

September 1, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1



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Our Sincere Thanks!

THANK YOU for your overwhelming support in the recent election!

At our organizational meeting on August 24th the following appointments were made.

Mayor :
Ian Rawlinson

Deputy Mayor :
Ron LaJeunesse

Councilor :
Margaret Gagnon

Campaigning was an incredible experience for all 3 of us. Throughout the process we spoke with many of you and learnt there is a wealth of family history associated with Crystal Springs and enjoyed hearing it all.

We were listening!!! Items that came up included our sewer, roads, bylaws and enforcement, security, parks, and walking paths . We will continue hearing from you and over the coming months we will be asking for your priorities and ideas to move us forward in a positive way.

Leadership, Unity and Respect will be our guiding principles as we develop our vision for the next 4 years.

Lastly we will do our part by providing up to date, clear, precise information and we are thrilled to be working together with you in leading Crystal Springs.

We are truly honored to serve this great community!



DID YOU KNOW?

- Due to safety issues caused by protracted work on the demolition of the old "green store," the former Council ordered removal. The \$10,000 cost will be recovered through appropriate measures.
- "Crystal Clear" will be delivered and emailed 4 times a year!



One item we heard while campaigning is that you want to be involved, informed and have the opportunity to provide input to council.

Regular Council Meetings

In this regard council will meet every second Tuesday of the Month from 4-6pm in the Summer Village office. Regular and special meetings will be planned for weekends when feasible

We invite you to attend and participate in council . Should you wish to speak or make a formal presentation please contact our CAO at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date to be placed on the agenda.

WE WANT YOUR EMAIL!

We have over 70 people on our email list already!

You will receive all newsletters electronically as well as any updates from council.

If you want on the list simply send me an email -
ian.rawlinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca

We are on the web

www.crystalsprings.ca

Contact Information

Mayor

Ian Rawlinson
ian.rawlinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca
403-896-7897

Deputy Mayor

Ron Lajeunesse
ronlajeunesse@ionline.ca
587-409-4719

Councilor

Margaret Gagnon
margaretgagnon@gmail.com
780-231-2548

CAO-Office Hours
TUESDAY 9-3

Or by email or phone
Mrs. Denise Thompson
info@crystalsprings.ca
780-360-7000

Bylaw Enforcement

Doris MacAllister
780-719-6447

Police Complaints

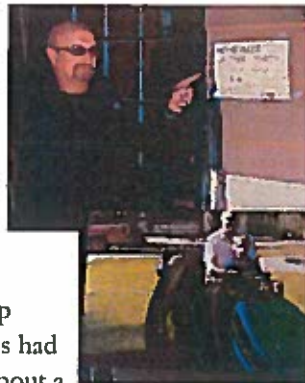
780-312-7200
Emergency-911



Gord Lesoway!

Gord is our public works manager here in Crystal...he is responsible for keeping things looking great and fixing or doing anything that our village needs done!

A few years ago he had to clear up thousands of fish and lately he has had to mow his little tractor around about a million little flags and has done so with great care and a smile!



Thanks Gord!!!

If you would like to recognize anyone in the community for going above and beyond simply send me an email at :

ian.rawlinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca

Following their removal from the Central administration arrangement at Ma-Me-O, the former Council had to hire a new CAO, locate new offices, employ financial personnel and

generally restructure their administration. The current expenses associated with this independent operation is simply not sustainable and your Council is examining other administrative models.



One such option is the employment of a traditional CA for very

limited hours along with the support of a highly skilled "Executive Assistant." If you or anyone you know may be interested in a municipal position and have computer software accounting and office management experience, are highly organized, able to multi-task, have good interpersonal skills and impeccable references, please contact Mayor Ian Rawlinson.

Sewer Q and A

Your Council heard many resident concerns about the wastewater project during the election and immediately called an urgent meeting with engineers, contractors and financial personnel. The following Q & A has been prepared to fully inform residents of "where we are at."

Q. What is the South Pigeon Wastewater Communal system?

A. It is a partnership among all south Pigeon municipalities to install a public "low pressure" wastewater transfer system, funded by Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments.

Q. What does the system consist of?

A. Think of it as four distinct, but interrelated parts. (1) A modern effluent treatment lagoon in Mulhurst connected by pipe to a pumping station by the Village. (2) A transfer line from the Village to Crystal Springs along RR 11, (3) Pipe installed down Crystal Springs Drive, and (4) Private property installation of a pumping system.

Q. What has been done?

A. Part 1, the treatment lagoon and pipe are complete and paid for with grants. Part 2 the transfer line from the Village to Crystal Springs has been tendered by the County and is expected to be in no later than spring 2018. Until this line is completed no sewer can flow. It is 90% funded by the province and then 10% cost shared with other municipalities. Our portion is expected to be 1 to 2% or approximately \$10,000. Part 3 is presently underway, also funded by grants. Completion to property lines is expected by mid October.. Lastly, part 4 the local connection system, unfortunately has no plan in place.

Q. Was a change made to the local line installation (part 3) this month?

A. Yes. In an effort to reduce future costs the previous Council initiated a "change order" that added to the cost of the local line by extending each pipe to the property line. They also agreed that the contractor (Fusion) could contact homeowners to extend the pump to homeowner tanks. We have clarified the instruction to MPE (Sewer Engineering Company) asking for property line installation for homes with a tank and not one per lot. It seemed to be wasteful to run pipes to undeveloped properties or to run 2 lines to one property that has 2 lots. The costs incurred to date are covered almost exclusively by grants. In simple terms one house, one tank, one line is the way to think of it.

Should future development of these empty or combined lots occur, a tie in "stub" is located on the main line and could always be easily accessed.

Q. Has there been much disruption laying the local line?

A. It is big job and disruption is inevitable. Council has however raised issues of safety, garbage access, sanitation and parking. Although there is a Fusion project manager on site, council asks that future concerns you have be raised with CAO Thompson so she can work with the appropriate parties.

Q. What direction has been given to engineers and contractors?

A. Council moved on four fronts. (1) The extension of pipe to each property line was temporarily halted while a reduced cost was confirmed. (2) Homeowners are advised that IF YOU decide to proceed by bringing the line onto your property do so with caution. Tank locations, future connections, cost variables and permit requirements make the choice risky. Residents are encouraged to discuss their specific situation with CAO Thompson. (3) Engineers have been instructed to prepare a comprehensive individualized plan that would allow a tendered contractor to assess tank integrity, modify/replace existing tanks as necessary, install power and pump systems and connect to the main line. (4) Engineers and financial officers will complete a comprehensive review of current grants, municipal funds and borrowing options in order to support homeowner costs to the greatest extent possible.

In short our vision is : Once all stubs are in, we will acquire a certified tank inspector and installer, they go house to house and speak with each homeowner to determine tank needs, locations, pipe connections, electrical, and equipment needed for each household. Competitive quotes will be acquired. As council we will then order needed equipment (on bulk) and arrange installation in consultation with all parties. Once the plan is finalized, we will arrange complete installation by the one contractor (sub-contractors). Once we have the complete "picture" council will consider all possibilities of support and assistance for residents.

Q. What is the timing?

A. Plans and finances should be confirmed before the end of September. Resident information regarding plans will follow shortly thereafter. It is now highly unlikely that home wastewater services will be operational before late spring/summer of 2018.



CAO Update

Council has made the decision to remove current CAO, Brad Watson from his position, effective August 28th, 2017.

An interim CAO, Mrs. Denise Thompson, has returned to this position for the month of September and will work with us on the current status of our sewer system install, transitional planning and financial records.

As you know the CAO is vital to our community especially during times of transition and while major capital projects are underway.

Mrs. Thompson is not a stranger to the role as she did an exemplary job in this role prior to resigning her position this spring .

An important role of Mrs. Thompson will be

assisting council in securing a permanent CAO by October of this year.

Please see the back page for more information on a potential employment opportunity.



Get Involved!



PARKS AND RECREATION

Council has approved in principle the formation of a new PARKS AND RECREATION committee. While detailed "terms of reference" are now being developed, plans are for two "work groups" that will assist Council in both the revitalization and operation of parks and the development of new recreation programs and services. With an emphasis on community building, the groups will be asked to focus on both short and long term planning while assisting with new funding research and applications. One group might examine environmental initiatives and park improvements like improved playgrounds, while the other might develop recreational opportunities for youth and adults such as swimming lessons and community social events.

Deputy Mayor Ron LaJeunesse will serve in liaison with the committee. Anyone with questions or who may have interest in serving on the committee is invited to contact Ron .

DEVELOPMENT APPEAL

Part 17 of the Municipal Government Act provides for the establishment of a DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD to "hear and decide upon appeals against decisions" of authorities and development officers with respect to permits and stop orders. The Board consists of a member of Council and two members of the public, selected from a roster.

Councillor Margaret Gagnon will serve in liaison with this Board. Previous members of the Board are strongly encouraged to apply and Margret will contact you, however applications are open and any citizen interested in this responsibility are invited to contact her at her contact information included on the back of this newsletter.