

MISTUSINNE COUNCIL UPDATE #35 – SEPTEMBER, 2015

In this newsletter we have provided an update on "end-of-season" update on a number of issues that have come to the council table this past summer.

1. AN INVITATION TO HELP PLAN A NEW PARK AREA FOR OUR VILLAGE

This spring, Council learned of a matching grant program by which the Canada 150 fund would match any monies set aside by Council to enhance their community in recognition of Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.

Council decided to apply for the grant, focusing on the area between the Sask Tel building and the maintenance building, including the grounds around the current "Gathering Place" where we erect our shade structures for community gatherings. This area once included a grove of large poplars planted four decades ago by the late Carl Leopold. A few years ago all of those trees had died and had to be cut down. Our maintenance man, Corey, removed the remaining huge stumps and a few seedlings were planted around the perimeter area by our loyal Friends of Trees.

Imagine our excitement to learn that we had been named as one of the grant winners. Our proposal called for landscaping, larger evergreens and other possibilities as determined by the planners.

Council is calling for citizens to be part of the **PLANNING COMMITTEE** for this new park area. Our committee will have **\$20,000** to spend next summer. We aren't asking you to do the work, just to help us **plan the park**. Please consider submitting your name to be a member of this planning committee. We are looking for people who love our village gathering place and who have an interest in landscaping. We would like your names **now** so that we can send you some additional information and have an **initial meeting by conference call**. Please submit your name by phone (854-4637) or email (mistusinne@sasktel.net) **before Thanksgiving**.

2. ABUSE OF THE GARBAGE BINS

Our last newsletter described how some folks were abusing the garbage bins by inserting construction waste, boxes and furniture. We asked you to vote by phone as to whether you approved the use of a surveillance camera for the purpose of monitoring the users of the bins. Only 32 properties answered our survey with 22 saying yes and 10 saying no. Note the council decisions in the inset box.

Motion at August meeting: "That we purchase a surveillance camera for the purpose of monitoring our garbage" was passed by a recorded vote with 4 councillors in favor and Councillor Montgomery opposed. At the September meeting, a new garbage bylaw was given first read. The bylaw has the following fines attached to it.

- \$100 for leaving any refuse outside the bin,
- \$100 for depositing unauthorized materials other than bagged household garbage, such as construction waste (boards, shingles, gyprock, etc.), landscaping waste, any unfolded boxes, and articles of furniture or appliances in the bin.
- \$500 plus replacement costs for defacing signs, locks, bins or cameras.

Next spring Council will once again provide a locked bin for construction waste (shingles, wood, etc.). Ratepayers will be able to purchase space in this locked bin from staff.

3. SPRAYING VILLAGE PROPERTY FOR DANDELION CONTROL

As a result of concerns expressed by a delegation in the spring, Council has been investigating the feasibility of using herbicide sprays to control dandelions on village property. Councillor Jozsa reported on research that he had done with a number of experts who expressed concerns about spraying our ditches and green spaces and the possibility of contaminating our shallow ground water supply under a porous layer of sandy soil. Note the council decision in the inset box.

Motion at August meeting: "That council go on record as opposing the use of herbicide sprays on public property in the Village, and that we investigate ways to make our current policy more effective with a view to sharing that information with staff and ratepayers early in the spring of 20116." The motion was passed unanimously.

FALL REMINDERS

Residents are asked to make sure that all **trailers and boats are moved off the green spaces** and onto their property or into the maintenance yard as soon as possible.

The irrigation lines will be blown out on **Oct. 14th**. Please **disconnect any unions to personal irrigation lines** before that date.

4. NON-LICENSED MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON THE GREEN SPACES AND ON THE BEACH

This summer Councillors received written and verbal complaints about quads and motorbikes on the green spaces and on the beach. While every Council member agreed that the behavior of these quad owners was inappropriate, we were not unanimous about how to remediate the situation. Note the motion in the inset box. Note the comments from Councillor Montgomery, below:

Motion at August meeting: "That we let ratepayers know that Council is considering looking into the possibility of sharing the use of a special constable with other villages for bylaw enforcement" was passed by a recorded vote with 3 councillors in favor and Councillors Montgomery and Summers opposed.

"We all understand the need to have fun while at the resort. And part of this fun activity in the Resort Village of Mistusinne has included, for some, the use of ATVs (non-licensed motorized vehicles).

It was with this in mind that a group of ATV enthusiasts, including myself, approached council a number of years ago and requested that we put a plan and bylaw in place to make it possible for continued legal use of these vehicles. The council at that time, which did not include me, saw that this was something to be addressed and drafted a bylaw at that time, making it legal, with certain restrictions, to use these vehicles in the village. This was very progressive thinking, and I applaud them for this.

This bylaw, allows for the legal use of non-licensed motorized vehicles on the streets and the village property north of the boat ramp. There is to be no use of these vehicles on the green spaces at any time and no use of them on the beach between April 1 and Oct 31, other than the beach north of the boat ramp. There is a special consideration given to transport handicap individuals to the beach.¹

Provincial law also must be followed, which requires that all operators are over 16 years of age, unless supervised by an adult, wear a helmet and eye protection.

A few of us were asked to do a door to door education program a few years ago, and we did this, with very good results.

This summer with the lower water levels, and large beach area, we have seen the increase use of ATVs and dirt bikes on the beach areas south of the boat ramp. This has caused concern from some citizens, and it has become necessary to remind everyone of the rules in this regard.

So that we can continue to have a village that has ATV friendly rules, we need everyone to please follow the bylaw and provincial laws as set out. Parents please watch your children so that they are not at risk of injury by operating these vehicles under age.



Life in the resort village is always about compromise. To those who enjoy the use of these vehicles, we ask for your cooperation in following the laws. To those of you who do not have an interest in these vehicles, please be tolerant of those who do enjoy this activity.² I do think that the great citizens of this village can learn to co-exist and be kind to one another. Councillor Lloyd Montgomery

¹ The bylaw also states that the quad is to deliver the handicapped person to the beach and then return to the beach parking area.

² **Note from Mayor Saas** – While I was an original facilitator of our current quad bylaw and would like to see it continue, I do not believe that calling for tolerance from non-quad owners implies tolerance for quad users who impinge on the comfort and endanger the safety of other residents using the beach. Please note the majority motion of council (see inset box above) indicating that the majority of council members feel that **tolerance should not include flagrant disregard for the bylaws of the village.**