Bernie Josephson (306) 725-3001

Strasbourg Memorial Hall – Lance Cornwell, Kevin Flavel

Strasbourg Museum – Lance Cornwell, Cliff Eisler, Ernie Oblander

A detailed list of all the other external committees and appointments can be found online at www.townofstrasbourg.ca under the Town Office heading.

REGIONAL LANDFILL – The Town of Strasbourg is no longer a member of the Last Mountain Regional Landfill. However, this is not going to change any scheduling with the current garbage and recycling pickup. As well, Town residents are still allowed to use the Regional Landfill. In the fall, the Town may consider offering another landfill weekend out at the Town's transfer station. Watch for further details.

WHERE YOUR TAXES GO – This was an unprecedented year for changes that affected the Town's taxation. Municipalities across the province were all faced with the same challenges. This year:

- Every property received an assessment notice as completed by the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA). The Town had an extremely large assessment disparity between the lowest assessed property and highest assessed property – something beyond the Town's control.

- The provincial government cut our Grant-in-Lieu (GIL) payments from SaskEnergy. This was over a \$30,000 loss to our revenue. The provincial government has the option to eliminate these GIL's entirely at their discretion, so we could lose up to \$40,000 more.
- The provincial government also changed the taxable portion of the residential assessment from 70% to 80%, which means that more of your property is taxable than previous years.
- The school mill rate did not decrease at the same rate that the assessments increased. As a result, the school taxes for many properties increased significantly.
- We have major infrastructure projects being completed this year, including a \$4 million dollar lagoon (\$2.58 million was received through federal and provincial grants) and a \$500,000 water treatment plant reservoir expansion. Both projects are needed for growth within the community.

In order to address these combined challenges, and to ensure that the Town's taxation was equitable to all residents, Council reevaluated the Town's taxation structure and reallocated the shared costs of the Town across all properties through an adjusted base tax. Shared services were pooled and evenly split between all properties through this revised base tax.

To help put into perspective where your taxes go in the Town of Strasbourg, the revenue and expenses are split out as percentages by municipal function.

EXPENSES FOR 2016

General Government – 22%

(administration office costs and staff, legal and accounting, advertising and elections)

Protective Services – 11%

(police, bylaw enforcement officer, fire department, EMO)

Transportation Services – 28%

(maintenance workshop costs and staff, equipment and supplies, streets and sidewalks, trees, lights, snow removal)

Environmental Health – 12%

(garbage, recycling, pest control, cemetery, transfer station)

Planning & Development – 2%

(building permits and inspections, website, scholarship, grants and contributions)

Recreation & Culture – 8%

(hall, museum, library, park, green space)

Utility – 17%

(water and sewer breaks, water treatment plant repairs & supplies, chemicals, water tests, engineering fees)

REVENUE FOR 2016

Taxes & Penalty – 41%

(minus discounts and abatements)

Fees & Charges – 7%

(fees for fire call outs, hall, campground, cemetery, garbage, fire pits, licenses, permits, fines)

Grants – 22%

(revenue sharing, gas tax, student employment, transit disabled, museum, misc.)

Land & Vehicle Sales – 1%

(lot sales, vehicle trade-in)

Interest Revenue – 1%

(bank account interest, investment account interest)

Donations - 1%

(donations to hall, museum, cemetery, park, fire department, general)

Reserve Transfers – 4%

(money transferred in from reserves)

Utility – 23%

(water, sewer, and infrastructure fees, sewer cleaning, connection fees)

*Note: any extra utility revenue is transferred into utility reserves

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY...BE A COURTEOUS NEIGHBOUR!

Every year, residents' bylaw concerns increase. Here are a few friendly reminders to be a courteous neighbour and community member:

- Scoop up after your pet, both on Town property and your own.
- Keep your dog on a leash when you are walking – this will keep you and your dog safe, along with anyone else in the vicinity.
- Do not allow your dog to bark continuously outside.
- Do not let your cats out to wander into neighbouring yards – this is also for their safety.
- Do not drive snowmobiles/ATVs/dirt bikes through parks and other people's yards.
- Keep your yard neat and tidy. The Town regularly offers free landfill weekends. There are people who will cut grass and blow snow for a nominal fee. There are people who will pick up scrap metal and appliances for free. Perhaps there is even a neighbour that would help out if physical barriers exist to yard maintenance. There is no excuse for unkempt property.
- Do not burn garbage in your fire pit or cause noxious smoke to interfere with your neighbour's enjoyment of their yard.
- Do not cut Town-owned trees without permission.
- Do not drive recklessly or speed through the community.
- Lastly...talk to your neighbours! If you have an issue, discuss with your neighbour first. Sometimes getting the Bylaw Enforcement Officer involved before talking to your neighbour can cause stress and bad relations, when a simple conversation would have sufficed to help alleviate problems.

Jenn Josephson
Administrator

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We wish to extend our congratulations to Kianna Hack who was the 2017 recipient of our \$1,000.00 Town of Strasbourg Student Scholarship. Kianna plans to attend the University of Regina for Anthropology. We wish her the best of luck in her future studies!



RECYCLING CHEAT SHEET

With all the changes happening to the recycling program for both single-stream and at SARCAN, on the reverse side of the newsletter, a quick "cheat sheet" was created to help compile the commonly recycled items. Want more information on where to recycle? Check out the City of Regina's "Waste Wizard" at <http://www.regina.ca/residents/waste/> to find out other locations for recycling and waste disposal.

STRASBOURG & DISTRICT MUSEUM
2017 Summer Events

MAY 20 - Museum Garage Sale • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

JUNE 25 - Ancestor's Day • 2:00 p.m.

JULY - Celebrating Historic Anniversaries Display

JULY 1 - Canada's 150th Celebration
Pancake Breakfast • 7:00 - 10:00 a.m. @ Hall
Parade • 11:00 a.m.
BBQ Lunch • 12:00 p.m. @ Museum
Ceremony • 1:00 p.m. @ Museum

AUG - Musical Instrument Display

AUG 12 - LMVBA 'Show & Shine' Car Show
Museum BBQ • 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Kids Bike Parade • 1:30 p.m.
Jam Session @ Green Space

JUNE 17, JULY 8, AUG 19 - Storytime • 11:00 a.m.

Kids visiting the Museum...try the Treasure Hunt
and discover more than just a prize!

Museum Open May 20 - September 3
May & June - Sat: 10-4, Sun: 1-5 • July & August - Tues - Sat: 10-4, Sun: 1-5

RECYCLING CHEAT SHEET

Single Stream (Blue Bin)

- Non-soiled cardboard, office paper, newsprint, junk mail, magazines, and catalogues
- Shredding (only recyclable item to be bagged; cannot be confetti shredding, only strips)
- Plastics numbered 1 through 7, plastic bags, shrink wrap
- Tin and aluminum cans
- Household glass ***NEW*** (food and beverage containers)



Other than shredding, all recyclable items should be loose in the bin

SARCAN

- Beverage containers (aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles, juice cartons, refillable beer bottles)
- Milk products ***NEW*** (milk, buttermilk, cream, fluid coffee cream, lactose-free milk products, drinkable yogurt) ****Return for a refund like beverage containers!**
- Household paint
- Electronics (computers, printers, TVs, audio equipment, video equipment, cameras, telephones)

(306) 725-3602

www.sarcana.ca

122A Valley Street

Items Not Accepted (Blue Bin)

- Styrofoam, metal, glass panes, ceramic dishes, hazardous chemical containers, lightbulbs, auto parts, plastic toys, household garbage, branches, wood, clothing, furniture

Metal & Appliances

- Call either:
Mike Brunet (306) 725-4467 or
Peter Boughner (306) 725-3299
- Both scrap metal dealers will pick up

Lightbulbs & Light Fixtures

- Recyclable at K-Light Recycling,
1665 St. John Street, Regina
(306) 359-3059

Batteries & Cell Phones

- Recyclable at the Town Office
- Wet cell batteries not accepted
(306) 725-3707