

January 15, 2018

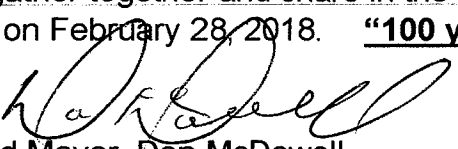
Nobleford seeks TOWN status

February 28, 2018 marks the day that Nobleford has been a Village for 100 years. February 28, 1918 the Village of Nobleford was formed with 100 people. The Heritage of Nobleford is credited to those few families, and those that followed, whom toiled for generations to build Nobleford. According to Federal census, over the next 83 years the population steadily grew to 610 in 2001. In the next 15 years, Nobleford's population doubled to 1278 in 2016. In Nobleford Centennial year of 2018 we will be 1350 people. **"100 years of growing together"**.

In 2011 census, Nobleford's population was 1000 people making it eligible for TOWN status. Since 2011, and before, Nobleford and area residents have debated the progression of Nobleford to TOWN status with cautious optimism. There are a number of Towns and Villages that have seen population decline and Nobleford wanted to be comfortable in a stable population growth before it requested TOWN status. The boom of the past 10 years has seen the number of homes in Nobleford double along with the population. 20 new Industrial business developments and job opportunities in Nobleford have grown from 30 in 2000 to nearly 300 in 2018. The appeal of new and upgraded quality service infrastructure, low taxes, fees, healthy sustainable financial planning and management, fostered the boom. Will this continue? All indicators show Nobleford's population, prosperity and sustainability very stable. The feedback from community chatter, public meetings and hearings related to topics such as: new sub divisions, land Use Bylaws, Municipal Development Plans, and Inter Municipal plans all addressed the question of **"Should and when will Nobleford be a TOWN"**. Encouragement over the past years, from Nobleford residents, to become a TOWN has been heard and now validated by past and present Council to make a request to the Province of Alberta to be recognized as a TOWN effective during our Centennial year in 2018. Not all residents feel that there is a benefit or reason to be recognized as a TOWN because the VILLAGE status is their preference. Can we maintain our unique attributes? Would our ancestors that built Nobleford approve of this next step in Nobleford's History? Is the Centennial year an appropriate time to go from a Village to a Town?

What will happen if Nobleford is approved for TOWN status, is the second most asked question. It is mostly a NAME change. Most grants are based mainly on population and being named a TOWN will make little difference in general grants. There are potentially some grants, and other opportunities that Villages may not be eligible for that Towns may be. All municipalities receive RCMP service until a population of 5000 people, over 5000 population will cost more money for Police service. Nobleford bylaws allow for the continuation of election at large of a 5 person municipal council. It is a name change. To some, a significant name change, to others insignificant. The most asked question is, **"What is the future of Nobleford"**? Again, you will have the opportunity to be part of the discussion of our future. In 2018/ 2019 there will be public meetings and hearings on updating our Inter Municipal and Municipal development plans. This is when the change of direction of Nobleford takes place. Watch the nobleford.ca web site and newsletter for information. Whether being named a Village or Town, the future is bright for Nobleford.

Please gather together and share in the Birthday celebration at the Nobleford Community Complex, 6:45pm, on February 28, 2018. **"100 years of growing together"**.


Nobleford Mayor, Don McDowell


Nobleford CAO, Kirk Hofman CAO

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