

VILLAGE OF BRETON

P.O. BOX 480 BRETON, ALBERTA T0C 0P0

PHONE: 646-3636 FAX: 646-3590 EMAIL: vbreton@telusplanet.net

Dear Residents,

What a first couple of years we have had on Council. There have been many changes over the last 2 and half years.

One of the most exciting items is the new playground going in at Centennial Park this summer. Unfortunately, with the late spring and wet conditions the installation has been delayed. We initially had hoped to have it ready for the July 1st celebrations but now it won't be until the last week of July. We will be leaving the existing play structure in place until after July 1st. The new mural on the Centennial well building is near completion adding a little extra beauty to space.

One of council's initiatives since being in term is to address some unsightly properties around town. We started with the demolition of the former community centre. The additional parking space has been beneficial for many functions taking place at the new community centre. The new lighting in the parking lot will be a welcome addition at evening functions. There are currently no plans to pave the parking lot, but there will be gravel added to it this summer to help mitigate the muddiness.

Last summer the Village kicked off their youth employment initiative with the opening of Scoops Ice Cream at the Breton RV Park. This initiative provided employment for 12 youth between the ages of 14 and 18 from the Breton area. This year Scoops will be opening June 1st on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 – 8 to start. As the summer progresses the hours will increase.

The Village also acquired two properties in town. The “burnt building” on main street and the former auto salvage yard across from the Village public works shop. The purchase of the building on main street was primarily to remove the building from main street. The sight of it was not appealing to anyone. The former Put and Take was moved from the waste transfer site to the garage on this main street property, allowing 24 hour access to residents that wish to drop off items or look

for items. There are discussions of trying to acquire the adjacent property to the east and construct a town square park. This is still in the discussion phase with no decisions confirmed.

The property across from the public works building will become Breton and Area Recreation grounds. A pump track and off leash park is scheduled for this area with the construction date yet to be determined. This recreation area would also encompass the Golden Spur Gymkhana grounds and the newly developed soccer fields. The land to the east of the gymkhana arena has been fenced to allow the development of 2 soccer fields. The development still requires the parking area to be completed but has given a home to the Breton Soccer Club. With over 100 local children playing soccer in Breton, it was a much need addition to the community.

Many residents are aware of the brick fundraiser that was held when building the new community centre. The bricks finally have a home to be proudly displayed. Initially they were to be displayed on a wall within the centre however during construction none of the walls were built with the strength to hold the weight of the bricks (they are made from ¼" granite). The alternative has been decided to build an outdoor memorial wall in front of the community centre between the two entrances. The wall will have an overhang over the bricks that will have lighting installed to provide an accent to the wall.

The Breton golf course has also been busy undergoing changes. Our beloved Salt n Pepper will be relocating to the Centraplex building and occupying the former pro shop and restaurant area. The proshop has been relocated to a new building to the north of the former one. We are thrilled that Salt n Pepper are staying in the community and look forward to welcoming them in their new space next month!

Last fall we had a company by the name of Enviro Trace come to the Village to do an inspection of all main water lines. With various ages of materials in the ground we wanted to know the condition of the water lines. This is a way for administration to budget effectively for any repairs required. We were thrilled to hear that our main water lines are all in excellent shape. They did find one leak which has been repaired and provided a substantial decrease in the daily water usage of the Village.

The month of May brought an addition to our waste management process. We joined the ever-growing number of communities in Alberta and included green bin service to the Village. This gives residents the convenience of having yard waste and organics collected from the end of their driveway on a biweekly basis. If you would like more information on collection schedules or what goes where in each bin a guideline can be found on our website, our Facebook page or by dropping into the Village office for a paper copy.

Over the last two winters public works has endeavored to improve the snow removal process in the Village. More snow is now hauled away off the roads than before. We understand that not everyone is pleased when snow is plowed to their side of their street however, we do have a snow removal policy in place that identifies which side of the street is to be plowed based on location of drains and grades of various streets. We are reviewing this policy each year with hopes to improve on it each time.

This year's July 1st celebrations is shaping up nicely! All activities will be held in the green space behind the community centre after the parade. The car show will be held in the high school parking lot and the beer gardens will be on the south side of the community centre. There are currently 7 food trucks booked. We have a few new attractions this year so be sure to drop by after the parade. The Elks will be offering their outstanding "pay what you can" pancake breakfast again this year at the community centre prior to the parade. We are still looking for some volunteers to help attend some of the activities. If you can spare an hour that afternoon, please reach out to Dana at the Village office. The fireworks that are usually held on July 1st have now been switched to follow the Parade of Lights in December. (the date is yet to be confirmed). With what seems to be an increasing amount of wildfire concerns in our warmer season we felt it was more responsible to hold them when less risk is involved. Last year the feedback we received was wonderful. Especially with the addition of the hot chocolate and cookies handed out by the soccer club parents! We will announce the date for the parade as soon as it is confirmed.

An excellent local awareness event is scheduled for September 24th at the community centre beginning at 4:30pm. This event will showcase the many groups, sports teams, clubs etc in our area. Also, this year we are holding a chilli cook off! Be sure to mark the date on your calendars and watch the Village Facebook page, FCSS Facebook page and the Booster for more information. Rumor has it a little competition has developed between council and staff as to who "builds" the meanest chilli! Come join us and judge for yourself!

Breton has also formed a flower club in the community! The club members have joined the Communities in Bloom program and will be begin planting flowers throughout the Village the last week of May (weather permitting). If you would like to purchase a planter for your business or organization the flower club will plant the flowers for you and public works will keep them watered. If interested, please reach out to the Village office and they can put you in touch with the flower club.

This summer season you will also see some road work going on around the Village. There will be crack sealing through out the Village as well as the sunken sections on Willow will be fixed. The exit off of Highway 20 at the Esso, along with the intersection by the Faith Covenant Church will be fixed. The steep drainage curb that runs east west along 51st Avenue will also be repaired. Public works will also be addressing the east end of 50th Avenue (in front of the RCMP) and around the loop

to 51st Avenue. Grading will begin of back alleys once the ground is a little less muddy. Along with these road repairs we are also doing some sidewalk repairs. The exact locations of these are being reviewed.

In closing we are very pleased to announce that we have been able to reduce the operating budget and offer a mill rate reduction for this year's taxes. Our property assessments have increased substantially within the Village and with that usually means that the amount of tax goes up for property owners even if the Village doesn't raise the tax rates. In an effort to try and mitigate this increase for our taxpayers, council unanimously agreed to decrease the tax rate by 3% on both residential and commercial properties. If you feel that your assessment was too high, please consider filing an appeal with the assessor. Details on how to appeal can be found enclosed.

We welcome your feedback. We have just touched on a few of the highlights around the Village the last couple of years. There are many more great things that have happened in Breton, many of which are discussed in council. We invite you each to attend any council meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm. If you have a concern that you would like to be brought to council, please contact the office and the staff can guide you through the process to be added to the agenda.

Thank you for your continued support in our beautiful Village of Breton. It truly does take a village and our Village is one of the best!

Yours truly,

Village of Breton Mayor and Council

Mayor Shayanne Sheaves
Deputy Mayor Glory Tornack
Councillor Bob Parkyn
Councillor Alan Barker
Councillor Heather Barrett



APPEALING ASSESSMENT NOTICES

If you wish to file a complaint about your current assessment, you must file your complaint on or before the complaint deadline stated on your combined tax and assessment notice. The deadline is 60 days after the notice of assessment date.

Anyone wishing to appeal the assessment value on any property listed on the assessment roll must do so by July 29, 2024, using only the prescribed "Assessment Review Board Complaint" form #LGS1402 (2009/08), which is available at the Village Office. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee per residential parcel or \$100 per non-residential parcel, which will be refunded to the complainant if the complaint is successful.

The Property Assessor is available to discuss any concerns or questions you may have about your property assessment by phoning Compass Assessment Consultants Inc. at 1-800-251-9711.

