

## energy town of Crossfield eV/S

Oct. 23, 2020

## Downtown Revitalization Project update



Underground work on Railway St. was completed early this week. Despite the snow and chillier temperatures, crews were able to complete the last of the underground construction in front of Carmen's Bigway and Mountain View Financial

Also this week, crews took advantage of slightly warmer temperatures on Tuesday to pour the sidewalks on the west side at the northern end of the project.

The last of the curbs should be poured next week - weather permitting. Then the first paving of Railway Street from Osler Ave. to Limit Ave. will be done the week of Nov. 2, again weather permitting.

Any questions regarding the Downtown Revitalization project can be sent to downtown@crossfieldalberta.com

## Harris and Gustafson win council seats in by-election

A by-election to fill two vacant seats on Crossfield Town council was held Oct. 19. A total of 797 votes were cast in what ended up being a tight race, at least for one of the seats. Once the dust settled, Kim Harris had easily won a spot on council with 382 votes; however, Jo Lambert and Justin Gustafson were tied with 194 votes each.

Under section 99 of the Alberta Elections Act, the returning officer is tasked with breaking a tie by putting the names of the tied candidates in a hat and pulling out one name. Gustafson was the ultimate winner and was awarded one additional vote to narrowly defeat Lambert for the second council seat.

Harris said she was, "excited and honoured that people put their trust in me to help lead Crossfield forward In a positive productive way."

For his part, Gustafson said he was "excited and invigorated" to have another opportunity to give back to his community.

The new councillors will be sworn in at an organizational meeting of council Oct. 26. This meeting gets underway at 8 p.m. and is open to the public. A regular council meeting takes place the next evening, beginning at 7 p.m.



Kim Harris is one of two new councillors elected to Crossfield Town council through a by-election.



Justin Gustafson won the second seat on Town council by the narrowest of margins.

Harris said her first task in taking office would be to build a relationship with council and administration while learning the role of a councillor.

Gustafson had a similar response, and said he'd first

work "to update myself with as much information on council and Town activities that have been occurring in the past years since the last election."

The new councillors will serve a one-year term as there is a general municipal election in October 2021. While this doesn't give Harris and Gustafson a lot of time to make their presence on council known, they both said they'd do as much as they could in the short time available.

"What I hope to accomplish in the next year on council will be to instil trust and confidence back with the community," Gustafson said.

"I think there are some things that my fellow councillors and I can do to work together to be more transparent and professional, to showcase Crossfield in the best way," Harris said. "Some steps are already being taken by hiring a human resources contractor to streamline staff roles and responsibilities, amongst other efficiencies."

The two open spots on council were the result of the resignations of previous councillors Liz Grace and Beth Gabriel in June.

Gustafson is a long-time community resident and volunteer, and president of the local Alberta Elks Club. Leading up to the election, he said he was running so he could help ensure Crossfield developed into a vibrant

community, with its residents at its core.

Harris ran on a platform of transparency and accountability and said she would endeavour to live up to that platform.

"I have some thoughts on how council and the Town could share more information with residents, reviewing what boards council sits on and, if my peers agree, streamlining reporting to council in a way that facts and information are easy for everyone to understand," she said. "I hope to work together with my council colleagues to discuss and try some of these thoughts out. It is also very important to me to stay connected and open to listening to our residents."

Information about upcoming council meetings can be found on the Town's website, crossfieldalberta.com, under the Town Government tab.

## Show off your Halloween style



The Crossfield Agricultural Society is hosting a Halloween decorating contest this year. Post a photo of your spooky, silly or terrifying decorations on the Society's Facebook page and be entered to win a \$100 gift card for the Crossfield

Christmas Market, Nov. 7. A winner will be drawn on Halloween.

This year's Crossfield Christmas Market is going to be bigger than ever. Find out more at facebook.com/ crossfieldfarmersmarket



Send your suggestions for something you'd like us to cover in eNews or photos you'd love us to share with the community to media@crossfieldalberta.com