

Katepwa

DISTRICT OF



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

2012 – THE YEAR’S HOT TOPICS

Well here we are... wrapping up 2012, never thought we would see this year in December 1999 with the world ending and all! But it continues on.....

This time of year I like to give you a bit of a heads up on what's happened and happening:

The road projects to the landfill and Katepwa south have been completed. There is some patch work to do but after 5 years of bad weather and contractor unavailability we are finally there. There are more roads to do but that's part of Public Work's plan and they have it well in hand.

Our Lagoon project completion is within sight – it only needs about a month more of hard work by the contractor after the spring thaw. There have been some major hiccups along the way that will affect the District's finances over the few years but kudos to Bob Burnett and his crew for getting it as far along as it is. The cost savings with their efforts has been significant and we have complied with the Government's "edict".



The estimate to build the lagoon in 2006 was \$2.9 Million, this was re-estimated in 2010- 2011 at \$3.6 Million. The Council of the day (and I'm proud of them for it) came up with a plan to use the lagoon construction as a training program whereby we would pay equipment rent, limited labour costs as well as engineering costs in order to lower the price of the lagoon build. We did run into some sticky issues with weather and student enrollment; and to that end have taken out a line of credit and will be transferring that to a fixed term loan. Fortunately council had a reserve built up which helped us during the flood and once the Provincial Disaster Assistance Plan grant comes in to replace our expenditures we should be in a better position. We expect the lagoon to come in at around \$1.5 to \$1.7 Million with a resultant saving for the District of about \$2.0 Million.

This is a reassessment year! Most of you will remember the fight we had back in 2009 with the prospect of education tax skyrocketing and essentially doubling your combined tax bill? Well it MAY be about to happen again so listen up folks.

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The District's budget has always been designed to cover the costs of running the District with an eye to infrastructure maintenance and cost control. We plan on a 'break even' budget, no additional buffers beyond our regular contingency fund which has been in place for years and has allowed us to respond to issues such as the flood. We control what your costs are by controlling the 'municipal' tax rate...the 'mil' rate. For example: it the cost to run the District last year was \$750,000 and factoring in the assessment of each property we set the 'mil' rate at 4...that gives us enough cash to run the District. This year the assessments are to be doubling or more! We control the cash flow by reducing the mil rate. So... if it still costs the same to run the District we will drop the mil rate to however much to maintain the cash flow. Our end is easy.

The next part is hard - education tax. If the assessment doubles on your property you could see the education portion go through the roof. Last year education tax on our (our home) was \$3,025. If our assessment doubles this year's education tax will be \$6,050! Last year we received a 15% discount for early tax payment, this year IT'S GONE from the education portion! We can expect the full brunt of education tax to be placed on the shoulders of ratepayers. I'm pretty sure we all believe in universal education, I know I do. But there must be a better way of collecting the funds to do this.

This can be changed or at least controlled.

1. The Government can take the giant step to remove education tax from home and cottages or, if that's not possible in the short run, reducing the mil rate that education charges so that we remain 'revenue neutral'.
2. The Government can change the % we are assessed at much like they did for the RMs several years ago. In resort villages such as ours the assessed value of property seems to go up much faster and higher than the surrounding towns and villages, we need to be on a level playing field. To over assess retirement communities such as ours leads to folks being forced from their homes to satisfy the education needs.
3. The Government can remove education tax from homes and increase sales tax. We have been advised that education is on homes as the value of your home/cottage is an indication of your ability to pay! I don't know about you but I'm pretty sure my income and that of my neighbours and friends hasn't doubled and tripled over the last 3 years... Sales tax is an indication of how much an individual or family has to spend, an indication of wealth. This gets complicated because some of the necessities of life would also be taxed if it was a 'blanket' PST increase so some items would have to be exempt.

4. Those whose primary residence is not Katepwa and own second properties there, pay significant education taxes but do not get to vote for School Board representatives. Taxation without representation was a concept that was abolished centuries ago.

How can you help? Once the Government sets its budget this spring it will be difficult to make changes. If we can inform the members now of our concerns we may be able to help everyone. How do you do this? Ask two gentle questions of your elected officials:

Will the Government be adjusting the Education Mil rate to compensate for the unrealistic increases in property assessments in the Resort Villages and Districts?

Will the Government put into place a different formula for the Resort Villages and Districts as they did for the RMs?

Premier Brad Wall
306-787-9433 premier@gov.sk.ca

Minister of Finance Ken Krawetz
306-787-6060 minister.fi@gov.sk.ca

Honorable Don McMorris
306-787-6447 or 306-771-2733
(Indian Head Milestone) minister.hi@gov.sk.ca

MLA Glen Hart
306-723-4421 ghart@mla.legassembly.sk.ca

Honorable Russ Marchuk Minister of Education
306-787-7360 minister.edu@gov.sk.ca

Make your voice heard. Write the letter, send the email. It's your village and your home!

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

On behalf of the council we wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy 2013.

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

**YOUR ROADS
VS
YOUR DRIVEWAY:**

An even match means a win-win!
Did you know that driveways that are lower in grade than the adjacent roads destroy the pavement edge?

Please grade your driveway so that it is even with the road to avoid unnecessary destruction.

ELECTION 2012 RESULTS

Here, for a 4 year term are your
District of Katepwa Councilors:

MAYOR

Fred Weekley

WARD 1 – SANDY BEACH

Dawne Zahorski

Murray Penny

WARD 2 – KATEPWA BEACH

Michael Alport

Darwin Chatterson

Dwight Fisher

WARD 3 – KATEPWA SOUTH

Bob Burnett

Dave Thauberger

COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS:

Library:

Darwin Chatterson – Chair, Dawne Zahorski

Communication:

Dawne Zahorski – Chair, Cathy Cuddington

Recreation:

Dawne Zahorski – Chair, David Thauberger

Hospital:

Darwin Chatterson – Chair

Valley Development/Community Plan:

Mike Alport – Chair, Dawne Zahorski

Bylaws:

Murray Penny – Chair, David Thauberger,
Dwight Fisher

EMO:

Dwight Fisher – Chair, Murray Penny

Public Works:

Bob Burnett – Chair, Darwin Chatterson,
Dwight Fisher, David Thauberger, Murray Penny

Environment:

Bob Burnett – Chair, Mike Alport, David Thauberger

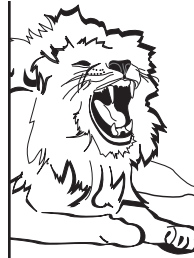
Finance:

Darwin Chatterson – Chair, Mike Alport

Education Tax:

Fred Weekley, Ben Holden, Jennie Avram

*To contact a councilor, look for their
phone number in the handy Katepwa directory
or email katepwabeach@sasktel.net
and your message will be forwarded.*



KATEPWA LIONS

Hear them Roar!

By Colleen Meyer

Thanks to those “**Friends of the Lions**”
all our commitments and a few extra tasks
have filled out a very full three months.

The **Public Access Defibrillator Units** were placed
at the **Golf Clubhouse** and at the **District office**.

The Unit from the Golf Club will be with our only
First Responder, Lion Corey Hodson. Until there is
accessible housing for the unit at the office, it will only
be available during office hours.

Recycling of electronics, ink cartridges, and cell
phones has been discontinued as the Sarcen depots
have begun to take all of these items.

**We will continue to collect eye glasses at the
Katepwa Centre for the recycling through the
Lions International Program.**

The Lions were asked to join the Council and the
Friends of Breese Park group to install the benches
at Breese Park and Sandy Beach. Residents using
these recreation areas will enjoy the convenience.

We have again refurbished and hung the
Christmas lights. Thanks again to the extra
volunteers who came to help.

We have purchased a new three burner coffee maker
and a new microwave for the Katepwa Center.

**Calling all ice fishing enthusiasts!! Mark March 9th
on your calendars for our Annual Fishing Derby!
Look for information on posters in the New Year.**

Katepwa Lions have two **major fund raisers**
each year – **Texas Holdem’ nights** at the
Katepwa Center in the spring/summer and a
Grey Cup Pool in November. This year the
Grey Cup Pool winners were: Glenda Woznesensky,
Dick Teece (two lucky tickets) and Joan Radwell.

You may be wondering why the Lions have
volunteers helping with so many activities. The first
reason for that is... these wonderful winters when
half of our membership is seduced by the warm
climates of the South! The second answer is that the
many successful activities we want to continue are
becoming just too demanding! Talk about success!

We have cut back our meetings to one per month,
and have made economies of workload so that no
one person is overburdened. Please give some
thought to joining our Lions Club. If you are interested
now or in the future, contact any of our members.

Our Membership contact is Lion Bob Banbury
(currently AWAY) Ph. 332 5341 or you may contact
our Secretary PH. 332 6509.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Every 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm at the Katepwa Community Centre.
Public forum for fifteen minutes following meeting.

WINTER GARBAGE PICK-UP:

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

WINTER OFFICE HOURS:

9:00am to 12:00pm,
and 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Monday through Friday
Closed all STAT holidays.
Phone 332-6645 or email at
katepwabeach@sasktel.net

NEWLY FORMED GARBAGE POLICY HELPS TO KEEP OUR DISTRICT CLEAN

Garbage being accumulated and stored for the purpose of being collected and taken to waste disposal ground must be kept in covered, fly-proof and water-tight containers of not over 17 gallons by volume and no more than 50 pounds. Containers for reception of garbage shall be stored in a manner that will not allow it to be ravaged by animals and be kept in a convenient and visible place for removal by authorized persons.

What this means to you:

While the policy states containers shall be no more than 50 lbs, out of courtesy we are asking to limit bags to 20 lbs in weight. Please be kind to your garbage collectors!

Garbage that is not stored in containers will not be picked up.

Why won't the District Pick up my leaves? *The massive amount of leaves that are collected in garbage bags create a huge volume of waste, which can't be separated from household waste. Filling the household waste pit will shorten the life of our municipal dump. Consider composting! Or, leaves can be taken to the dump to be put in a special area for organic matter.*



SUMMER ACTIVITIES LEADERS NEEDED:

Applicants must be at least
15 years of age.
Wage = \$10.00/hr
Terms: 60 hrs of work in July.

Please apply, with resume,
to the District of Katepwa:
Mail: P.O. Box 250
Lebret, SK S0G 2Y0
Fax (306) 332-5808
Email:
katepwabeach@sasktel.net

Do you have skills in arts,
crafts, sports or games?
Consider volunteering a few
hours of your time to a
group of enthusiastic children
– it's highly rewarding.

Or, do you have ideas for
activities you would
like to see organized
through the summer?
Contact the District office!



TIS THE SEASON *Thin Ice Warning*



Now that the temperatures are below freezing and ice is on the lake, it's tempting to get out there and have fun skating, fishing and snowmobiling. Before you do, be aware that danger exists. Freezing occurs differently every year and **thin ice can exist all year round.**

An indication of ice depth, and thus whether it's safe to proceed onto the ice, may be its colour: Blue ice is strongest, opaque white ice is of medium strength and grey ice is dangerously thin. Also, avoid activities in the dark and wear safety equipment.

Despite these warnings, people still fall through ice during a Saskatchewan winter – don't let it happen to you.

TRANS CANADA TRAIL SURPASSES A DECADE OF USE... NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR AN UPGRADE

By Sharon Blenkin

Katepwa and District Trail is a shared-use recreational trail that is a community based project. Construction of the trail began in 1999 and since then the trail has expanded and is used extensively.

The Katepwa & District Trail Committee consists of volunteers and this is an invitation to YOU to feel comfortable joining. Please contact sjblenkin@gmail.com if you wish you wish to be informed of work parties or notice of meetings.

Previous fundraisers for the Trail have been an annual Golf Tournament held in August, and a supper in October.

This year we are doing a major repair and rejuvenation of some areas of the trail, which will cost \$12,000.
Thank you to those who support our fundraisers!

On behalf of the Katepwa & District TransCanada Trail members, I would like to extend Season's Greetings to one and all and may your Holiday Season be filled with blessings.