

## FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

### Council Meeting

Monday, FEB 13, 2017  
at 6:00 pm

### Council Workshop

Tuesday, FEB 21, 2017  
at 6:00 pm

### Council Meeting

Monday, FEB 27, 2017  
at 6:00 pm

### MPC/Council Workshop

Monday, MAR 6, 2017  
at 6:00 pm

### PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE DEER OR OTHER WILDLIFE

There are a number of issues that come with feeding deer in town.

- If you leave out food for deer, rabbits or birds, you may also be attracting the predatory animals that prey on these animals. Cougars, bears, coyotes and wolves follow deer and smaller prey species such as rabbits and game birds, so by feeding these animals, you could be bringing in predators inadvertently.
- During the winter deer are adapted to lower their metabolic rate in order to conserve energy. Hence feeding deer with high nutritious food not targeted for them could create compaction which in turn overloads their digestive system and compromises their ability to feed efficiently. This process is well explained with the phrase: "they die full but starving" because their system cannot access, process and dispose effectively the overload of nutrients and fibres contained in this food.
- Conditioned over-concentration: free food may attract deer at higher concentration than normal. When at higher concentrations the risk for intraspecies aggressive behaviours and the risk of disease transmission become very high.
- Depletion of the natural food supply faster: if deer get concentrated in higher numbers they will deplete the natural food supply in an area much faster.
- Travelling to free food might create sinks around roads and higher risk of collisions.
- Attracting deer to your yard may cause hassles to your neighbours
- Conditioned deer could appear "tame" and become aggressive toward small animals or even people, causing unnecessary conflict when they expect a handout.

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Kevin Heerema**  
**Community Peace Officer**  
**Director of Emergency Management**  
[kevin.h@sundre.com](mailto:kevin.h@sundre.com)  
403-638-4707 Ext 109



### The Town Office will be Closed:

Monday **February 20, 2017**  
in observance of Family Day

### Frozen Water Lines

If you have experienced **frozen water lines this winter**, you should contact the Town Office to report this occurrence, so we can check our water meter equipment. Frozen water service usually results in a frozen water meter as well. If we are aware that your water lines were froze, we will send staff to check that our meter equipment was not impacted.

Metering accuracy is important to avoid back charges for water usage that was missed during an interruption of the meter equipment functionality.



### Pick Up Schedule

Feb 9- Garbage  
Feb 16- Compost  
Feb 23- Recycle

Mar 2- Garbage  
Mar 9- Compost  
Mar 16- Recycle

## **Background Notes from the Mayor's Desk - February 2017**

Do you want your next Council to be the "A Team"?

If the answer to that question is "yes" - and it should be, then now is the time to start recruiting so you have a slate of candidates for the upcoming October elections.

What should you be looking for in a Council, and members of Council? (Apart from the obvious optimistic attitude, commitment to read 100-200 pages per week of agenda, email, technical, financial, legal and engineering documents, and willingness to give 15-40 hours per week, 1-2 evenings per week and 1-5 days per month for meetings in town and out of town.)

Our sewer system (waste water treatment plant) is nearing capacity and must be expanded for future growth in our region. Water and waste water treatment is critical for us, and there are leaks in old pipes underground that make our systems inefficient. Councillors that are prepared to understand technical details, work regionally, assist and support our staff to find creative solutions, funding, encourage conservation and actively commit to follow the long term plans, will lead us into our future efficiently.

We need to focus on putting together a plan for a new hospital. The Hospital Futures Committee has already begun with the first, and hopefully annual, Gala fundraiser in that long term plan. There should be a Councillor who is a medical professional who understands the inner workings of the health care system and who will advocate passionately, with facts and determination toward the goal of a new hospital.

For two years we have been talking with provincial and local RCMP representatives to begin plans for an updated RCMP detachment building, or a multiple emergency services building that will meet the needs of the community as we grow. There must Councillors with knowledge and background in emergency services: police, fire and ambulance. When our population reaches 5000, we will pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for police services, and a new, possibly integrated, RCMP building may be a way to help offset those costs with lease revenue. As we grow, our Volunteer Fire Department will need more space. More importantly, the coordination of emergency services will provide better services to the community.

We have to address the aging arena, the condition of all Town owned buildings, the supports necessary for volunteer groups and their buildings (the Aquaplex, Curling Club, Legion, Elks, the Agricultural Society, to name a few), and come together as a community to deal with the realities of aging individual buildings and whether it might be a good idea to consolidate all the "stand alone" buildings under one roof. Incoming Councillors will have to lead the community to solutions over the next two terms (eight years), with the same attitude that was modelled by the builders of our community: optimism, commitment, some collaboration, problem solving, working together, and a plan. Councillor leaders with a passion for recreation, culture, history of our community, and vision for bringing us together planning facilities for a more affordable future, will be needed. There has been lots of talk. There must now be action.

Taxes get talked about a lot. Councillors need a financial background - not just in understanding how to count money, but to find money, to understand how to move money, to understand the "big picture" connections between projected budgets and actual expenditures, reserves, debt, surplus, and grants. We are "richer than we think" if we take the time to look into the depths of our finances and recognize we must consider the "worst case scenario", but it is by choice that we get drawn in to the negativity and the fear that the "can't afford it" attitude creates. Analytical, accounting Councillors bring depth to discussions about finance.

If you want the "A Team" for your next Council, consider some of the above - or not. We have seen some changes in provincial, federal, and US elections recently. In our Town elections, we get about 35% voter turnout. Apathy will not get the "A Team" so start recruiting :)

As always, I would love to talk with anyone about the above, or any other issue, question, suggestion, or concern. Please call me at 403-559-7352 if you want to chat.

Terry Leslie, Mayor