

Summer 2019 Crystal Lake Newsletter

Although most of the following items are on the web site, this newsletter is intended for those who, for some reason, have not recently accessed the web site. In no particular order:

2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM will be held Sunday, July 14 at 10:00 am at the Stenen Hall. This is the annual meeting where formal hamlet business is carried out. There will be formal reports, 2018 financial statement, 2019 budget, elections to hamlet board, motions for action and an open forum for ideas to be presented. The Agenda, 2018 financial report, 2019 budget and other documents will be placed on the web site prior to the AGM so attendees can come prepared. We are asking anyone who is planning to make a motion to submit it in advance so it can be presented via projector so all can easily see, read and understand. Web site is www.hamletofcrystallake.ca

May 19, 2019 Public Information Meeting

A Public Information Meeting was held Sunday, May 19, 2019 to offer updates on various activities and concerns for Crystal Lake. This was not a business meeting with formal reports and motions. The items discussed are included in this Newsletter, albeit in a condensed form. Two of the three Division 6 by-election candidates were able to give short personal introductions and the biography was read for the one candidate unable to attend. Over 100 residents braved a chilly evening to learn and discuss what's happening at Crystal Lake. A similar info meeting is being considered for the September long weekend. Thanks to the golf course for offering up the space for the meeting.

Crystal Lake Fire

In case you didn't hear or experience, on May 12, we had a significant grass/bush fire on land near the landfill. Ken Pugh first noticed the fire and quickly alerted the Sturgis and Crystal Lake Fire Departments. Their response time was fantastic! The Preeceville Fire Department soon joined with a truck and crew. In all, 20 firefighters from the three fire departments, and 5 fire fighting trucks, worked tirelessly for 6 hours to get the fire under control. Members of the Crystal Lake Fire Department took rotating shifts through the night on fire patrol watching for flare-ups and extinguishing smouldering sites. In addition to the firefighters, 12 volunteers also joined in with rakes and shovels to eliminate smaller spot fires. As much as it was a scary situation, it was a tremendous team effort shown by all involved. And our own Crystal Lake firefighters got to put those summer practices to very good use. It really re-affirmed the need and value of having our own fire department. Thanks to all who participated and saved tremendous damage to our homes.

Paving Project

With the 2018 levy collected and the 2019 levy to be collected, plus a draw from our reserve fund, we will be proceeding with the paving of Lakeview Drive, Beach Crescent and the Boat Launch this fall. G.W. Construction from Buchanan was the successful bidder.

Community Water System

Since the identification that our wells serving the community water system may be groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI), the community water system will be operated as a non-potable, hygienic use only source of water. This means no drinking or cooking with it. The golf course has graciously agreed to sell bottled water in larger-sized jugs. We are hoping to have the results from the Phase I and II studies back by the AGM. A decision will have to be made by subscribers once more information and estimated costs are available regarding next steps.

Mail-In Ballot Voting Bylaw

At the 2018 AGM a motion was passed requesting the RM of Keys to develop and implement a bylaw allowing for a mail-in ballot voting system. This was subsequently put on hold last fall as there were more pressing items to deal with. Council has been advised that this request is being re-activated and a request for a motion for this bylaw at Council is being made.

Division 6 Councillor

As a result of a by-election June 5, Cal Statchuk, a permanent resident of Crystal Lake, was elected the Division 6 Councillor. The Division 6 Councillor represents the area including the Organized Hamlet of Crystal Lake. There was a very strong turnout with over 200 voters participating. Congratulations, Cal.

2019 Hamlet Board Work Plan

The DRAFT 2019 Hamlet Board Work Plan has been prepared and posted on the web site under Hamlet Business. The Hamlet Board requests your input into this draft so that it can be improved for this and future years. We will be requesting approval of the DRAFT Work plan at the AGM so please let us know how we can make it better. Beefs and Bouquets are both welcome.

2019 Summer Student

We are very happy to advise that Sean Furber is our summer student for the 2019 season. Sean is a student at the U of S. You'll see him around, sometimes in a little white truck the hamlet purchased this spring, doing a wide assortment of jobs to keep Crystal Lake looking good.

Resort Village Feasibility Study

The Planning Committee took on this task, after the motion at the 2018 AGM, to look into the feasibility of Crystal Lake forming a resort village. The goal is to provide a comprehensive and

objective feasibility study so that the residents and ratepayers can decide if they want to pursue this idea further with the formal application process. It's a huge undertaking. Lorri Dennis and her team really could use some extra heads to complete a thorough and comprehensive feasibility study. You don't need to make a long-term commitment to join an on-going committee, just help out in any way you can. It's way too easy to sit back and hope someone else does it. Now's the time to step up!

Stenen Lagoon

Last year there was concern about the Stenen lagoon being compliant with provincial regulations. Considerable repair work was done last summer/fall to gain compliance. Again, this year the Hamlet Board and Sean have been working at the lagoon with Stenen staff to ensure it maintains its compliancy status. The intent is to enter into another multi-year agreement with the Village of Stenen for access and use of its facilities, conditional upon the lagoon meeting compliancy regulations.

Special Project Proposal Initiative

You know how people always say "the hamlet board should do this, or someone should do that"? Well, if you've ever had those thoughts, now is your opportunity to put those thoughts to work. We have developed a Special Projects Proposal process for which we will be seeking approval and support at the 2019 AGM. The idea is that individuals or groups would develop an idea/proposal and present it to the hamlet board (or some decision-making body) to gain support to implement the idea. The support might be in the form of labour or money or land or equipment or whatever help is needed. If approved, then the proponents can go to work on it. The goal is for individuals or groups to carry out projects to make Crystal Lake a better place to live and visit.

Summer 2019 Swimming Lessons

Once again, swimming lessons will be offered at Johnny's Beach. Kaison Hauber and Macy Hauber will be the instructors again this year. First lessons start July 8 – July 19 (registration at Johnny's Beach on July 7 from 1-3 pm) and the second set July 22 – August 2 (registration July 21 from 1-3 pm). Further details are on the web site or text/call Kaison at 306-614-9165 or email: kaisonhaubs@icloud.com

Dangerous Tree Removal

During the last week of June, a tree removal contractor cut down several dangerous trees (dead or unhealthy with the risk of falling) primarily near the area to the landfill road. More trees have been identified (marked with an orange X) but cannot be cut down until we have access to a special man lift allowing for the contractor to go to greater heights to safely bring some trees down, piece by piece. Thanks for dealing with the inconvenience caused by having a small portion of Lakeview Drive being closed while trees were cut down.

Elimination of Early Payment Discounts on Property Taxes

At the June, 2019 RM of Keys Council meeting, a motion was made and passed by Council eliminating the early payment discount on property taxes. The discount was up to 5% for paying one's taxes 6 months in advance. Based on current interest and GIC rates, many of us took advantage of that as a 5% earning after taxes over six months is a pretty good return on investment. The other side of that good return on investment meant a huge expense/loss of revenue for the RM and, by extension, the hamlet account. The elimination of the early payment discount is effective for the 2019 year.

Charge for Using Credit Cards for Property Tax Payment

Similar to the expense/loss of revenue associated with early payment discounts on property taxes, is that of accepting credit cards to pay property taxes. Although those 2% loyalty credit card points don't seem to add up quickly on our own accounts, they sure do when you have hundreds of people using them to pay their taxes. And who pays for those loyalty points? The business or organization taking the credit card for payment. So, at the June 2019 RM of Keys Council meeting a motion was made and passed by Council applying a 2% surcharge for using a credit card to pay taxes. The OH of Crystal Lake paid out over \$2,000 alone in 2018 through the use of credit cards for tax payments. Without those extra loyalty points, guess we'll have to use that old-fashioned way to pay for holidaysSAVE!

For more detail on many of these topics go to www.hamletofcrystallake.ca