

Newsletter From Your Coteau Beach Council

May 20, 2013

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Welcome Back. What a winter to put behind us! It's time now to forget the weather that was and concentrate on the fun months to come. Perhaps if we spend enough time at the lake, Saskatoon might even fill in a few potholes, add a kilometer or so to its south Circle Drive Bridge project, and concentrate on building its splendid new art gallery on the sinking sands of the river bank.

Much has happened over the winter as Council tumbled from crisis to crisis. Since the new Council first met in August, it has hired a new Administrator, dealt with an acute sewage disposal problem, and come to grips with the need to expand our diminishing beach. Just when these problems seemed to have been solved, Council was notified on May 17 that the Birsay dump was being closed - *immediately!*

Rumours that residents can deposit their garbage in front of the homes of members of Council are definitely not true.

Over the winter, Council also reviewed the need to assign a house number for each cabin and discussed the advisability of maintaining the practice of charging residents an annual fee for the use of the boat launch.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to bring everyone up to speed on each of these pivotal issues. So let's get started.

One issue at a time!

The Search for a New Village Administrator

Last spring Linda Van Den Bosch resigned her position as our Village Administrator. Lorne Arthur stepped into the breach on very short notice and helped Council move its files from the Birsay RM Office, purchase a new computer, set up the programs required to deal with all our needs, send out the tax notices, and carry out all the day-to-day administrative duties of the Administrator. Council would like to thank Lorne for his help during this trying time and for the effort he has put into helping our new Administrator work into her new position (see below).

Through the efforts of Councillor Randy Schmaltz, Council was able to hire Trudy Eggleton this spring as our new Village Administrator. Trudy's snail mail and E-mail addresses are:

219 Greaves Court, Saskatoon, SK, S7W 1A8, and

coteaubeach@sasktel.net

All mail for the Village should be sent to Trudy's address on Greaves Court.

Sewage Disposal (Yet, Again)

You may reflect on our Newsletter of last year when we brought up the touchy topic what to do with our sewage. At that time we knew that our time was coming to end when we could divest ourselves of this material by simply spreading it on a field. Council was told, however, that it had until 2017 to find an alternative. We were surprised, therefore, to be informed last fall that new provincial legislation expected for the spring would effectively stop field spreading immediately. Craig Miller also told us that even if the legislation was not passed this spring, he would not be able to find a farmer to accept our sewage.

The irony of the situation cannot be missed because the new legislation will not apply to farmers and cattle. We do not take issue with this because we realize how ridiculous it would be to stop farmers from ridding themselves of their sewage. And we also love cows and recognize that they too must cleanse themselves. But why can't we be afforded the same privilege given to farmers and cows.

Council explored several alternatives. One option involved setting up our own multistage facility that would take the worst we could give it and deliver a sweet-smelling, pathogen-free end product that would be carried away via weeping tile under the surrounding parkland. This plan came apart as its cost escalated and Council could not find a part-time engineer to supervise the operation of this facility.

In the end, Council agreed to have Craig Miller cart our sewage to the new lagoon near Birsay (K & M Storage Ltd., Box 107 Birsay, SK, S0L 0G0, [306-573-2121]; E-mail at: wastewater255@gmail.com). Both Craig Miller and K & M Storage Ltd. have already contacted all residents setting out their respective charges.

The Problems of the Disappearing Beach

Residents do not have to be reminded that the inability of Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to prevent high lake levels has reduced the size of the beach. The immediate reaction of Council is to remove part of the railway bed separating the current beach from the lagoon, thereby increasing the size of the beach. This work will start right after the Victoria Day holiday.

Council continues to participate in a Government-led initiative to review the levels of Lake Diefenbaker. It is our position that lowering the level of the lake by one meter will solve many of our problems. We are not alone in this approach. Other communities and organizations have taken the same approach.

At our Annual General Meeting in 2012, we reported that the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (now called the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency) had started a series of consultation meetings with all interested parties with the intent of developing a new reservoir operating plan for Lake Diefenbaker. This process was completed last summer and the initial report was filed with all participants in January of this year. Appendix A lists the interested parties who took place in this consultation.

Originally the Water Security Agency was considering a summary meeting in November of 2012. However, the Agency stated in January of 2013 that it believed the greatest value to all was to post the engagement documents and provide stakeholders with an opportunity to review and digest the consultation observations, comments, and issues raised. The Agency will look through all the information it has collected from the engagement process, undertake modeling and optimize assessments and re-craft the Lake Diefenbaker Reservoir Operating Plan. Once re-crafted, the Agency will share that document with all participants. The expected date of delivery of the document is early 2014.

The information provided by Water Security Agency comprised several hundred pages of comments, observations, and reports. If any of the residents of Coteau Beach would like to review this information, Council is only too willing to burden you too!

Space does not allow us to present the views of each group of stakeholders. Suffice it to say that there was a wide divergence of opinion among the various groups. However, Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport (PCS) is very concerned about the impact of high water levels on tourism. PCS pointed that in 2009 visitor spending accounted for \$139.1 million. This Ministry went on to point out its concerns due to erosion from high water levels in terms of loss of beach areas, boat launches, and natural resources. Resort communities, such as Coteau Beach, have a strong ally in this Ministry in their attempts to reduce the water levels in the lake.

Closure of the Birsay Garbage Dump!!

On May 15, Mayor McDonald was contacted by the Reeve of the RM of Birsay to inform him of the probability that Birsay Garbage Dump might be closed immediately. This warning shot was followed by a second call two days later to confirm that the Birsay dump is now closed.

Not much notice for such an indispensable service!

Presently, we have no place to haul our garbage and Monday morning garbage collection will stop immediately!

Mayor McDonald was informed of plans to place large dumpsters at the Birsay dump site on Mondays and Saturdays. We have a report that at least one dumpster has been sighted as of now. However, even when these are in place we cannot expect the fine gentlemen who over the ages have been collecting our garbage every Monday morning to heave the bags over and into the dumpsters. Thus, residents will be expected to handle their own garbage disposal in the manner that best suits them. One approach might be for residents to drive their garbage bags to the new dumpsters and practice their discus throwing techniques as they get the bags over and into the new receptacles. Remember, the Olympics are only three years away.

A House Number for Every Home

Council has decided to ask each owner to place his or her house number on the street by the house where it can clearly be seen. This action was taken to help emergency responders find a house quickly. Last year, at least one emergency responder had difficulty finding a particular house because of our unique, and archaic, numbering system. In the future each dwelling will be identified by three numbers - the first indicates the block in which the residence is found, and the second shows the current lot number. For example, Block 5, Lot 8 - will bear the number 508, and Block 4, Lot 21 - will have the number 421.

Got it?

Boat Launch License

Last year, Council asked all users of the boat launch to buy a permit for \$20. While many resident users did purchase permits, other residents objected strongly. They argued that we had no means to enforce this policy and particularly to ensure that non-residents paid up!

They were right and Council (in its wisdom?) decided to discontinue asking resident users of the boat launch to buy licences. Only non-resident users will be asked to purchase licences and we are sure that they will all rush forward, hands extended, holding \$20 bills.

Roy Jennett Is our Village Groundskeeper

Council has hired Roy Jennett to cut our grass, trim our trees, maintain the brush pile in good shape, as well as look after all other general grounds-keeping duties. Council would like to remind residents that grass cuttings must not be put in the site reserved for cut trees, shrubs, old leaves, etc.

Under Age Drivers Must Not Operate Vehicles in the Village

Council must point out to residents that Provincial law does not allow individuals without valid drivers' licences to operate vehicles within the boundaries of the Resort Village of Coteau Beach.

Conclusions

This has been a very hectic year. Council has been hit with several unexpected events, such as the ban on the spreading of sewage and the closing of the Birsay Dump. However, the members of Council are working well together to resolve our problems. Please be patient and in the interim have a great summer.

Appendix A

Stakeholders Consulted in the Lake Diefenbaker Reservoir Operating Plan Consultation

Name	Stakeholder Municipalities
Downstream Municipalities	Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant; Hydraulic Archeology; Pike Lake; RMs of Corman Park, Canaan, Fertile Valley, Prince Albert, Vanscoy; Saskatoon; Valley People Association; Waterwolf Planning Commission; Worldaway Farm.
Environmental Sector	Ducks Unlimited Canada; Elbow and District Wildlife Federation; Meewasin Valley Assoc.; Nature Saskatchewan; Saskatchewan Environmental Society; Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation; South Saskatchewan River Watersheds Stewards; Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association
First Nations Governance Meeting	Intergovernmental Liaison, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council; Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations; Opaskwayak Cree Nation; Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation; Carry the Kettle First Nation; Prince Albert Grand Council; One Arrow First Nation.
Government Sector	Ministries of Energy and Resources, Agriculture, Highways and Infrastructure, Government Relations, Agriculture; Prairie Province Water Board; Sask Power; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Sask Water; Transport Canada – Navigable Waters Protection Program; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Canada Saskatchewan Irrigation Centre
Industrial Sector	Luck Lake Irrigation District; Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association, Grainland Irrigation District; Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association; Riverhurst Irrigation District; Assinboia Capital Corporation; South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District; Sansamente Ranch Ltd., Lakeview Ranch Ltd.; Homeowners (2); Qu'Appelle South Irrigation District.
Metis Nation of Saskatchewan	Metis Nation of Saskatchewan – Lands and Resources Department
Municipalities Upstream Sector	Hamlet of Hitchcock Bay; Village of Elbow; RM of Maple Bush; Resort Village of Coteau Beach; Resort Village of Mistissine, RM of Canaan, Village of Loreburn
Recreation Sector	Hitchcock Hideaway; Lake Diefenbaker Destination Area Plan; Lake Diefenbaker Yacht Club; Parks, Culture, and Sport; Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association; Saskatchewan Sailing Clubs Association; Shearwater M.S.