

## **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **CAO - CORPORATE SUPPORT**

The Market Group (local artisan style market) has been confirmed as the new tenant for the 8 McRae Street building, effective April 15, 2018.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

#### Pason Arena Expansion Project Update

As part of the 2016 capital budget Council approved the Pason Centennial Arena Expansion Project, with a construction budget of 15 million dollars. The primary funding source for the project was the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (provincial funding), with the remaining balance of the project funds from the Recreation Facilities Reserve. The project includes the addition of an NHL sized ice-surface which is compatible for sledge hockey, a leisure ice surface, 5 dressing rooms, 3 multi-purpose rooms, office space for Okotoks Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), referee's room, viewing areas, lobby areas, space for public art and supporting amenity space. Construction commenced in the fall of 2016. The expansion will open to the public at 4:00 p.m. January 31. The project will be completed on time, within the approved capital budget, and with no debentures required. The formal ribbon cutting ceremony will occur March 3, in conjunction with the Tim Bits tournament. Administration hosted a scheduling charrette with all user groups and the facility is already at 100% capacity for the prime time for the hockey season. In alignment with the Town's desire to be a welcoming and inclusive community, an exciting new programming opportunity will be the barrier free ice, which allows the surface to be utilized for sledge hockey and other on-ice opportunities for the mobility challenged.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS**

#### China's influence on the Recycling Industry

There has been a lot of media coverage on China's decision to no longer accept North American recycling. At the last Council meeting a question was asked about the impact. The update from our Waste Services Manager indicates that because of decisions we've made to ensure the quality of our recyclables, this should lead to minimal impact, however, will require continuous monitoring.

Green Fence 2013 (Plastic) and National Sword 2017 (Fibre) recyclables are a commodity and subjected to the same scrutiny as any other. Over the years,

North American Material Recover Facilities (MRF) have invented creative ways to manage the materials and today, we are affected by those decisions. Material processed in some North American facilities have had contaminations, such as; regular garbage, medical waste (including needles) etc. in the bales delivered to paper mills. Facilities in China also have to deal with fibre too degraded to process which ends up in landfills. Mixed waste paper (sorted residential paper) is of the greatest concern for the market currently.

MRFs here in North America have processing targets and this also affects the quality of the recyclables. Privately owned facilities are operating at, or above 40 tonnes per hour. This could be one of the single most detrimental factors affecting the quality of the final product. Single stream collection is the next factor, affecting the quality of the material processed in MRFs. In areas using a dual collection system, should be less constrained to meet the China requirement.

Removing glass and film from single stream collection will improve the quality of the products. The best method to managing the requirements as required by China would be to collect fibre separate from plastics, steel and aluminum cans.

A small MRF will be economically viable if the material was separated. This operation would require less mechanization and manual labor. The price for the commodity could also be higher because of the higher quality raw material. Emerging markets in India, Vietnam and Taiwan are also available and need to be explored further. China now accounts for approximately 60% of the market.

The Town's collection contractor foresee no issue with collecting and recycling of fibre as they are not totally dependent on the Chinese market. Material collected at the Eco Centre will also not be adversely affected. Our brokers have continued accepting the material and will continue once the quality of the product is maintained. Waste Services will continue to monitor all developments to ensure the materials collected are properly managed.

From a Regional level the members in the Foothills Regional Services Commission (FRSC) through its Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will discuss strategy for managing all recyclables.

## **PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

### **"New Reality": Emergency Management for Special Events Conference**

The Town, in partnership with Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) hosted an all-day conference called New Reality: Emergency Management for Special Events. The event included presentations surrounding emergency response and planning from the Edmonton Police service, who dealt with a terrorist attack in October, as well members of the Ottawa Police service. Dr. Satyamoorthy Kabilan, who facilitated the event, leads a team that covers National Security, Emergency Management, Cyber Security as well as Strategic Foresight. The conference was an extremely valuable event and very well received by the people who spoke and attended. It was the first event on this topic held in Canada. Staff did an exceptional job of describing what the Town is doing for the preparation and organization of town events.

Compiled by:  
Chief Administrative Officer's Office  
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