



**Claresholm**

# 2018 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



2018 was this Council's first full year in office and it was an exciting year of planning, growth, and improvement. With the by-election in September, Council welcomed Councillor Mike Cutler. We appreciate his willingness to serve in this capacity.



Council has been very busy this year laying the groundwork for a successful future. In September Council adopted their 2017 to 2021 strategic plan that lays out Council's priorities for this Council Term. These priorities include "Policy & Planning for Responsible, Sustainable Growth"; "Economic & Community Development to Revitalize Claresholm"; "Sound, Responsible Governance & Strengthen Internal Operations"; "Improve & Expand Partnerships. Collaboration, Relationships"; and "Livable Community for a Vibrant, Healthy Quality of Life".



2018 saw many projects completed that directly illustrate progress in these strategic objectives. These are due to the support of the community and partnerships with local and municipal organizations. Town Council hosted 3 open houses in 2018, as well as public engagement through surveys, illustrating our commitment to community engagement and transparency. As always, Council is available to discuss any questions, comments, or concerns. Thanks for your continued support.  
~Mayor Doug MacPherson

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*"The greatness of a **community** is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – Coretta Scott King.*

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## BYLAW

The community's collaboration on the Risk Reduction safety and educational programs as well as open communication about bylaw concerns was outstanding. The Town can't thank everyone enough for your assistance in making Claresholm a great place to live, work and play. The majority of the 326 files created had quick resolution. Thank you again to the community for sharing your concerns, questions and solutions. Together we create community and collaboratively we make Claresholm a safe home.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Development values continued strong in 2018 at over \$5,790,000; with 5 new dwelling units and 3 large business expansions. 20 new home occupations were also approved. The Area Structure Plan for Starline Business Park was completed, along with significant work on a road plan clean-up, and amendments to the Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan in regards to Municipal Government Act changes. The public presented great feedback at the planning and development open houses this year! Thank-you!

## INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

The Town completed many building & infrastructure projects in 2018. 2.5 kms of new sewer main to the lagoon was completed. 13 new wheelchair ramps in various areas were installed to improve access to sidewalks as well as 500m of new sidewalks were poured. The storm pond plantings (100 thousand + plants) and the 8th St. Ditch widening projects are now complete. Continued work this winter on the golf course ponds/ditches will assist to reduce the risk of flooding re-occurrence in those areas. The Town float received a background replacement from wood to metal and paint touchups throughout. The arena (floor/boards) and curling rink (chiller/piping) also had upgrades completed in 2018.

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

FCSS had a busy and fantastic 2018. FCSS supported 3750 community members either in person or by phone and our dedicated volunteers prepared 418 income tax returns. Family Day Skate, Roots of Empathy, Longest Day of Play, Volunteer Appreciation, Christmas Hamper program (126 food hampers delivered), Winter Festival (assisted programming), and Women's Conference ran this year; all were very well attended. New this year was our participation in the Risk Reduction program for grades 9 and 12 at WCCHS. Staff is now trained in Psychological First Aid, Emergency Preparedness, and Mental Health First Aid for seniors. Our Youth of Tomorrow volunteered around town again this year and were able to take two field trips. FCSS is always looking to improve the community, so the recent survey will be utilized to understand the needs and wants from citizens.

## MUSEUM & VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The 2018 season saw a tremendous increase in the number of bus tours that stopped by our Museum & Visitor Information Centre with approximately 2.5 times the number we had in 2017. This was in most part thanks to the tremendous efforts of the "Friends of the Claresholm & District Museum Society" for arranging and providing coffee and homemade treats for the bus tours which brought in revenue for the Friends of approximately \$1,200. The museums total visitors was just shy of 5,000 for 2018. 2018 also brought some new or updated displays to the Museum including the RCAF Station Claresholm, the Churches of Claresholm, and Ben Scaman (WWII Pilot) Displays.

## PARKS & RECREATION

In 2018 the Town won our 2nd award for Creating Supportive Environments. Initiatives included the Winterfest, Kin Path, Millennium Link, the Annual Mexican Fiesta along with the Longest day of Play. The amount of support via service groups, volunteers and community is enormous. Claresholm supplied the MD of Willow Creek with a Regional Director for the Southern Alberta Summer Games for the second year. The Town has a member on SARA (Southern Alberta Recreation Association Board). The Games were created so all communities, regardless of size, have an opportunity to become involved with as many participants of all ages and to promote physical and social involvement.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2018 was a busy year beginning with the replacement of the Economic Development Officer (EDO). The new EDO oversaw the completion of the Starline Business Park Area Structure Plan, the Community Advertising Program (Billboard Project), the Claresholm Business Conference in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, and the recent welcome sign digital display upgrades. The new 3-year Economic Development Business Plan will focus on effective marketing of opportunities within Claresholm, improved investment readiness for site-selectors, a way-finding signage project, and of course the retention and expansion of our existing business community.

## UTILITY SERVICES

The Regional Water Treatment Plant received a major upgrade to its Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). SCADA is used in the daily operation of the Regional Water Treatment Plant and the Towns remote utility sites. The dry conditions this past summer have had an impact on the water level at Pine Coulee Reservoir, but winter snowfall and spring runoff into Willow Creek will likely be sufficient to fill to its maximum capacity again. The Claresholm Industrial Airport water system upgrades were completed. Potable water is now being supplied directly through the newly upgraded M.D Chlorine Booster Station and the Airport Pump Station has been decommissioned.

### Town of Claresholm

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