



# TOWN TALK

September 2017



## 2017 Municipal Election

The 2017 municipal elections are rapidly approaching:

**NOMINATION DAY:  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

Nominations should be submitted to the Returning Officer on that date between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

**ELECTION DAY:  
OCTOBER 16, 2017**

The information and nomination packages are available from either the municipal office or the Town website for download. Information sessions are also available for those who would like to understand more of the rigors and demands of becoming an elected official and fostering ethical standards in the election campaign process. The sessions are sponsored by Municipal Affairs and Society of Local

Government Managers and locally two sessions will be offered.

**EXECUTIVE ROYAL INN, NISKU  
SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, 2017  
7:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M.  
THE SESSIONS ARE FREE BUT  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED EITHER  
ON-LINE AT ALBERTALEADERS.CA OR  
CALL 780 796 3839.**

Recent changes to the Municipal Government Act requires that municipalities offer orientation training within 90 days to elected officials following each municipal election and by-elections on specific matters such as: role of municipalities in Alberta; council and councillor roles and responsibilities; Chief Administrative Officer and staff roles and responsibilities; and budgeting and financial administration. The dates of these sessions will be firmed up with the successful candidates after the election.

## Water Update

Following results of the dissolved oxygen testing throughout both ponds in recent weeks and the resulting calculations to determine what level/type of aeration needs to be added, we are now able to share the information and recommendations made by the consultant. Their recommendation is

to introduce diffuser type aeration which will introduce more oxygen flow in the bottom of the water column (laid on the bottom of the pond not surface). Initial cost indications are around \$40,000 with an expected start date of mid-September. The cost of testing and the consultant fees incurred to arrive at this recommendation is \$1,376. Costs for the increased aeration will come from reserves.

We thank all our residents for their understanding and patience as this important work has been undertaken, and we recognize the frustration that has been felt at what may appear to have been lack of direct action to resolve the taste and odour problem instantaneously. However, it was necessary to take the time to establish the cause to enact the right solution.

Although we all consider water to be a very simple thing, it is in fact a very complex item with many variables that can affect it, especially when in an open body of water. Aquatic health life is very intricate, run off from the fields and the terrain it passes through on its way to the ponds, and impacts of temperatures and wind are just a few of the more simpler aspects. As our climate continues to change, and we have all seen the results of some fairly dramatic weather changes this past few years throughout the whole world, not just here in Alberta, we must also recognize that these challenges are not ours alone, but that there are other communities

who are facing the similar challenges and we must all continue to be vigilante.

## Thank you Communities in Bloom



*Thanks to all the great volunteers of Communities in Bloom, who worked so hard earlier this year to shop and plant the fantastic floral displays we have all been able to enjoy this year.*

The municipal office looks fabulous and the baskets have blossomed with the help of our staff with a rigorous water and fertilizing program. We can all take pride in how great our community looks this year.



## Back to school safety

As our students head back to school, please take extra care in school zones. We hope the Speed readers will actively slow down traffic through these areas, and some key messaging will also go out through 840 CFCW following our successful grant application to Alberta Traffic Safety earlier this year, at no cost to the Town.

### SCHOOL ZONES

As a driver or motorcyclist, when you enter a school zone you'll notice a traffic control device stating a lower speed limit at the beginning of a school zone and a greater speed

limit at the end. In urban and rural areas, the speed is 30 km/h unless otherwise posted. Look out for these signs or flashing lights during the following times and obey the limits posted.

- 8:00am - 9:30am
- 11:30am - 1:30pm
- 3:00pm - 4:30pm

### PLAYGROUND ZONES

The lower speed limit posted is effective starting at 8:30am until one hour after sunset, seven days a week.

**Driving Reminder: Don't pass another vehicle in school or playground zone while the lower speed limit is in effect.**

### REMINDERS AND FINES FOR DRIVING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

#### Know the Rules

- If a pedestrian wants to cross the road and, before stepping off the curb, you see them extending their arm and pointing in the direction they want to walk, you must stop
- Stop for all pedestrians at a crosswalk (even if it's unmarked)
- Watch for the elderly or people with disabilities who may take more time crossing
- Don't pass vehicles or motorcycles that have stopped to allow pedestrians to cross
- Stay alert and slow down on residential streets and through school zones; the speed limit for school and playground zones in urban

and rural areas is 30 km/h unless otherwise posted

- Watch for school safety patrols wearing orange vests and stop as directed
- If there are flashing lights at a crosswalk, the maximum speed is 30 km/h (even if the pedestrian finished crossing the road)
- Come to a full stop about 20m away from a school bus with its red lights flashing
- Be extra cautious during rush hours (3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) at busy intersections where many pedestrians are crossing

#### **Pedestrian Penalties for Drivers**

- Failure to stop for pedestrians at a crosswalk results in a \$776 fine plus four demerit points
- Failure to give the right of way to a pedestrian who signals their intent to cross at a crosswalk (marked or unmarked) results in a \$155 fine
- The fine for passing a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk is \$776 plus four demerit points
- Failure to stop at least 20m away from a school bus with its red lights flashing results in a \$543 fine plus six demerit points

## **Community Update Mayor Rasch**

Hi Everyone

Just wanted to give an update to the community on a couple of new and

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exciting things and to further let everyone know where things are at.

Well August is almost done, can you believe it. It won't be long now and our schools will be buzzing with activity again. I hope everyone has had a great summer. There have been so many exciting events in and around the region this summer so I hope you were able to take in a few of them.

On the construction side, the Madison Road and Curb Rehabilitation is now complete..

At 47 St between 50 Ave to 49 Ave you may have read we are behind a month from the suggested start date, due to delays with our contractor scheduling because of weather impacts on other projects.

This will involve a block of road having new sewer and water lines put in as well as replacing all cc valves along with being paved. This project was an add on to the Capital Budget because of the great pricing we saw on this year's tender bids when they came in, so we're excited to be able to do more with the same amount of budgeted dollars.

The Side Walks, Cement Swales, Curbs and Storm Water Collection Repairs will take place after the Madison Area is completed. This is quite an extensive repair list this year addressing the ones closest to Main Street and working out from that point. I think you will be pretty happy to see improvements in those areas. Our main focus in the selected areas was to protect infrastructure from water infiltration hence the priority on some of the replacement Swales and Storm Water Drain work that is needed.

The new lights at our School Cross Walks have been upgraded by Alberta Transportation which we're grateful for at no cost to our community and installation of our New LED Solar Speed Reader Signs

which was also a successful grant application that we applied for and received, and which will hopefully bring better awareness to people coming into our community to slow down.

Fortis have completed the change out of all the current street lights in our community to LED, which overall is a better light quality and obviously more cost effective to run. This project was bumped ahead from the original Dec time frame. So a big shout out to our Fortis Rep Nichole Smith for that. She works hard for our community.

Our Recreation Complex is close to moving ahead with the installation and replacement of 25 year old fluorescent fixtures to LED in the Interior. This will include the Lobby, Craft Room, FCSS Office, Play School Room and Racket Ball Court. If you remember the Play School Room and the Racket Ball Court still had the lights that take three minutes to turn on, so it will be nice to see them replaced as they are a high energy user. This project will also be supported by a T.A.M.E Grant Dollars.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to take in some of our exceptional programming that our Rec Dept. put together this summer. From what I've seen, it looks as if everyone's been having a great time and they have been well attended.

Community Fit is working hard with our Rec Dept. also to find generous sponsors for the Playground that had to be removed so stay tuned as that continues to progress. I'm sure there will be additional information coming out soon on that front.

The mapping and costing have been completed to upgrade the Lions Campground. This will be dependent on when we may be able to secure additional funding support and allows us details for a discussion in the future. We also

recently placed a new sign near the Chamber Sign hi-lighting the Campground and our wonderful Thorsby Network of Trails. The hope is to bring more awareness and interest and use to the area.

I'm thrilled to have been given notice that our Seniors Club have selected Local Contractor G&N Contracting to construct their new Seniors Drop In Centre and that they will be breaking ground very shortly. The Building Committee has done such an outstanding job to get the details of the project figured out and I just want to thank them for all the time they have committed to the project.

recommendations to the incoming Council on priorities in Oct.

Work continues on the water. We received further information on next steps and will do some additional testing and pricing based on the suggestions. Updates to residents will continue.

I wanted to thank all the businesses that got involved in theming their Store Fronts to capture Canada's 150 Birthday. We actually caught the attention of many by doing that. We even had visitors from the Gov't here. They were pretty static about the community pride that was

raffle together and the Local Businesses that took part in the fun. What a fun prize to win. There was everything in there.

Council is currently working on a Buy Local "Lets Do Business Together" Strategy. The Proposal is coming out shortly to Council for consideration and feedback.

Don't forget Community Awareness is fast approaching. Make sure you come out and see all of our fantastic Community Groups to see what they are offering and to see what's in store for the fall and winter programs.

Well that's the majority of the stuff. I hope I didn't miss too much.

**Enjoy what's left of summer!!**



Just in case you may have missed it, [AXIA HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THORSBY AS THEIR NEXT FIBRE TOWN.](#) This will be a wonderful for our community for both residents and businesses.

39/20 Alliance has awarded a contract to Keystone Strategies to advance our partners works on Economic Development. We will see the start of some of the work Nov/Dec coming forward.

Council will begin discussing the Capital Projects Budget in Sept. This will involve all of Council and Department Managers presenting their priorities for consideration and we will have a review of our 5 and 10 years plans where we may make some changes if needed and give

shown and I suggest we consider making this an annual tradition in our community.

Congratulations go out to the Thorsby Tire Shop!! They have been in business for 50 years servicing Thorsby and Area. People come from a long way to get tires so that speaks volumes on quality of service and exceptional prices. Great Job!!

Congratulations go out to Roy and Diane Gersky of Edmonton on winning the Summer Fun Package valued at over \$2500.00. I had the honour of meeting them as well as help them pack up their winnings. What a very nice couple. Also a big shout out to the Thorsby Chamber, Thorsby Lions Club in putting the



### **COMMUNITY REGISTRATION AND AWARENESS**

**THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 14  
6:30 – 8:00**

**THORSBY ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

**BBQ on school grounds @  
6:00 p.m.**

### **BYLAW**

To report a bylaw related matter please call:

**780 554 8272**

Or email

[bylaw@thorsby.ca](mailto:bylaw@thorsby.ca)