**VILLAGE OF ALMA - AMALGAMATION UPDATE**

*Bulletin No. 2*

February 15, 2022

# TO RECALL FROM BULLETIN NO. 1

The amalgamation process has begun! Here is what we know so far:

* The incorporated Village of Alma and its Council will cease on January 1, 2023.
* Alma will become part of a larger local government entity (currently known as Entity 42) that will include Alma, Riverside-Albert, Hillsborough, Harvey, Hopewell, a portion of Lower Coverdale and all points in between.
* Municipal elections for the new entity will be held on November 28, 2022.

# --- LATEST NEWS ---

**COUNCIL COMPOSITION**

* The “Elected Officials Advisory Committee” met twice last week, and following their deliberations, we are now awaiting a final decision from the Provincial Government on the Council composition for the new Entity 42. As of today, we believe that the Provincial Government will prescribe the following for Entity 42.
* Entity 42 will be divided into six (6) Wards.
* The eligible voters in each Ward will elect one (1) Councillor, who will sit on the new Council and represent the Ward.
* *INFORMATION NOTE:* When a Councillor is elected to represent a particular Ward, they must consider the interests of the entire Entity when they are engaged in the decision-making process at Council meetings.
* Additionally, all eligible voters in Entity 42 will vote for one (1) Mayor.
* The six (6) Wards for Entity 42 are as follows:
	+ The combined area of the Village of Alma, the Alma Local Service District (LSD) and the Harvey LSD, will comprise one (1) Ward, and will elect one (1) Councillor.
	+ The combined area of the Village of Riverside-Albert and the Hopewell LSD, will comprise one (1) Ward, and will elect one (1) Councillor.
	+ The combined area of the Village of Hillsborough, the Hillsborough LSD, and the Coverdale LSD will comprise four (4) Wards, and each of these Wards will elect one (1) Councillor.
	+ All voters, in all six (6) Wards, will vote for the one (1) Mayor.
	+ The details of the Ward boundaries are not yet established. This will be decided at a later date not yet known to us.
* What this means for the Village of Alma, is as follows. We will be going:
	+ **FROM** >> our current Council that has one (1) Mayor, no Wards, and three (3) Councillors, all residing in the Village of Alma;
	+ **TO** >> a situation under the new Entity 42, where we in Alma, will elect one (1) Councillor, and one (1) Mayor (the Mayor will be the Mayor for all of Entity 42).
	+ The Mayor could reside anywhere within Entity 42.
	+ Our Councillor will reside in either the Village of Alma, the Alma LSD or the Harvey LSD.
* NOTE: As we stated above, our Ward will include the Village of Alma, Alma LSD and Harvey LSD. According to the latest census data release by the federal government only a week ago, the population of the Village of Alma is 282, while the population of the Harvey LSD is 358.
* Mayor Andrew Casey and Councillor John Ereaux represented the village during the new Council composition deliberations. They put forward many reasons to the Committee why they believed MORE representation was necessary for the Village of Alma. In the end, our low (permanent) population in comparison to the other areas in Entity 42 was deemed by the other Committee members, to be reason enough, that the Village of Alma NOT be allocated even a single Councillor of its own.
* **This is quite a drastic change in representation for our community! Members of our current Council are very concerned about the implications this new Council composition will have on the future of the Village of Alma. Only time will tell what the real impact will be.**

**NEXT STEPS**

* The exact boundaries for the six (6) Entity 42 Wards will be decided at some point within the next few months. As noted above, we already know the approximate Ward boundaries for our Ward and the Riverside-Albert / Hopewell LSD Ward. We will advise you once we know how, and when, the exact Ward boundaries will be established.
* The location of the Council chambers and the Municipal Office for Entity 42 will be decided at some point in the future. We will advise you once we know how, and when, the new location will be established.
* The name for Entity 42 will be decided at some point within the next few months. We believe that you will be given a chance to comment on a short list of potential names, but this is not yet certain. We will advise you once we know how, and when, the new name will be established.
* NOTE: We have been advised that it is very likely that all of our Alma postal addresses will NOT CHANGE. Mail will still be addressed to us here in Alma, NB.
* The Administration Advisory Committee will be meeting in the very near future, for the first time, to begin developing the various administrative essentials for the new Entity. Our Clerk/Treasurer Ms. Hanna Downey will represent the Village of Alma on this committee. We will provide updates on this process as they become available to us.
* We will continue to promptly issue “Amalgamation Update Bulletins” as new information becomes available to us.

Sincerely,

The Council and Clerk of the Village of Alma