

Crystal Lake December 2018 Newsletter

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Lots has happened since the last Newsletter and AGM. Here are the highlights:

Happy Thanksgiving: OK, OK, we missed both the Canadian and U.S.

Thanksgivings, but we can all give Thanks for the blessings we have received and for being able to live at such a beautiful place with such great people.

Official Hamlet Communication: With the “official” hamlet web site www.hamletofcrystallake.ca now fully operational, this will be the source for formal communication. We will not be printing and mailing newsletters or other documents. If you wish to be notified when there is a new item posted, please go to the web site, sign in with your name, email address, lake address and make sure you go to the message box and enter “permission granted”. Please note only official communications and documents will be posted, this is not a classified ad site. Special Thanks to Keith Eveleigh for his knowledge, skills and dedication in developing, maintaining and improving the web site.

Stenen Lagoon: Earlier this summer, concerns were raised that the Stenen lagoon was not compliant with environmental regulations. During an inspection by the Water Security Agency, some specific items were identified that needed immediate attention. This included repairs to the wall of the third cell, lack of free board (meaning lagoon was full), replacement of the drainage pipe and replacement of an overflow drain. In August, the Village of Stenen,

assisted by the Hamlet Board, addressed these concerns by lowering the height of the third cell, repairing the damaged bank, reducing grass growth around the lagoon cells (this allows better air movement and encourages evaporation), completely replacing the control valve and drainage pipe and replacing the overflow channel. In late August, a follow-up inspection was completed and the lagoon system is now fully compliant. The Hamlet has one more year left in a five-year agreement to use the Stenen lagoon.

Paving Project: No contract was signed and no work was completed in 2018 for the paving of Lakeview Dr and the Beach Road. Concerns were expressed about possible conflicts with the road location and the collection of project levies. The Hamlet Board investigated potential problems with the road location and determined there is only one property that has a minor issue. That issue will be resolved when the road is constructed. The \$600/ lot levy was included in the 2018 property taxes and will also be applied in 2019. It is planned that with the collection of the 2018 and 2019 levies, plus accessing the Hamlet Reserve fund, that the paving will be completed in September of 2019.

Division 6 Election: On Wednesday, October 24, RM of Keys elections were held for Councillors for the even-numbered (2,4,6) divisions. Crystal Lake is in Division 6. In Division 6, Vivian Morgan (former Reeve) was elected, defeating incumbent Clarissa Mydonik. There was a very significant turnout by Crystal Lake residents in both the advance poll and on Election Day. Congratulations to Vivian and Thank You to Clarissa for her past service.

Mail-in Voting: At the 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) a motion was passed requesting the RM of Keys provide the option of mail-in voting to all eligible voters in the RM. There is a considerable process to implement this option including drafting a new bylaw, three readings by Council, a public hearing and then developing the process for the mail-in voting. Although it was not possible to have this option in place for the October, 2018 election, the Hamlet Board will continue to work with Council to have this in place before any future election or vote of any sort.

Resort Village Investigation: Following the motion passed at the 2018 AGM, the Crystal Lake Planning Committee (comprising Lorri Dennis, Barb Duke, Alice Dutchak and Kyle Reid) has been reviewing pertinent Acts and communicating with other Resort Villages to gain information to assess the viability, benefits and implications of forming a Resort Village. The Committee held a public information meeting Sept 1 (thanks to the Golf Course for providing their facility), attended by 105 CL residents, to provide an update on their findings to date and to gain feedback on whether they should continue their work. There was an overwhelming response to continue to investigate this option. It is expected the Committee's findings will be made public at, or prior to, the 2019 AGM.

Community Water System: Just prior to the 2018 AGM, it was identified that the community water system on the east side of the lake had arsenic levels above the acceptable standards. This was due to a reduction in the provincial water quality standards, not an actual increase in the levels. An engineering

firm has been hired to investigate and provide recommendations for design of a system and equipment to address the arsenic levels. We are awaiting the report and the issuing of a contract with the expectations of the work being completed by spring, 2019. Of course, the implications and cost of this work will be borne only by the users of the community system.

Beach Winter Preparations: The Hamlet Board, with the assistance of Ken Pugh, removed and stored the buoys, dock and swimming platforms following the September long weekend. Special recognition to Brad and Ken for braving the chilly waters while Don and Howard stayed warm and dry doing their part from the beach.

Beach Improvements: While on the topic of the beach, we plan to replace the old, rickety boat launch dock with the one from the beach. Then the swimming platform will be replaced with a commercially-constructed unit that meets all safety standards.

Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan (PARCS)

Convention: On Oct 19 &20, the Hamlet had representatives attending the PARCS Convention. This is a very important meeting to gain further information and discuss common and trending matters impacting resort communities. It also provided excellent opportunities to meet with representatives of other Resort Villages to gain from their experiences and insights as that concept is investigated for Crystal Lake.

Winter Snow Removal: This is hardly a topic we want to talk about, but with the first snow coming on Sept 21 this year, it is timely. As was done last winter, Tim Johnson (local farmer and cottage-owner) has been contracted to do snow plowing for Crystal Lake. Arrangements are that Ministry of Highways clears from the forks to the Church camp. Tim is responsible for the remainder of the roads at Crystal Lake. The RM grader will continue on its scheduled rotation which is very important to clear the perimeter road once there is considerable snow/ice buildup that Tim's machinery cannot remove. The RM grader is too large to effectively clear all roads, whereas Tim's unit is smaller and more versatile. The general approach is to clear snow only after a storm is finished and not until there is adequate snow accumulated to justify plowing. However, as the lake is primarily a retirement community during the winter, we will err on the side of caution to ensure safe access to and around the lake for emergency vehicles. Barb Duke has volunteered to be the lead contact for coordinating snow plowing with our Councillor, Vivian Morgan providing support. Please do not contact them unless you have a significant problem specific to your location. And please treat them with the utmost respect as they are doing this work on behalf of all of us.

Black Beach Development Approval: This summer two proposals were received regarding developments on the property commonly regarded as "Black's Beach". After review, a public meeting and call for input, the proposal by Sandra Jeffry to develop 8 additional lots on Parcel A, conditional on meeting all Crystal Lake Development regulations, was approved by Council.

The Hamlet Board was in support of this approval. The Hamlet Board's rationale and position on support can be accessed on the web site.

Summer Student for 2019: As per previous summers, a summer student will be employed to carry out maintenance work at Crystal Lake for the period May-August inclusive. For 2019, Cole Kowalchuk, local resident and university student, has been offered the position.

Used Truck Purchase: The Hamlet Board is looking to purchase a used half-ton truck. This truck will make movement by the summer student much more time efficient as compared to the slow-moving garden tractor. It will also allow more material to be hauled in the truck and trailer. We are looking for a used truck that is in good running condition, has 6-8 cylinders, 6-8' box, and a frame-mounted hitch assembly with 2' receiver. We are thinking up to \$2500. If anyone has such a truck they are interested in selling, please reply to the web site or contact a Board member.

Dangerous Tree Removal: After last summer's power outage, caused by a falling old tree, we will be initiating a dangerous tree removal project. Some trees have been identified but further work will be done this spring. As well, Tim Johnson will identify problem trees for snow plowing. It is expected a professional tree service, with the skills, equipment and insurance will be required for some/most of this work. And our student, hopefully with the use of a truck, will be involved in the cleanup of brush and deadfall

Call for Ideas and Projects: Over the winter, the Hamlet Board, in conjunction with Council, will be working on the 2019 Crystal Lake Work Plan and accompanying Budget. If anyone has any ideas or projects that would improve the quality of life at Crystal Lake that they would like to see implemented, we are asking for your input and ideas. Ideas/projects should provide the name of the project and a short description, lead contact, benefits of the project to residents, a best “guesstimate” of cost (equipment, materials, labour, professional services) and names of others supportive of the idea. Project ideas can be submitted via the web site.

And finally, we wish each and everyone

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Sincerely,

Your Hamlet Board: Brad Tarras, Don Olson, Howard Fox