



# CHESTERMERE

## Mayor's Message

Could it be that summer has finally agreed to show itself? After what seems to be months of dreary cold weather we are seeing green grass and vibrant plants all around the Town. It's also that time of year when taxes have been sent out.

When budget was done in the Fall, the tax increase was set at roughly the estimated rate of inflation for 2010. We are proud to say Chestermere still has one of the lowest tax rates in Southern Alberta and that this year the majority of the increase was geared toward improving some existing services or implementing new ones. Our RCMP service is now at full compliment, we have implemented our Community Peace Officer program with two officers now working full time and we have committed a larger portion of our budget to recreational needs for our community.

The tax rate set by the municipality is the same for all residences but your payment may vary depending on what your property is assessed at for the year. Legislation directs assessment but if you have any questions about how this process works please feel free to contact us.

A few important issues:

- **Garden Competition** – don't forget to enter this year's Garden Competition, brought to you by the Streetscape Committee. This is a great way to get to know your neighbours and see some really talented gardeners! Competition entries should be dropped off at Town Hall by July 19<sup>th</sup>. Good luck!
- **Weed control** - the Town does have a weed control program that starts in early summer of every year. Dandelions get sprayed and other broadleaf weeds as well. However, these weeds are not considered restricted (requiring eradication like Knapweed) or noxious (have to be controlled to stop from spreading) by the Province. Our Parks department is doing their very best to keep on top of the situation but weather can hamper the efforts to keep areas immediately maintained. For more detailed categories of weeds please see our website, [www.chestermere.ca](http://www.chestermere.ca).
- **Block Parties** – what a great way to reacquaint yourself with your neighbours. Community Services has already had a few requests for Block Party kits but there are plenty left. If you are interested in hosting a Block Party please contact 403-207-7060 for more information on where to pick up your kit!
- **Canada Day** – Please don't forget to come out for Canada Day celebrations again this year at John Peake Park, 7 pm. We are having a movie in the park again plus many other activities like Wii games and the unveiling of John Morris Way. And of course there will be cake! Please see [www.chestermerefestivals.ca](http://www.chestermerefestivals.ca) for further details.

Congratulations to the Events Coordinators for the Cancer Relay for Life. This was the first year for the Relay and while the sound levels are definitely something to be worked on for next time, the participants **raised over \$110,000** to help end cancer. Way to go Chestermere!!

Happy Canada Day!!

*Mayor Matthews*