

CRYSTAL LAKE Summer 2021 NEWSLETTER

Who'd a thunk we'd still be wearing masks, socially distancing and all that comes with Covid - 19? We hope all is well with you and your families and all are safe, as we prepare and hope for a safe re-opening. Check out the official web site: www.hamletofcrystallake.ca for more detailed info on some of the items included in this newsletter.

2021 Annual Voters' Meeting

The 2021 Annual Voters' Meeting is a go! In order to accommodate social distancing, the Annual Meeting will be held at the **STURGIS** Town Hall, located at the east end of Sturgis. The Annual Meeting will be the usual, second Sunday in July, - July 11 - starting at 10:00 am. Check the web site for postings for items to be addressed at the Annual Meeting. To be eligible to participate and vote, one must be:

1. A Canadian citizen
2. At least 18 years of age
3. An owner, or the spouse of an owner, of property within Crystal Lake
4. A permanent resident of Crystal Lake for the 3 months preceding the Annual Meeting

Without an Annual Meeting in 2020, there's lots to cover and to gain voters' input and direction. With Chair Don Olson's term ending at the Annual Meeting, there will be an election for a new Hamlet Board member.

Community Water System – Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory (PDWA)

For two years now our community water system has not been compliant with the potable (for consumption) license we hold. For 2021, again we will be operating under a PDWA from the Water Security Agency. The PDWA will be that the water from the community system is NOT potable. Golf Crystal Lake has obliged us again and will be stocking and selling bottled water. The Water Security Agency has recently directed the RM of Keys and the Hamlet Board that the system must be returned to a fully licensed and compliant potable system by 2026.

Investigation and Development Project for New Groundwater Source

As a result of the Community Water System Survey carried out last year, a project to investigate and develop a new groundwater source, if feasible, will be initiated this season. This project will be multi-phased so that the project and its costs can be effectively managed. The RM of Keys Council has agreed in principle to

designate applicable grant monies so that we can proceed to requesting quotes for the proposal. The need for this project has been reinforced with WSA's direction that the system must be compliant with the potable standards by 2026.

Working Near Water – Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit

This past winter a letter to all property owners advising of the need for permits when carrying out any kind of physical works (excavation, construction, landscaping etc.) near the lake. These permits are required by law to protect from any damage to the lake water quality. Contraventions of the permit requirement can lead to fines and the expenses of returning the site to its original conditions. Permits can take up to 12 weeks. So, if you are planning any type of work within 5 metres of the water, make sure you have the required permits. The RM Administrator, Council members and the Hamlet Board have no authority in this matter and cannot approve any alterations to the landscape. Contact the Water Security Agency at (306) 787-0780.

Financial Disputes with RM of Keys

For the past two years, the Hamlet Board has been in dispute with the RM of Keys Council on two financial matters. We are pleased to announce that Council and the Hamlet Board have very recently been able to resolve these financial disputes without having to go to an outside Appeal Board.

Fire Callout Insurance

An interesting recommendation has been made by one of our residents about the need for fire callout insurance as part of regular house/fire insurance. This especially came to light when we had the grass/bush fire right adjacent to Crystal Lake in 2018. For fighting a fire, the process is for the fire department to bill the home owner for the costs of their services and then the homeowner to recoup those costs through their home insurance. Wise to ensure you have adequate fire call out insurance.

Seasonal/Summer Employee Returns

We are very pleased to announce that William Hauber has returned to Crystal Lake as our seasonal/summer employee. We received many positive comments last year about the high quality of work and the respectful nature of William. William's family has a cottage at Crystal so you'll see him around on the lake as well caring for hamlet property. We're so glad to have you back, William!

New RM of Keys Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaws

The RM of Keys passed its new Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw this spring. The Hamlet Board had a significant role in the development of this bylaw. Of particular note is the designation of a Lakeshore Development area (Crystal Lake) and a Conservation Area surrounding and adjacent to Crystal Lake. These designations stipulate the types of developments that are permitted in these areas and any specific regulations that apply. The new Zoning Bylaw will be posted on the RM of Keys website once it receives government approval.

2021 Work Plan Priorities

The Hamlet Board Work Plan is a long and detailed document listing core, ongoing activities (things that happen every year) as well as new and outstanding activities. There are way more things listed in this document than what we will ever accomplish in a year! For 2021, the Hamlet Board has identified the following as priorities, beyond the core things that have to be done:

1. Governance
 - a. Have 50% of the current and planned bylaws revised/developed and in place
 - b. Hold the 2021 Annual Meeting
 - c. Have governance-based policies developed and approved
2. Environment
 - a. Design a lake water quality monitoring program and acquire needed materials and equipment
 - b. Complete the cleaning of one section of Municipal Reserve to improve fire safety and encourage regrowth and replanting of trees and shrubs
3. Infrastructure
 - a. Initiate the investigation and possible development of a new groundwater source for the community water system
4. Social/Recreational/Cultural
 - a. Establish and provide the mandate for a sub-committee to provide leadership for social, recreational and cultural events and projects
5. Finance
 - a. Resolve financial disputes with the RM of Keys Council
 - b. Complete and sign a Provision of Services Agreement with the RM of Keys
 - c. Finalize and implement a base tax structure for municipal property taxes that is fair and equitable

2021 Budget

The 2021 Budget had been awaiting the results of the re-assessment and any changes in the tax structure. It has now been completed and requires approval by the RM Council. Once approved, it will be posted on the web site.

Traffic Safety

You may have noticed new speed indicator signs situated along Lakeview Drive. The Hamlet Board and the Rural Municipality were successful in its application to the SGI Traffic Safety Program. This grant covered the purchase and installation of two radar speed signs. We now have 3 signs which will be moved to different locations around the lake as a reminder to drivers to maintain a 40 km speed. Further we will be updating our signage around the lake (example installing yield signs at the intersections Feely/Lakeview Drive and Sterzer/Lakeview Drive).



Assessment of Turning Lanes at Crystal Lake

At a recent North East Area Transportation Planning Committee (NEATPC) meeting, our Hamlet Board Chair Don Olson, who is a member of the Committee, made a motion to contact the Minister of the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure concerning safety issues at the turn-in to Crystal Lake. The Hamlet Board has received concerns about the safety entering and existing Crystal Lake at the Highway #9 junction especially with greater semi-truck traffic on this highway. Further discussions have been held with Highways and Infrastructure on this

safety concern. As a result, the Ministry has been conducting an assessment (i.e. traffic count) this summer with expected analysis later this year.

Crystal Lake Recreation Committee

We have been waiting for the appropriate time to put out a call for volunteer members for a new Recreation Committee. With Covid restrictions lifting, the call was made for people interested in contributing to the enjoyment and quality of life at Crystal Lake as members of this Committee. This does not mean Committee members have to do everything – there's lots of people who will pitch in on a project – but the Committee will provide the needed leadership and coordination for social, recreational and cultural events and projects. We have received a good response from residents to join this committee and will be putting forth a motion at the Annual Meeting to formally endorse this new committee.

2021 Property Re-Assessment

2021 was a complete property re-assessment year in Saskatchewan. The assessment process is carried out by an independent and professional group, the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency. The RM and Hamlet Board are not involved in such property assessments. However, property assessments are the basis for property taxes. This year waterfront properties increased substantially all across the province, not just at Crystal Lake.

New Dock Coming to a Boat Launch Near You

A new roll-in dock has been ordered (not delivered at time of this Newsletter) for replacing the old and somewhat unstable floating dock mat the boat launch. The dock is supplied by a Saskatchewan manufacturer – Koenders Manufacturing from Englefeld, SK. Four firms were invited to provide quotes to meet the specifications for the dock and Koenders was the quote accepted.

Be Wildlife Wise

The Hamlet Board would like to advise cabin owners to be Wildlife Wise this summer. There have been numerous reports of skunks and racoons at the lake over the past seasons. The biggest issue has been outbuildings and cabins with open foundations. On a number of occasions these animals have established nests and attempted to raise their young under buildings.

Skunks and racoons do pose a risk to people and pets. Skunks are very susceptible to rabies. In fact, anytime a skunk is observed during daylight hours rabies is a distinct possibility. Raccoons often carry a parasite which has proven dangerous to people.

Cabin owners are advised to install and maintain foundation barriers (lattice, wire mesh or solid) on their cabin and outbuildings. As well, please ensure garbage and potential food sources are secured. Bird feeders with sunflower seeds are known to be attractants so consider removing seeds or feeders each night.

If you have any questions or concerns you can contact your local Conservation Officer. The Hamlet does have a number of live traps for loan.

Now, to End With a Little Colour

A new multi-coloured crosswalk, symbolic of diversity and inclusiveness, has been painted at the base of the stairs accessing the beach. Thanks to Lorri Dennis for taking on this project and adding a bit more colour to Crystal.



Crystal Lake Contact Info

Crystal Lake Hamlet Board

Don Olson	306-547-9155 cell/text	dsolson@sasktel.net
Howard Fox	306-551-8171 cell/text	howfox@ymail.com
Brad Tokaruk	306-547-4257 cell/text	tokaruk.brad@sasktel.net

Crystal Lake Community Water

Dave Masters	306-548-2905 phone	dave.m@sasktel.net
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RM of Keys

Barry Hvidston (Administrator)	306-563-5331	rm303@sasktel.net
Brad Hallick (Div 6 Councillor)	306-547-7742	rm303div6@sasktel.net
Cal Statchuk (Reeve)	306-380-7061	rm303reeve@sasktel.net