

**Mayor's report
January 16, 2020**

So, as we begin a new year and indeed a new decade, there is both good and bad news for the Summer Village.

The good news is that various pieces of legislation have been approved by Council, including the responsible pet ownership and garbage and organics by-laws, as well as the regional emergency management agency by-law and agreement with eleven other summer villages. We have approved, as required, a three-year operating budget and budget plan and our finances are in a very good position, with a healthy sum being held in our reserves. Our Administration will deal with counterparts at County Lac Ste Anne and SV Sunrise Beach and a proposed Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework is now being debated at the Council level. To date, we have met the benchmarks set or imposed by the Alberta Government.

On the somewhat negative side of things is the apparent off-loading and downloading of financial responsibility from the Government of Alberta to municipalities. For example, the cost of policing will be transferred in part to the Summer Village and in 2021 we will see the end of the current Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grants. The exact financial burden to the Summer Village is at this time not fully known but the implication is relatively clear: increased costs will be placed on the tax payer. Council will over the next couple of years have to deal with covering off these expenses and many Council across the Province are faced with either cutting services or raising property taxes, or both.

Light Up 2019

Congratulations to the 2019 Summer Village Light Up displays, as judged by members of Council. First place goes to Roll # 237, Second place goes to Roll # 702 and the Third place winner is Roll # 632.

The efforts of all residents who put on light displays is appreciated, as is the work that goes in to setting them up (and taking them down).

Firesmart Initiatives

Again thanks are expressed for the work completed by the Alexander First Nation crew.

A Firesmart open house is currently planned for March 2020. Detail to be announced when available.

The Firesmart Committee still needs a community member. Interested individual are kindly asked to contact Administration.

FCSS Committee

The proposed senior's programme, starting with snow clearing, is NOT approved by the Provincial FCSSS board and thus will not move forward.

Regional Emergency Management Agency

A committee of the Advisory Committee has set up terms of reference for a Request for Proposal for the positions of Agency administrator and Director of Regional Emergency Management. Progress will be discussed at the next Advisory Committee meeting slated from February 29, 2020.

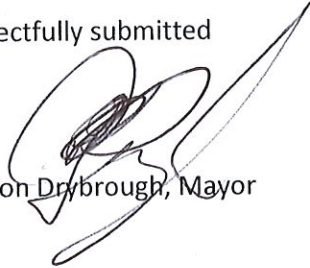
Darwell Wastewater Transmission

The interested parties met on January 16, 2020 to discuss developments on this proposed wastewater transmission line.

Representatives will meet with officials of Alexander First Nation on January 21, 2020 to receive an understanding of their position on this proposed line as well as the development of a new lagoon and treatment facility at Alexander.

It was suggested that likely sometime in March 2020 calculation of the capital costs as well as operation and maintenance costs will be made available for comparison and the parties will be in a better position to determine whether to go with the Darwell or Alexander proposal.

Respectfully submitted


Gordon Drybrough, Mayor