

MISTUSINNE COUNCIL UPDATE #26 – OCTOBER, 2012

1. A FIRE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE

On the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, as Scott Dyck (618) and his friend were unloading some leaves at the eastern edge of the brush pile, they noticed a pile of ashes that someone had dumped at the opposite edge of the pile. A moment later, they turned back to look again and flames were licking at the grass beside the ashes. The two men responded quickly, driving to the Mayor's house (where she placed the 911 call) and then back to the fire site to try to stamp out flames – to no avail, as the leaf pile became engulfed in flames raging toward the surrounding tinder-dry grasslands.



The Mayor had called Gordon Corney who arrived with the **Mistusinne fire truck** and our local men began spraying the perimeter of the scene. The **Elbow range truck**¹ arrived from the north, along with a contingent of Elbow fire fighters. The range truck took up position to the north, spraying the northern perimeter with the volunteers using shovels to beat out flames along the northern edge. Meanwhile, **Elbow's regular fire truck** came in through the village and took up position to the south, spraying the southern perimeter. Brian Cowan and Jim Walker manned the maintenance building, firing up the pumping system from the lake, where they repeatedly refilled all three trucks throughout the afternoon. Meanwhile, at the request of the fire chief, Al Saas diverted traffic and visitors away from the scene. By 4:00 pm fire chief, Glen Amour, reported that the perimeter of the fire had been sufficiently watered down and that it would be best not to spray the interior of the brush pile, "otherwise it could smolder for a week". Amour suggested that we complete the operation as a 'controlled burn'. A schedule of volunteers was drawn up to monitor the fire through the night.

Thanks to Jim Walker, Leeanne Hurlburt, Bernie Volk and Don Spasoff who each sat fire-watch through the long cold hours of the night. Special thanks to Gordon Corney and Brian Cowan for their coordination of this endeavor.

The fire continued to smolder through the weekend (under the watchful eyes of Gordon and Brian). "**Dumping warm ashes near a wood pile was a very reckless thing to do**", said the fire chief about the unknown person who dumped the ashes. If the fire had not been discovered and reported so quickly, it could easily have spread into thick dry grassland and, fanned by the north-westerly wind, quickly travelled to the village. A fast response and an ample water supply averted what could have been a much worse situation.

2. UTILITY BILLS ENCLOSED

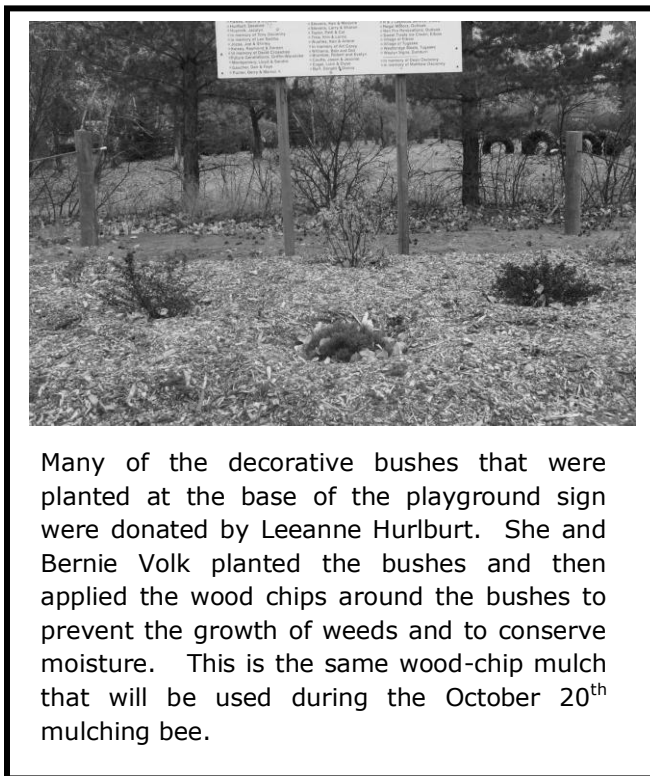
As you are aware, last summer ratepayers had the option of paying for the construction of the irrigation project either in one lump sum of \$1,100 or in 10 equal payments, over 10 years. This summer, during our first year of using the irrigation utility, ratepayers have been asking us when they will receive their bills for the use of this utility. Administrator, Yvonne Jess, has replied that, as required by law, she had submitted our utility bylaw for approval to the Local Government Committee of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board, who require that we set an annual utility fee to cover our operating costs (mainly the power, the water is free), our maintenance (blowing out the lines, service calls) and our amortization (what we set aside to cover depreciation). We have finally received a go-ahead from the municipal board. The attached bill is due by Dec. 31st or else will be treated like tax arrears (with an 18% penalty)

¹ Under our agreement with Elbow, Mistusinne pays a flat rate of \$1,200 per year which entitles us to unlimited call-outs per year, at no cost to individuals or our Village. Each year the Mistusinne Fun Golf Tournament donates additional funds to the Elbow Volunteer Fire Department (\$1,300 in 2012).

3. AN INVITATION TO WEED & MULCH / FOOTBALL & CHILI

Mistusinne cottage owners are invited to be part of a work bee and football party on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH**. Here's the scoop:

- Volunteers will gather at the maintenance building at 10:00 a.m.
- We have checked the long-range forecast. October 20th calls for sunshine and a high of +8°. But dress warmly anyway (gloves and boots). Bring along your favourite weeding tools (knife, trowel, etc.)
- We plan to work on public areas (such as the smiley faces along Mistusinne Street). The plan is to weed around the trees and then apply mulch.
- Volunteers will deliver mulch to the weeders. The mulch consists of wood chips which were manufactured right here in Mistusinne with our brand new wood chipper.
- After the work bee, volunteers are invited to the Saas household for a hot chili, buns and salad luncheon, followed by watching the 1:30 game (BYOB, Roughriders versus Montreal).
- We are hoping for a good turn-out of volunteers. Even if you've never volunteered before, this is your chance to help (and eat some yummy chili).
- For this bee, we need to know if you are coming. Please phone the office (**854-4637**) and leave a message saying that you will be coming on the 20th. **Please reply before October 18th!**



4. FALL REMINDERS

- A number of people have made donations to the playground "***in memory of a loved one***". Check out the sign. If you would like to make a memorial donation, phone Janice.
- The Fun Golf Tournament organizers asked Council to set up a fund for the purpose of raising money toward the ***purchase of a sound system*** for the summer gathering place. Council has set up the fund and transferred \$100 into the fund. The permanent residents have agreed to donate monies raised from this year's Muffin Mornings to this fund. If you would like to make a donation, phone Janice.
- We have had recent complaints about young people using their parents' cottages when parents are away and being irresponsible by lighting big bonfires in the back yard. Our green spaces are tinder dry right now and our irrigation water will soon be shut off for the season. If you know of these incidents, you should report them to Janice, who will inform the cottage owners. ***We all must take every precaution to prevent another prairie fire!***
- This is a reminder that citizens are ***not allowed to cut down trees*** (including dead trees) on the green spaces without a permit from the maintenance department. Also, cottage owners should not roto-till or plant on the green space near their lot unless with a permit.
- Recycling until the New Year (9:00 to noon):
 - Sat. Oct. 20th
 - Sat. Nov 3
 - Sat. Nov. 17
 - Sat. Dec. 1
 - Sat. Dec. 15
 - Sat. Dec. 27

Janice's winter hours:
Every Friday
from 9 am to 4 pm

5. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER

- **May 19th** Annual Public Meeting including tours of the new irrigation set-up.
- **June 2nd** Tree Planting Bee followed by a tree pruning workshop.
- **Mid June** Mayor, Keith Lonsdale & Councilor Hurlburt travel to the Resort Village of Shields to observe their tree planting.
- **June 23rd** Public Informational Meeting with the Water Research Institute.
- **July 1st** Canada Day / Family Fun Day
- **July 28th** Election Day – Elected:
Mayor, Lynne Saas
Councilors: Craig Pederson,
Leeanne Hurlburt, Jerry Boulanger,
and Lloyd Montgomery.
- **Aug. 12th** New Council Orientation
- **Aug. 18th** Fun Golf Tournament.
Report below

6. FUN DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

An enthusiastic crowd of golfer took part in the Annual Charity Fun Day Golf Tournament held August 18th at the Mistusinne Golf Course. The weather was sunny, the course was in great shape and the greens were lush. First prize went to the Riley Janes team, second prize went to the Keith Lonsdale team and third prize was won by the Ricky Kirton team.

Prizes for the longest drive were awarded to:

- Men – Ricky Kirton
- Women – Donna Matthews
- Youth – Anand Patel

Prizes for the closest to the pin went to:

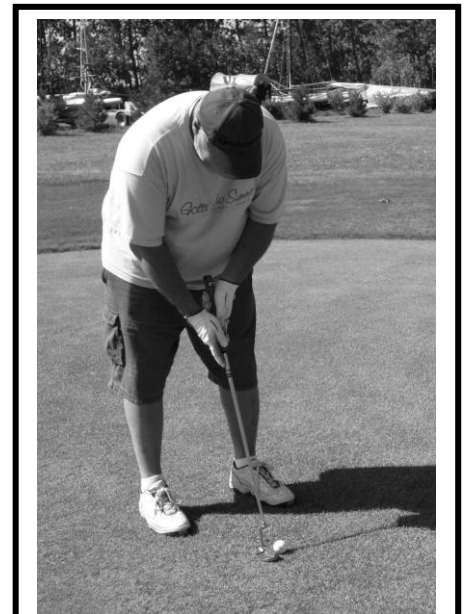
- Men – Dale Matthews
- Women – Leah Patrick
- Youth – Dane Bumphrey

Golfers and community members gathered at 5:00 pm for a pot-luck supper served at the new community servery addition. Committee chair, Patricia Carey, thanked the many prize donors and the volunteers who had worked to make the event a success. Glen Amor, Chief of the Elbow Fire Department and Janet Hundebly of the Elbow First Responders spoke to the crowd regarding their appreciation for the donation of the proceeds of the Fun Day Golf event. Each of these service groups received \$1,300. Glen reported that the funds will assist with the Fire Department's purchase of a range land truck for fighting grass fires. Janet reported that these funds plus funds raised in the past by the Fun Golf Tournament will be allocated to the purchase of two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), one for each of the Elbow and Mistusinne communities.

The 2012 Fun Golf Tournament is the 12th annual charity tournament hosted by the community of Mistusinne. It is made possible by the generous donations of the residents and businesses in our neighbourhood.



To review the summer of 2012, visit the new photo gallery behind the bulletin board. The bench was donated by Al and Lynne Saas.



Dick Eddy, from Elbow, has golfed in all 12 of the Mistusinne Fun Golf Tournaments.

THANKS TO DONORS OF CASH AND PRIZES FOR THE FUN DAY GOLF

- Al Saas, Paper Shredder
- Alice Gaveronski, food dehydrator
- Art within Concrete (Donna & Larry Riggall), concrete Sunflower Bowl
- Back Home Bakery and Deli, \$50 discount on buns order
- Barry and Janice Beaulé, two smoke detectors
- Bramble Gravel and Bobcat, \$50 cheque
- Cindercrete Concrete Products Ltd. (Jenny MacDonald), gift cert. for fireplace kit (value \$240)
- Commutron Industries, \$100 cheque
- Coyote Springs Campground, \$25 cheque
- Dan Holliday, 10 sleeves of assorted golf balls, experienced golf clubs and balls
- Dan Thul, Lifebreath Indoor Air Systems, 4 T-shirts
- Dave Cross, box of used golf balls
- Driftwood Studio and Gift Shop, T-Shirt
- Elaine Crossman, patio door lock
- Elbow Art Society, 4 packages of original art note cards
- Elbow Fine Foods, \$50 cheque • Elbow Fine Foods also donated hamburgers for Canada Day
- Elbow Hotel, glasses, leather bag, golf shirt, sweat shirt, toque, mug, carrying case, jacket
- Elbow Sunset Suites and RV Park, \$25 cheque
- Fanci Feet, \$25 gift certificate
- Galloway's Pharmacy, Central Butte, portable barbeque set
- Garmac Management and Real Estate, tile art plaque
- George and Adrienne Hamilton, 36 golf balls
- Harbour Golf Club & Resort, 2 gift certificates, each for a Sunday Buffet
- Harbour Lights Mini Golf, 10 single games, 1 x 10 games (\$60 value)
- Jane Corney, original painting
- Jelly Bean, 6 x \$1 gift cards, kids book, tee shirt
- Jim & Vina Walker, George Foreman grill
- Lakeview Lodge Motel, \$50 cheque
- Lepage, General Contractor, \$150 cheque
- Lynne Saas, romantic evening (wine, corkscrew, 2 glasses, candles/holders, lady's gift)
- Marg Knapik, Central Butte, original painting, set of cards, beer mug with balls & tees
- Marilyn and Craig Peterson, 36 golf-related fun prizes!
- Master Industries in Loreburn, \$50 cheque
- Meryl Joel, florist, floral arrangement
- Millar's Disposal, 2 western patio chairs and coffee table
- Nat Yarie, monopoly travel game
- Nothing New, \$20 gift certificate
- Pat King, original painting
- Prairie Centre Credit Union, \$300 Cheque
- R & J Lakeside Services, rod and reel
- Sarah's Cove Condo Rentals, basket of bath products
- SGI (Suzanne Kirton), barbeque kit, sipper cup, games travel kit, set of 12 golf balls, go cup
- Solvera Solutions (Helen Engel), hamburgers for booth
- Star Phoenix, 3 bridge water bottles, 10 ice scrapers, 4 fridge clips, 5 lint brushes
- Store by the Shore (Douglas Park), golf license plate holder, putting set
- Sweet Treats, divot tool set that includes 6 balls, 2 caddy covers
- Sweet Treats, \$50 cheque
- Ted Pettigrew, 2 sets of LED Lights, 2 folding pop-up beach mats
- Tugaska Co-op, bag, golf shirt and go mug
- Women's Fitness Centre, tee shirt and pin