

TOWN OF STRASBOURG NEWSLETTER



Volume 6 / Issue 1

January – March 2019

**2019
BUSINESS & DOG
LICENSES
ARE NOW DUE!**

UPCOMING DATES

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 23 @ 7:00 p.m.

1% Penalty to Tax Arrears
Friday, February 1

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

1st Quarter Water Bills Due
Friday, February 15

Admin Office Closed
Monday, February 18

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 27 @ 7:00 p.m.

1% Penalty to Tax Arrears
Friday, March 1

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 27 @ 7:00 p.m.

***Like the Town of
Strasbourg on
Facebook!***



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Happy New Year from the Administration and Council! I would formally like to recognize groups and individuals who volunteered their time and money specifically for Town facilities and Town-related projects in 2018:

THANK YOU TO...

Roberta Bender

Joy Strueby

Kevin Flavel

Lance Cornwell Memorial Fund

for their donations in time and money towards upper hall repairs, hall cleaning, and kitchen items in the Strasbourg Memorial Hall.

THANK YOU TO...

Royal Bank, Strasbourg Branch

Affinity Credit Union Staff Members

for their donations towards the Strasbourg & District Museum.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

Terry Osbourne for donating an original painting to the Town Office.

Everyone who donated a bench within the community

As always, to all the members of the **Rec Board, Museum Board, Hall Board, Fire Department, and Age-Friendly Committee** who volunteer on behalf of the Town of Strasbourg Council, thank you for your continued commitment to our community!

Jenn Josephson
Administrator

REMINDER: PAYMENT METHODS

Just a reminder that the Town offers online banking for utility and tax payments at RBC, all Credit Unions, CIBC, TD, and BMO. Call the Town Office for your account number.

We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Interac at the Town Office for all payments.

Lastly, we have the ability to send e-notices for utility, tax, and **now invoices**. Please contact the Town Office if you wish to sign up.



AGE-FRIENDLY STRASBOURG UPDATE

In November, Strasbourg was awarded Age-Friendly Community Recognition by the provincial Health Minister, Jim Reiter. The Age-Friendly Committee would like to thank Jenn Josephson, Strasbourg Town Council, Carol Schultz, and the Rec Board for paving the way to help Strasbourg become an age-friendly community and for continuing to support the Committee's projects. Our current projects include a writing group; dinners for people who are living alone; and a literacy project involving grandparent helpers at William Derby School.

On December 5, 2018, Age-Friendly Strasbourg Board members Jane Grieve and Barbara Hayes attended the Age-Friendly Communities Recognition Event at the Legislative Building in Regina. The award was presented by the Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, Minister for Rural and Remote Health, to the Town of Strasbourg as one of the first of three communities in Saskatchewan to receive designation as "Age-Friendly" and a new recognition by the provincial government.

All the volunteers in the community who have worked toward bringing the World Health Organization's initiative to fruition should be very proud that Strasbourg has been officially recognized as part of this global movement. This is a great achievement for Strasbourg as becoming a community that strives to be age-friendly really benefits everyone, all ages and stages.

- Jane Grieve, Board Member



STRASBOURG MEMORIAL HALL

The Town Council recently passed a new bylaw regarding the Strasbourg Memorial Hall (found at www.townofstrasbourg.ca). The bylaw outlines facility operations, rental rules, and rental rates. Rental rates will increase beginning January 1, 2019, as rates have not increased in nine years, and various repairs and upgrades have occurred over the past two years including:

- Upper Hall lobby renovation (ongoing) and flat roof replacement;
- Lower Hall floor replacement, including new industrial linoleum and carpet;
- Upgraded lighting in kitchen and women's bathroom;
- Upgraded vanities and mirrors in women's bathroom;
- Lower Hall and kitchen entirely re-painted;
- New fire alarm system installed and upgraded emergency exit lighting;
- New dedicated water heater and water softener for the kitchen;
- New wheelchair ramp for library entrance;
- New water and sewer lines to the east side of the building;
- New exterior signage created by Rolling Plains Metalworks.



Other upgrades:

- The Senior Citizen's Club also received a grant to renovate and install a handicapped accessible washroom in the Senior's Citizen's Centre, which added greatly to the space.
- The Last Mountain Theatre Company is currently renovating and creating a new sound booth for the facility in the old projection room.

While many upgrades have happened, more are still on the wish list, including new plastic tables, LED lighting for the Lower Hall, new theatre curtains, painting the Upper Hall auditorium, kitchen upgrades, projection system for meetings in Lower Hall, and many other smaller projects.

It is no secret that the Hall does not generate enough rental income to cover costs, including wages, supplies, repairs, utilities, and insurance. Unfortunately, this means that Town taxation subsidizes the remainder of costs not covered by Hall rent. The Council, in an effort to reduce this cost, has raised rental rates to offset some of these rising expenses to create more of a "user pay" system.

SWWA OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Town Foreman Tyler Hilderman was the deserving recipient of the Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association (SWWA) Operator of the Year award for populations under 1000.

Tyler's dedication to the community is second to none. His knowledge of water and wastewater, as well as all facets of public works is something to be commended. Tyler was instrumental in managing the Town through two of the largest infrastructure projects in the Town's history – the lagoon evaporation cell construction and water treatment plant reservoir expansion - projects totalling approximately 4.5 million dollars.

Tyler shows exceptional leadership skills and a willingness to improve processes to enhance the community. If you see Tyler out and about, make sure to congratulate him on his much deserved award!



★ HALL LEGACY PROJECT ★

Like the highly successful bench donation project, the Town would like to encourage donations to the newly created **Hall Legacy Project**. You will be able to donate money in memory of a loved one and select a seat in the Upper Hall in their name. A permanent plaque will be placed on the back of the seat of your choosing. A minimum donation of \$50.00 is needed to get a seat plaque.

You will receive a tax-deductible receipt from the Town for your donation. If you do not wish for a plaque on a seat, a general plaque listing all the donations will be displayed in the Upper Hall for years to come.

All donations will go towards continued improvements of the Hall. Thank you for helping us maintain the viability of this very important community facility.

CIVIC ADDRESSING PROGRAM

Many properties received a letter in November regarding the need to have a visible civic address as per the Town's Civic Addressing Bylaw. It was found that over 1/4 of Town properties did not have a visible civic address.

Civic addresses provide for everyone's safety, especially the homeowner/business owner. We are fortunate that we have local RCMP, Fire Department, Ambulance, and an EMO Committee who generally know the community, however, there is always the possibility that outside emergency personnel will be required to attend your property and could have difficulty finding your place.

This also extends to utility personnel (SaskPower, SaskTel, SaskEnergy) as well as various delivery drivers, Town Public Works and Bylaw Enforcement. It's almost imperative that even if you have numbers up, that they are visible. Some are small in size and virtually unreadable.

Please take the time to check to make sure that:

- a) You have a civic address posted and that it matches what the Town has (as per your tax and utility bill);
- b) The numbers are big enough to be seen from the street.

Thank you for your attention to this important safety matter.

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

It was a busy year for the Town, filled with various infrastructure projects, staff and council changes, and development prospects. Below are a list of Town highlights for the 2018 year:

- Commissioned the new lagoon evaporation cell and brought it to operational status.
- Glenna Frizzell and Len Cantin of G&L Developments hosted an informational meeting on a proposed development north of Strasbourg consisting of an assisted living facility, highway commercial lots, estate lots, and country residential lots. Discussions regarding the development are still continuing.
- Had one of the biggest snowfalls in Town's history, breaking current records on March 5 & 6, which put our public works staff to the test.
- Upgraded our 3-ton truck to a tandem truck, as well as replaced our aging backhoe.
- Experienced the loss of one of our long-standing Council members Lance Cornwell. He was on council for over 14 years.
- Held a successful Free Transfer Station Weekend in May and branch/leaves weekends in May & October.
- Had to say farewell to Office Services Clerk Carole Chobot, who moved to B.C. We welcomed new Office Services Clerk Crystal Mytopher in August.
- Held a by-election in September for the vacant council spot, electing Lorne Gottselig. There has not been a by-election in the Town that has gone to a vote in over 10 years.
- Glen Thompson, previous Deputy Fire Chief of the Strasbourg Fire Department was awarded the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal from the Lieutenant Governor for 25 years of volunteer service. Other fire department members reaching milestones this year: Justin Kerr – 10 years, John de Hoop – 15 years, and Brian Karasin – 25 years.
- Public Works Foreman Tyler Hilderman was awarded SWWA Operator of the Year.
- Administrator Jenn Josephson received her Advanced Local Government Authority Certificate from the University of Regina, as well as her Advanced Level 1 or "A" Certificate from the Urban Municipal Administrator's Association, which allows her to mentor other Administrators.
- Assistant Public Works Foreman Keith Hilderman received his Level 1 Water Distribution and Treatment Certification.
- Created a civic addressing program and updated mapping.
- Had a record number of visitors to the Strasbourg & District Museum of over 1000 visitors.
- Passed a new cemetery bylaw, Memorial Hall bylaw, and lagoon bylaw, as well as an electoral candidate information policy, an asset management policy, and a transfer station operations and EMO plan.
- As previously noted, many renovations occurred at the Strasbourg Memorial Hall.
- Purchased Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) insurance for our volunteer firefighters and Town staff.
- Replaced all water lines, sewer lines, hydrant, water and sewer connections, and curbstops on the west half of the 300 block of Chapin Street. This is the beginning of the Town's street-by-street infrastructure replacement program.
- The original lagoon cell was completely dredged to extend its useful life.
- All sewer mains in the Town were jetted and cleaned.
- Received the lowest amount of bylaw-related complaints to date.
- Received a grant from Federation of Canadian Municipalities to create an asset management plan for the community. Currently working on the final stages of this plan. This plan will assist in any future infrastructure grants and funding.
- Finalized the purchase of the administration building and public works shed from the RM of McKillop No. 220, with both facilities now owned solely by the Town.
- One of three communities to be awarded "Age-Friendly" status by the Provincial Government. These are the first three communities in the province to receive this designation.