



While the rain and cool weather has been a blessing and helped ease the drought that our area has battled for the last few years, the heat is on the way in the coming days. Thanks to a lot of hard work by our Public Works team, the Kale Porteous Memorial Splash Park is finally up and running for the season. Staff battled to keep the system running properly all last year and this spring found some serious problems. After excavating the tank and plumbing they found a very poor job of putting the pipes together by the contractor. Worse yet, it appears they did not test the system before burying everything resulting in ground water continuously entering the tank. We are all very grateful for the perseverance and effort by the team in solving this problem and getting this wonderful memorial back in operation in time for the 35° weather next week! The broken and plugged pipes at the swimming pool are pretty much repaired also. The concrete pool deck had to be excavated in a few spots to make those repairs and those are being fixed now and the pool is being filled. Our fingers are crossed that sometime next week everything will be ready to go. The new liner in the pool had some initial issues but those were rectified by the installers. Tracing the problems with the lines was difficult as they are all encased in concrete, but with more hard work and determination by the team, along with some expert assistance and equipment, they finally solved the problem. We thank the community for your patience, understanding and support during this time. Note that during all this, staff have kept on top of regular summer maintenance and repairs. Thanks also to our pool staff who were drafted into painting and other chores they didn't expect to be doing this season, but they'll be on lifeguard duty pretty soon.

While all this was going on, the Public Works team has been installing water and sewer lines in the new Parkview Subdivision, completed the new playground and laid out the irrigation system in the park. The paving contractor will be in town soon to do the annual patching and repairs but will also be laying the walking trails in the park as well. If the moisture situation and water supply holds up over the next couple of months new grass will go in later as well. Once the water and sewer installations are complete the lots in Parkview will be prepared and we may see some building start this fall.

As mentioned, the rain has been great, but with hot weather coming I am sure yard watering will commence but I urge you to manage your water use wisely, if for no other reason than get the most out of your water dollars. Water flowers and gardens by hand, especially in the cool parts of the day (early morning is best) and avoid running your sprinklers in the heat of the day to reduce evaporation loss. Give your trees priority and protect them from drying out. They should be watered by hand at the base, getting the water down to about 18". If your lawn dries up it will generally recover, the trees won't. When using sprinklers on your lawn, set them so they aren't wasting water on the sidewalks and street. Those are your \$\$ running down the gutter and aren't doing anything for anyone. These tips are in our [Drought Management Plan](#) at this link.

It was heartbreaking to witness the devastating fire at Hiebert Cabinets on June 6th. John and his staff have understandably been rocked by this loss but are already hard at work filling orders and making sales while they work out of the Jade Homes facilities. We have been proud to have a business like Hiebert Cabinets operating here for the last 20 years and have seen them grow to where they just opened a new showroom in Coaldale and had been making plans for expanding production here. I wish John and everyone all the best in recovering from this event, and hope he and his team will be able to get rebuilt soon so everyone can get back to doing the quality work they are known for. I am very grateful for the efforts of our firefighters in battling the blaze through the night and into the next day and am especially thankful that no one was injured. We were lucky that the very high winds of two days prior were calm that night.

The Friday Market and Market in the Park are back for another season, so get out and meet your neighbours and support the vendors at the Golden Age Club and Centennial Park.

Mayor Gordon Reynolds