

# VILLAGE OF DONALDA

Spring 2024



## INTRODUCTION OF NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Let me introduce myself - my name is Myron Thompson and I am the Official Administrator appointed by Alberta Municipal Affairs to take on the interim role of Council due to loss of Council Quorum.

## WATER RESERVOIR PROJECT UPDATE

The Village Administration would like to provide the residents an update on the Village's water reservoir to create awareness and a better understanding of the status of the Village's existing water standpipe reservoir and an anticipated project for the replacement of this important structure. This summary, as well as information being compiled, will be provided to Council post-election and will assist in final decision making.

The Village of Donalda has been a member of the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC) for 10 years. The Village of Donalda, along with 13 other municipalities that make up this commission, receive quality potable water for the respective communities. The Village of Donalda, unlike the other municipal partners, has the regional water line tie in directly to the Village's distribution system. This method of tie-in could compromise other users tied into the system as well as cause other operational concerns should service disruptions or other issues arise.

The SMRWSC assists the Village in the operation and maintenance of the existing water standpipe and supports the construction of a new reservoir. *A new reservoir will ensure a safe and reliable source of water is provided for the Village* and as well as to ensure there is adequate storage in the event of system failures and importantly the ability to provide for fire protection.

There has been considerable discussion and apprehension about a proposed water reservoir that is needed for the municipality. The existing water reservoir is a standpipe installed in the mid 1960's. The standpipe has experienced increasing failures over the past number of years with some of them remedied in 2018 with some refurbishment that was undertaken. In 2023 there was a major failure in the underground fill pipe that required the installation of a temporary above ground fill pipe which has allowed the standpipe to remain in operation. This is a temporary measure that requires heat trace cables and electric heat to allow continued operation through the winter months.





The three main areas of concern with the existing standpipe is lack of storage including that for fire storage, water quality, and winter operation. There is currently no fire storage capabilities with the existing standpipe and over the course of several years, during winter months freezing has occurred in the standpipe creating issues. Stagnant water and low chlorine levels in the upper regions of the standpipe have also been an ongoing concern. When the latter issue occurs, the standpipe has to be drained and refilled.

## A PLAN FORWARD

Numerous options have been explored and will be shared with the incoming Council. Preliminary review has indicated that the best option to address the operational and reliability concerns of the Village's water distribution system **is to replace the existing standpipe with an underground reservoir and pumphouse.**

To date, some preliminary design work has been undertaken on a new system. This new system would provide pumping capabilities for peak hourly demand as well as the needed fire flows, provide water storage capabilities for consumption and required fire flows, and the provision of bulk water fill.

Preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$4.3 Million with 75% of the project cost confirmed in funding through the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership Funding program. The remaining costs are supported through additional grants and funding. With these sources of project funding expected, **the residents of Donalda are not expected to experience any financial impact through either utility rates or property taxes.**

The location of a new reservoir would be expected to be constructed on the Village owned parcel in the SE corner of the municipality between Alberta Ave and Railway Ave (RR185), directly east of the existing fire hall and south of the ball diamond.

The Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission has committed to assist the Village with this project where needed. This assistance will ensure the final outcome of the project benefits the Village of Donalda with new reservoir that provides better pressure, better water quality and increased storage, while ensuring the integrity of the regional system, and finally maintaining the same water rates for the residents of the Village.

It is expected that a public Open House on this project will be hosted for the community post-election and the information and input gathered at the Open House will further assist in finalizing this important project.