

TOWN OF STRASBOURG NEWSLETTER



Volume 6 / Issue 1

January – March 2020

**2020
BUSINESS & DOG
LICENSES
ARE NOW DUE!**

UPCOMING DATES

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 29 @ 7:00 p.m.

1% Penalty to Tax Arrears
Saturday, February 1

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

1st Quarter Water Bills Due
Friday, February 14

Admin Office Closed
Monday, February 17

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

1% Penalty to Tax Arrears
Sunday, March 1

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 25 @ 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 donated money and materials as well as volunteered their time specifically for Town facilities and Town-related projects in 2019:

THANK YOU TO...

**Norm & Judy McMillan
Travelodge Hotel**

for their donations towards general projects in the community.

THANK YOU TO...

**Strasbourg Royal Bank
Affinity Credit Union
Brad & Marilyn Cross
Bulyea School SRC**

for their donations towards the Strasbourg & District Museum.

THANK YOU TO...

**Strasbourg Lions Club
KC Ventures & Sales Ltd.
Lakeridge Construction Inc.
Flavell's Plumbing & Heating
Sandy & Gerard Frison
Jim Erickson**

for their donations in either time, money, or materials towards the Strasbourg Memorial Hall.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

Affinity Credit Union for the \$10,000 grant for Hall sustainability upgrades
Everyone who bought a plaque for the Hall Legacy Project.

The Town Council annually gives money in grants, sponsorships, and advertising to local groups. The Town has an annual fund whereby local volunteer groups can apply for grants and donations for fundraisers and various Town events.

Town Donations, Grants & Advertising in 2019

- Strasbourg Rec Centre (Rink) Operating Grant - \$5,000
- Strasbourg Public Library - \$2,250
- Town Scholarship to two WDS Graduates - \$1,500
- Last Mountain Rodeo Sponsorship - \$1,000
- Strasbourg Community Park Grant - \$1,000
- Foundations for Living Well Men's Health Event Grant - \$1,000
- Strasbourg Rec Board Mini Mosaic Grant - \$1,000

2020 GENERAL ELECTION HAVE YOU CONSIDERED RUNNING FOR COUNCIL?

While the municipal election is not until November 9, 2020, now is the time to think about putting your name forward as an elected official. For those of you new to the municipal council world, consider attending some council meetings prior to November 2020 to see what it is all about. Council meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month (except for July, August, and December) at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office. As an elected official for the Town of Strasbourg, you will:

- Bring the perspectives of your demographic to the decision-making table;
- Influence changes that benefit Strasbourg and ensure its sustainability;
- Put forward new ideas for debate and possible implementation and change;
- Make a positive difference in the quality of life in Strasbourg;
- Provide a voice for Strasbourg with other levels of government;
- Be part of a great team that make decisions that affect all aspects of community life.

- Strasbourg Tiny Tots Fundraiser - \$500
- Community Safety Net (Strasbourg Lions Club) - \$450
- Strasbourg Minor Hockey Advertising - \$175
- Strasbourg Golf Course Hole-In-One Sponsorship - \$100
- Strasbourg Club Volleyball Sponsorship - \$125
- Strasbourg Maroons Advertising - \$75
- Strasbourg Curling Club - \$50

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

Jenn Josephson
Administrator



2020 FIRE CALL-OUT INSURANCE INCREASE

Rolling out in the early winter of 2020, the fire call-out insurance rates will be increasing. Since the Town of Strasbourg has a volunteer fire department, call-out fees are charged when the volunteers respond to a call. These call-outs are not paid through our taxes, unlike in large cities and some other smaller municipalities.

While insurance is always optional, it is strongly recommended that you check your current house or business insurance policy to make sure that it **contains an endorsement for firefighting call-out fee coverage with these increased rates.**

Fire Call-Out Fees - \$5,000.00 for the first 3 hours
- \$1,500.00 for every additional hour

False Alarm Fees - First incident - written warning, no fee
- Subsequent incidents - \$500.00

CIVIC ADDRESSING PROGRAM

While many properties complied with the civic address request, there are still a handful of properties that have not installed their house/business numbers.

It is taken for granted that we all know where everyone lives. There are new EMS personnel, first responders, and fire department members in our community. We cannot assume that they know where everyone lives, or what the names of commercial buildings are (e.g. Town Office vs. 200 Mountain Street). Also during the infrastructure repairs in the spring and summer of 2019, the volunteers for the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) had noted how appreciative they were of the newly installed the house/business numbers, but still expressed concerns for the buildings that did not have numbers, as it made it hard to track while handing out notices.

Civic addresses provide for everyone's safety, especially the homeowner/business owner. House numbers are available for purchase within our community, and are inexpensive. If you have not installed your house/business numbers, please ensure that you do so by the spring, otherwise fees could be incurred as per the Town's Civic Addressing Bylaw.

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

It was another busy year for the Town, with various infrastructure projects, staff, and council changes. Below are a list of Town highlights for the 2019 year:

- Commissioned the new 330 cube water treatment plant reservoir and brought it to operational status.
- Created the Hall Legacy Project for which people could donate money to the Hall and have their loved one's name engraved on a plaque and attached to a theatre seat of their choice.
- Experienced the loss of a councillor Ernie Oblander. Ernie was on Town Council since 2013, but he had more than 30 years of municipal experience prior to his time in Strasbourg. He is greatly missed.
- Held a by-election in February for the vacant council spot, electing Peter Barry by acclamation.
- Hired Jessica Dreger as the Curator for our Museum. This is the first time the position has been a paid one. The Museum had over 1,000 visitors this year, and more money was raised for the facility than any other year.
- Hired a full-time public works operator, Josh Buhay.
- Replaced over 13 water valves across Town and replaced the water main, hydrants, and water connections on the 200 block of Blackstock Street.
- Repaired and upgraded one of the Town wells.
- Created a comprehensive Economic Development Policy, with tax incentives for new builds on infill lots, demolition incentives, new commercial builds, and lowered the price of the new subdivision lots to \$10,000 to help spur development (we currently have two deposits). With the advent of PST on building materials, contractor labour, and increases in energy code requirements, building "new" is starting to become cost prohibitive. Incentives to spur new development in the Town were very necessary.
- In June, Loraas Disposal, on behalf of Crown Shred, made changes to the recycling program, whereby number 1 plastics were no longer allowed in the blue recycling cart.
- Purchased a new (to us) bi-directional tractor and snowblower (sold the older bi-directional tractor and snowblowers).
- Participated in a unique "Mayor's Minute" radio advertising promotion during the summer with 980 CJME.
- Received \$10,000.00 for the Strasbourg Memorial Hall from Affinity Credit Union to put towards sustainability upgrades. The Council chose to install two new high-efficiency furnaces and a water heater.
- Re-sided the Town Shop with tin, including new exterior lights and an alarm system.
- Held another successful Free Transfer Station Weekend in May and branch/leaves weekends in May & October.
- Renamed the fire department the "Strasbourg & District Fire & Rescue" Department to be more inclusive of the area services and outline services provided. A new Fire Management Bylaw and Fire Suppression Rates Bylaw have been passed outlining new fire suppression rates.
- Brian Karasin, Training Officer of the Strasbourg & District Fire & Rescue 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: Brian Gorrill – 25 years, Gordon Decker – 20 years, Ross Parkin – 10 years, Scott Simle – 5 years.
- 28 community members participated in a "Community Conversation," which was a program spearheaded by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation to find out what the key issues surrounding southern Saskatchewan municipalities and organizations were. The results of our "Conversation" have been published, and we are excited to get various stakeholder groups in the community talking about common issues and working together more.
- We have a new revenue stream of allowing septic to be dumped into our lagoon.
- Development on the north end of Strasbourg will not be going forward at this time. G&L Developments was unable to make the project feasible. The Assisted Living Facility is still a priority for Council and they are looking at ways to facilitate that project.