

DISTRICT OF *Katepwa*



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

FRED'S CORNER

1. Taxes. I bet you never thought taxes would be a good topic to start with but, this year it's not all bad. Our Provincial Government, namely The Honorable Brad Wall and team including the Honorable Minister of Government Relations, Jim Reiter, have seen fit to reduce the mil rate for the education tax portion on your home and other residence. This trend is what they promised and are following through.

Kudos to the Government, and to those of you who took the time to send a letter or email to the Government expressing your concerns.

What was the result? With our benchmark property we saw a REDUCTION in the Education portion of your property tax. The reduction wasn't much but remember the Government also removed the ability for Katepwa to apply a 15% discount. Now some may go up slightly depending on the improvements made in your property since the last assessment but overall we should be in pretty good shape.

2. Municipal taxes will go up a tad. How big is a 'tad'? We don't have final numbers in for 2013 yet but are trying to maintain a balanced budget and limit any increase that must happen. So why would there be an increase? Since 2011 we have had to do massive road recovery, build a new lagoon (mandated by the Province) and prepare

for a potential flood this spring 2013. We have to try to recover funds spent on the 2011 flood, and we have not as yet received all the funds we applied for from the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program. Somehow this has to be paid for and we are doing it with long term debt which we never had prior to all the 'happenings'. We also need to build up our reserve funds (thank goodness we had that when the 2011 flood hit) back to a level of roughly \$500,000. All these things take time and money, there are no frivolous expenses and we are all working towards the same end.

3. The new lagoon is in the final stages of completion. We expect to have the basics done by June this year but will be able to use the new 'primary' cell prior to that. This will be a huge benefit if we start flooding again. There are a lot of items to clear up on the lagoon such as fencing and landscaping but we will get there. The first lagoon consisted of two cells (primary and secondary) and covered 12 acres. It handled our District's needs for about 35 years. This new lagoon system is the same type of structure as the old system; they will operate in conjunction with each other. To be noted; the new system covers 30 acres so we should be good for 70 years?

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In case you missed the details on the financing of the new lagoon system here it is. We have been setting aside funds for the last 3 councils to build this structure with plans to do so in another 10 plus years. In 2011 Mother Nature changed that plan without asking our permission.

- Our initial estimates for a commercial (contractor developed) system was \$2.9 Million in 2008
- The estimate in 2010 had increased to \$3.6 Million
- We should bring the project in at around \$1.8 Million. This will be financed over a 20 year period with the option for early payout.

4. Potential Flooding in 2013. In the spring runoff map provided by the Water Security Agency (www.wsask.ca) there is an area with heavier than normal snow fall. At the very easterly side of that map you will see US! The potential for flooding is extremely high and you should be preparing for it.

For those of you who have done repairs and mitigation as a result of the last flood, congratulations. For those of you who chose not to do anything... the problem could be much bigger. We will have (initially) 100,000 sand bags available for purchase and filling. Each person will be responsible for protecting their own property. We have ordered a 'sandbagger' but the manning of the sandbagger will be by those who need to use it. We cannot expect the same level of volunteers that we had in 2011, those people are worn out.

5. Understanding the 'Declaration of Emergency'. The Declaration of a state of Emergency has implications most folks are not aware of. As a council we take this 'declaration' very seriously and do not 'declare' without serious consideration. In an effort to avoid conflict there are some things you need to know. Here are a couple of items you might be interested in: excerpts are from 'The Emergency Planning Act' page 13, (I've synopsised):

Powers of the local authority

- (ii) Acquire or utilize any real or personal property considered necessary...
- (iii) Authorize any qualified person to render aid...
- (iv) Control or prohibit travel to or from any area of the municipality...
- (vii) Cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of persons or livestock and personal property...
- (viii) Authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person when necessary for the implementation of an EMO plan...
- (ix) Cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures if necessary...
- (x) Conscript persons needed to meet an emergency...

The act goes on and on for those who are interested in the finer details.

Now, wasn't that fun! I really truly hope we don't have any major flooding or any flooding for that matter. This time we are about one month ahead of the last flood crisis so we should be in much better shape. **That doesn't mean you should relax. Refer to our web site www.katepwabeach.com** for advice, as we will be using the 'web' to keep you informed as well as 'facebook' and 'twitter' (if I can ever figure out how they work). Cheers!

And that's my soap box for today!

The District of Katepwa...It's a great place to live, let's keep it that way!

Fred Weekley CFP TEP CSC
Mayor for the District of Katepwa Beach

EMERGENCY MEASURES INFORMATION FLOODING AGAIN??

EMO committee is monitoring spring runoff water levels and attending meetings to gather information and give appropriate direction and information to council.

Predictions of Katepwa rising to 479.3m means approximately 1 foot lower than the 2011 peak which is obviously a concern for the low lying areas around the lake.

In addition to the higher water levels be aware that the ice is thicker than normal for this time of year and has the potential to cause damage.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO AS A RESIDENT

- Remove all your valuables and other items from your shore line;
- Sand bags are available for purchase at \$.24 each, and sand to fill the bags has been dumped in three areas. For more information call the office at 306-332-6645.
- Watch the Katepwa Website www.katepwabeach.com and Social media such as Facebook and Twitter for information and updates. These will be updated daily.
- If you are willing, please send your e-mail address to the office: katepwabeach@sasktel.net so that we can improve communication with you.

DISTRICT OF KATEPWA COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL PLANNING UPDATE

By Prairie Wild Consulting

Why is an Official Community Plan necessary? It helps to manage infrastructure and environmental issues such as lagoon, landfill, septic tanks, natural eco-systems, and roads. Importantly, it helps to guide growth and future development that will enhance the District for generations to come.

Katepwa Council is committed to maintaining our most important Municipal Attributes:

- Peaceful & Quiet Quality of Community
- Natural Beauty
- Access to Lake (boat launch) and quality of experience
- Water quality in Katepwa Lake

The District of Katepwa is currently involved in three concurrent and inter-connected planning processes. This includes:

- Developing and completing an up-to-date Official Community Plan (OCP), Zoning Bylaw and number of reference maps;

EXCITING CHANGES FOR KATEPWA POINT PARK!

Dallas Chorneyko - Park Supervisor Echo Valley/Katepwa Point

- A new washroom/change facility has been built in the park! It is very close to the old washrooms and activity building. The new building will be opening this spring (it is about 90% complete now)!
- Attached to the washroom is the area from which the summer activity director/s will have their head quarters. There is also a small office area for them to use. The water supply to the washroom is drinkable.
- There is an outdoor shower attached to new washroom/change room.
- Depending on the weather and contractor work force the landscaping/path should be completed before the grand opening in June or July.
- The doors to the washrooms have an automatic lock/unlock system. The building will be open from 8 AM to 8:30 PM. (It will be open later on July 1st!).
- The water treatment plant has had major renovations including new pumps, filters and piping. A storage tank capable of 2 day supply (at last year usage rates) was installed.
- A new water well was dug this week and appears to have excellent flow rates.
- The West end of the Park shoreline was rip-raped; this will prevent further erosion in that area.
- One set of boat launch pads were replaced and set to the proper slope standard.
- Trees that were considered a risk were removed from around the upper parking lot and along the picnic area below.
- 5 new picnic tables will arrive this spring.

Some areas still require attention.

- Ice has pushed up the irrigation pump house; it will need to be reset in the spring.
- The lawns need irrigation regularly to remain green and healthy and this sometimes interferes with Park users. The Park does not have the capability to water at night at the present time. There will be times that Park users will need to accept the sprinklers going during their visit to the Park.
- The walking path needs repaving.

Watch for the upcoming date of the OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING of Katepwa Park new building.

- Developing a Cultural Planning Section that will be inserted into the OCP via support through the Cultural Resource Use Partnership (CRUP) supported in part by SaskCulture and community contributors; and

- Participating in the Calling Lakes District Planning Initiative aimed at creating district level policies funded through the Planning for Growth program.

This includes working with a team of Community and Regional Planners to develop these concurrent processes. Prairie Wild Consulting has been working with your Council and a local CRUP committee to develop our local planning tool kit that includes finishing our OCP; developing a cultural planning component (draft policy section has been completed); and working with the planners from SARM to align our local tools to the wider District Plan (draft has been completed) that includes the R.M. of North Qu'Appelle # 187, Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, Village of Lebrét, Village

of Lipton, Resort Village of B-Say-Tah, the Resort Village of Fort San, and ourselves.

Over the next coming months you will see announcements to participate in a few planning activities to complete these processes. This includes:

- An Open House to review and provide feedback on a the Calling Lakes District Plan (date to be confirmed in April or June); and,
- A community meeting to provide input and feedback into the draft Official Community Plan and related planning tools (date to be confirmed for June).

Due to our anticipation of spring flooding related to heavy snow fall this year and because we want to ensure that our seasonal residents have an opportunity to participate in the next steps of this process, we will be conducting our community meeting in June. Please stay tuned for details of the date and time of the above sessions.

- Culverts and the path need to be installed to re-open the Nature Trail. Most of the material is on site but our permits will expiry before we can complete the work. We will need to reapply for permits and we cannot work in the area if the water is flowing in the creek.

Working together we can continue to protect and make improvements to the Park. Suggestions and dialogue are welcome always. Contact the Friends of the Park for volunteering, fund raising and programming.

For immediate concerns or technical matters regarding the park, phone 306-332-3215.

FRIENDS OF THE PARK

We are very excited about the projects that have been completed around the park over the past year. Friends of the park have been working with the Park Officials and are pleased with the progress on all the improvements to the park.

RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS:

Last year there was a drowning off the point at the main beach. The Red Cross will be coming out on 3 separate Sundays this summer to review safety in our park. We are looking for two volunteers each Sunday to assist the Red Cross. Please Contact Aura Lee at 306-584-0578 if you would like to be part of keeping our park safe.

Friends of the Park

Chair: *Aura Lee Macpherson*
Secretary: *Karen Alport*
Treasurer: *WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO SIGN UP!*

While the Katepwa Point Park is outside of the District of Katepwa jurisdiction, the **Council would like to extend to huge THANK YOU to the Friends of the Park committee** for all the long hours and work they put into making Katepwa a beautiful place to be part of. Their work is always continuing and their ideas are always in motion as to how Katepwa can be functional, active and maintained. Thanks also to Lisa Alport and Cailin MacPherson for their input in helping to design the new building.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Every 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm
at the Katepwa Community Centre.
Public forum to follow for 15 minutes.

GARBAGE PICK-UP:

Garbage collection begins
on **MONDAYS** beginning **May 28th**.
Hot weather pick up starts at 6:00 a.m.

*PLEASE, keep garbage bag weight
to NOT more than 20lbs*

LANDFILL HOURS:

Beginning May 1:

Friday, Saturday and Monday 9am to 5pm
This includes Monday of the May long weekend

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

May 1st to September 30th

Monday to Friday
9:00am to 12:00pm
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Closed on all STAT holidays.

Phone: 306-332-6645

Email: katepwabeach@sasktel.net

NEED TO KNOW CORNER

- Two Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices have been purchased by the Lions Club. One will be housed in the town office and during the summer months and one will be housed in the Summer Activity Directors office. These are for the use of all ratepayers in case of emergency.
- All fireworks must be shot off **before** 11:00 pm. This is in accordance of the sound bylaw. Also, please make sure proper use of fireworks is adhered to as the person/property that is lighting them off is liable if a fire is started on or near surrounding property/s.
- **Pruning of elm trees is prohibited** by provincial regulation from April 1 to August 31 in order to prevent the spread of Dutch Elm Disease.
Signs of Dutch Elm Disease:
The first sign is wilting leaves. Leaves may turn yellow if trees are infected in the spring or early summer. Leaves may turn brown and not fall off if trees are infected later in summer. If you believe you have a tree affected by Dutch Elm Disease, contact the office for more information.
- **July 1st activities** are being organized once again, including live music and beach activities. Watch the next newsletter for more information!

CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO OF KATEPWA'S FINEST!

FRED WEEKLEY received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. This medal serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

Fred is a very deserving recipient for this medal. He has provided many years of leadership for the District of Katepwa, now serving in his second term as Mayor of our great District. His countless hours of volunteer effort during Katepwa's flood of 2011 provided a significant anchor for the community. When Fred says "*The District of Katepwa... It's a great place to live, let's keep it that way!*" he means it – his actions make this possible.

JOHN BOEHMER was presented with an Honorary Membership Award from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association in recognition of 21 years of commendable civic service voluntarily given.

John has been on council since 1991, when Katepwa South separated from the RM of Indian Head, and before the District of Katepwa was even formed! He was involved in Council through the amalgamation of the District in 2004, when Katepwa South, Katepwa Beach and Sandy Beach became one entity. This proved interesting, challenging, thankless, controversial and a learning experience. John has enjoyed his time on Council, especially village barbeques, volunteers and councilors working together making Katepwa a special place.

KATEPWA LIONS HOST SUCCESSFUL DERBY

Our Club remains active in spite of the cold weather and fewer members available to carry on. We held a **very successful Ice Fishing Derby on March 9th**. Most of the participants were happy with the weather and the warm reception for registration and food at the Katepwa Beach Hotel.

Door prizes were donated by many local businesses including **Chatterson Lumber, Crop Production Services, Debbie Norton Agency and R. W. & Sons** all from Balcarres, **Looken Good Hair** from Indian Head, and our local **Family Nine Golf Course**. Two **art prizes** were donated by **Hartley Gibbons, District of Katepwa Council** once again donated a generous prize for the **Junior prize** at the Derby. Additional donations for our raffle were donated by the **Katepwa Beach Hotel and Corey's Excavation**.



Many thanks for the donations!
Your generosity ensures a successful endeavor.

We have earmarked money from the Derby for the purchase of two First Responder Resource Bags for the District.

Most important of all were the **generous donations from Katepwa residents who volunteered** for the jobs that make the Derby possible. Their talents from hole drilling to recording at the registration table and assisting with selling and the final distribution of prizes are essential to the success of our Derby. **Many Thanks to you all!**

When/if the snow goes we will be doing the **highway clean-up from the Highway 56 turn off to the top of the south hill**.
Let us know if you would like to help... **there's a BBQ after we finish!**
Contact Dick Teece at 306 536-3610

SWIMMING LESSONS:

Swimming lessons at Katepwa Provincial Park will resume July 1st and will run until August 9th. Registration will be held on the Sunday prior to lesson week. Please contact Lisa Alport or Cailin MacPherson at 332-6152. Please remember to bring back your report cards! We are looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.



WANTED FOR SWIMMING LESSONS:

Used surfboard (windsurfer, paddle board, styrofoam board, etc) large and buoyant enough for young kids to stand on. If anyone has anything similar to this description that would be useful for swimming lessons for the kids please contact Cailin or Lisa at (306) 584-0578.