



### **Catching up with Town activities:**

- Several members of Council attended the 2018 SUMA Conference held in Regina from February 3 to 7. The Conference not only ensures great opportunities for learning, but also for networking with other municipal representatives who face issues similar to our own.
- SUMA allowed for a chance to meet with several Ministers to present issues and opportunities facing our community. The meeting with Minister of Rural & Remote Health, Greg Ottenbreit, included discussion about the need for Provincial Standards for Sharps disposal, an offer to become a pilot site for providing Community input to the Saskatchewan Health Authority, and the need to ensure that rural voices have consistent opportunities to be heard in relation to reasonable access to health services for everyone. Discussions also included a request for support from the Ministry of Health regarding the need for improved access to housing as housing is a known determinant of health. A request for the Minister of Health to assist with efforts to achieve Assisted Living services in our community was also raised.
- Discussions with Minister Dustin Duncan, Minister of the Environment, included the need for standardized Provincial Sharps Disposal processes as well as discussions about the opportunity to participate in the Landfill Advisory Committee.
- The meeting with Gordon Wyant, Minister of Education, focused on the increased need in rural areas for access to Pre-K programming, as currently it appears that access is limited, and therefore requires several families to travel long distances regularly to access services. Some families are feeling the need to relocate to achieve easier access for their children. The request for assistance in the efforts to increase housing opportunities was also discussed with this Minister.
- The Town's 2018 Budget will see a 2.5% increase. While there will be no decrease to the level of services, this budget establishes a reserve for future planning around the Town's strategic plan. The budget includes an enhancement in the finance department and new budgeting software to assist the finance department in assuring more timely information as well as ALL-Net communication software to reduce the amount of paper and time spent photocopying.
  - We are aware and cautious that the Provincial budget day is April 10<sup>th</sup>, and the impact of Provincial budget decisions may also impact our budget.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the open-house on January 29<sup>th</sup> to hear and provide your input into the Town's Strategic Plan. Your feedback and input was truly appreciated.

### **Congratulations:**

- Congratulations to everyone in the community for your active participation. Thank you to the volunteers from every sector.
- Nipawin has accepted the Go Out & Play Challenge powered by Saskatchewan Blue Cross and Saskatchewan In-Motion and we need all residents to help us win \$10,000! The community with the most minutes of physical activity logged during the **March 1 – 10, 2018** challenge will win the grand prize. We want it to be us! For more information and to find out how to register, contact Derek Seckinger, Program Coordinator at 306-862-9795
- Thank you to the snow removal team that works diligently to keep our streets clean and safe during the winter months.

### **Reminders:**

- Please remember, crossing the yellow line on main street or other streets in Nipawin is a violation of Highway Traffic Laws. To ensure the safety of everyone, please DO NOT cross the centre line to park on the opposite side of the street.
- If you don't have a blue "handicapped" sign please DO NOT park in handicap parking areas!
- Cat owners are reminded that cats, in the same manner as dogs, are not allowed to wander at large. Due to the large number of cats wandering at large, the current bylaw is under review.
- Effective immediately, plastic grocery bags, plastic wraps, etc. are no longer accepted in our blue bins (please see our website for more information). Though I also have to constantly remind myself, let's all please remember to take our cloth bags with us to the grocery store.
- There is a by-election scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the Town Office or see our website for information regarding nomination dates, etc.