

DISTRICT OF *Katepwa*

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

MAYOR'S REPORT

Here we are, spring of 2015! It came early! I checked my diary for the previous years and this is the earliest that we have ever done lawns, worked on flower beds and put docks in!

Seriously now....

I'd like to say a special thanks to all those volunteers who, over the past year, helped clean up trees, worked on the Trans Canada Trail, planted trees, ran Texas Holdem's, built play grounds and all those other events that make our District a very special place to live. Thank you!

To finance. Our financial position continues to improve, we were able to convince the Provincial Government (Dept of Environment) to, let's call it, "contribute" to our Landfill issue to the tune of \$100,000. That should enable us to make the planned \$300,000 deposit to our long term debt to free us up for other development. To those of you who are new to the District and are scratching their heads trying to figure this out. . . here's the short answer. In 2012 the Dept of Environment mandated that the District would build a new sewage

lagoon. The cost of this lagoon (\$2.2 mil), plus the costs incurred by the 2011 flood left the District without a reserve fund and the new owner of a \$1.8 Mil long term debt. We are trying to pay this debt off by 2018. This means that many projects that should be happening now are being held off until we're at a point at which we can afford those projects.

The landfill issue. The Dept of Environment has advised us that our landfill WILL close, some parts earlier than others. This doesn't help our bottom line and the way in which we approach the closure will have an impact on all of us. We are working with our Engineers to develop a plan that works in the best interest of the District and our finance. It's a complex issue but there are three basic options open to us;

A) Total closure and transfer to the Region landfill north of Fort Quappelle, this will cost a 'whack' of money which we don't have.

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B) Partial closure (the house hold garbage pit) and transfer to the regional landfill leaving the trash pit in use for a few years

C) A Loraas transfer to Regina with the trash pit staying open for ??? 3-5 years then option A! Locally the house hold garbage would continue to be picked and placed in a transfer container located at the current landfill site. Loraas will then haul it to Regina.

What's the timeframe on the above? 18 months max from last October with our final plan in the hands of the Dept of Environment by mid June 2015. The final stage will be complete closure and 'capping' of our

landfill, estimated cost ...\$250,000 to \$300,000. We don't have those funds either!

In the meantime we are obligated to monitor the six wells in our landfill annually until the Dept of Environment advises us that we can relax the monitoring. The annual monitoring cost are roughly \$20,000! Yikes. I wish we had a choice. We will keep you abreast of the situation as it rolls out.

As usual, if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Fred Weekley - Mayor

SMALL RISE IN MIL RATE

And the award goes to.... Well it's not an award for a single person but it's something for everyone. The new mil rate for property tax! Lucky us!

The Education mil rate has not changed from last year; it remains at 5.03 for residential properties, agricultural at 2.67 and commercial at 8.28. Good news on that side, thanks to the Provincial Government's planning.

The District taxes are a slightly different situation. Our District mil rate has been set at 6.0, up by only 0.2 from last year. How does this impact our ratepayers?

- Smaller properties will find the minimum tax on improvements has risen by \$25.
- Medium size properties will find an increase of \$40 to \$60.
- Larger properties will have an increase in the neighborhood of \$100.

The above numbers have been taken from selected properties in each category just so we (you) would have some idea as to what the changes would mean this year. Everyone's property taxes are different. Your property tax notice should be out in the mail in the next week or so.

We continue to put additional funds towards our long term debt which was created by the flood in 2011 and the new lagoon mandated by the Department of environment. We are on track for paying off this monster debt by 2018 hopefully.

As always, if you have any questions on the Districts operation, please give either myself, your Councilor or the District office a call. We will share any information we have.

Fred Weekley - Mayor

BE AWARE OF BYLAWS

Summer is coming! This is a good time to take inventory of what you have stored on your property. First of all, are you on your property? Sometimes we leave trailers and such on easements and road allowances, maybe even the neighbour's property.

We have to balance what recreational items (watercraft, trailers, vehicles, snowmobiles, etc) we use/ have been used and what is openly stored. If it is no longer used or operational, maybe you should get rid of it. Is that vehicle properly registered and licensed?

How many accessory buildings do you have on your property? If your count exceeds 3, as defined in our bylaws which are found on the District of Katepwa website, you have too many.

Vacant lots should be vacant. They are not meant to provide storage for extended periods of time. Many jurisdictions don't allow the fabric shelters that are used for boats, cars and such. They are usually deemed as temporary and place restrictions on them. While they are useful and affordable, they may not withstand our weather and become a hazard and an eyesore.

Everyone should take time to read the bylaws and ensure that they comply. Visit: www.katepwabeach.com/katepwa/bylaws.html

Please direct any bylaw concerns to the District Office. The staff will re-direct these concerns to the bylaws officer or appropriate person.

Katepwa is a beautiful place all year round. We all have a responsibility to maintain that beauty for all to enjoy.

Murray Penny
Bylaws Chair

SUMMER REMINDERS

I hope all of you found some warm and fuzzy moments this past weather and now with spring here and summer around the corner it's time to have a "catch up moment" and reminders.

- ☐ Thank you to the members of the Trans Canada Trail that built a new walking bridge across from the road entering the main beach.
- ☐ The Trans Canada Trail is a national concept that is to be respected by all users. The District encourages all users to follow the slow down signs, speed limits and to always be watching for pedestrians and children riding their bikes.
- ☐ A request has gone to "Ben", the man responsible for maintenance around the district, to have all street signs straightened and secured.
- ☐ If there is home or cottage in your area that is in need of attention/maintenance (e.g. rough roads, fallen trees on public property, etc.) please contact the office by written letter or email and cc dzahorski@sasktel.net
- ☐ Please take all grass clippings, raked leaves and trimmed tree cuttings to the dump. Your neighbour and visitors will appreciate the natural, debris free beauty of the grounds bordering the streets and paths.
- ☐ The District hopes to have both Summer Activity Coordinator positions filled soon. Please watch for the summer activity calendar on the District web site.
- ☐ You do not have to be a member of Facebook to access the District Facebook page. Check it out and stay in touch with what is happening in your area and around the lake. When changes are being made throughout the District this site is where you will find the dates of Public Notice and dates of meetings. Visit: www.facebook.com/DistrictofKatepwa
- ☐ The District invites you to attend the council meetings. From May until November they are held every second Monday 7:00. Attending the meetings is the best way to stay "In the know".
- ☐ Ratepayers have been asking for more informative minutes. Minutes are for motions and formalities. If you call or email the office, the administrative staff will be more than happy to email or mail out written reports from councilors, and any other discussion minutes taken.
- ☐ There are great family events all summer at the Motherwell Homestead. Visit: [motherwell.homestead@pc.gc.ca](http://motherwell.homestead.pc.gc.ca) or call 306 333-2116
- ☐ Thank you to Mike Alport for arranging the old Sandy Beach dump to be cleaned up.
- ☐ Thank you to those who submitted photos for publication in the newsletter. In this edition, front page, Photo Credit goes to Tracy Farkas, who took the picture near the Maples area. Look for other photos of beautiful Katepwa in subsequent newsletters.

Dawne Zahorski, Sandy Beach

JULY 1 CELEBRATIONS!

The District invites you to join in the celebration of this great country on July 1! There will be games for the kids, artisans in the park, music and the day will end with a wonderful display of fireworks.

If you have a talent, or a craft that you wish to display on July 1, please email: dzahorski@sasktel.net

Thank you to the following who donated to the Fireworks Fund!

Bob Burnett	Pattison Liquid Systems Inc Karen Serson
Dean Andres	Corey's Excavating
Barbara Kelly	Nathan Hollick
Glen Horvath & Diane Baumun	Katepwa and District Lions
Indian Head Chrysler	MC3 Resources
Garry Wilson	Rocco's Beach Store
Ronald Brandow Balcarres	Nicor Developments
Norton Trucking Fireworks	Fred Weekley
Ben Behnke	Dawne Zahorski

KATEPWA AND DISTRICT LIONS

This year's fish derby held March 14 saw 62 participants from 14 communities. There were 15 community volunteers and 21 local businesses assisting the Lions in making this a successful event.

In the past month, the Lions contributed to a new hairdryer and towel warmer for the Balcarres Integrated Care Centre and a contribution to the Balcarres Community Centre.

The Lions also committed funds to July 1 fireworks display and sponsorship of entertainment in the early afternoon by Len Gadica.

Upcoming events for the year: The Lions are busy planning for Texas Holdem June 20, July 18 and August 15 and our annual Grey Cup pool tickets

May 11, local Lions and volunteers from the community participated in the annual Adopt a Highway cleanup and Volunteer Recognition barbeque.

May is "Recycle for Sight Month" for Lion's Clubs throughout the province and urges everyone to recycle their old eye glasses and sunglasses. Lion's recycling eye box is located in the Library at the Katepwa Centre.

On August 16, local Lions will be assisting the Friends of the Park with the 3rd Annual Road Race.

As always we thank the many community volunteers who assist us with our projects.

Contact: Richard Teece, 306-332-4788

INVADERS can threaten our lakes!

Aquatic invasive species represent an economic and ecological threat to our lakes, fisheries, valuable recreational resources and water-related infrastructure. Katepwa Lake is at risk for invasion of Zebra and Quagga Mussels.

They compete for food that our native fish eat, causing the population of fish to deplete. They have a sharp shell and when they die they wash up on shore making beach areas unsuitable for walking in barefoot. They clog up intakes on pumps, and also make boating difficult. They are tiny in size - the biggest one smaller than a dime. They are transported on boats easily and reproduction is rapid - within 24 hours. They



can live out of water for up to 5 days - hidden in a boat with little sunlight and a bit of moisture they have been known to live up to 15 days.

Provincial Fisheries Regulations prohibit the importation, possession, transport or selling aquatic species that are considered to be a significant risk to Saskatchewan waters. The District has started doing its part in educating the public and its ratepayers on this important issue.

To help protect Saskatchewan waters please ensure to complete the following directions before returning home from out of province, coming to visit or moving between waters within the province.



Remember, you can help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by following the CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY principles.

For more information contact the Ministry of Environment through our Environment Inquiry Line at 1-800-567-4224 or by calling a local Ministry of Environment office.

To report suspected invasive species call the TIP Line at 1-800-667-7561.

Or visit:

www.100thmeridian.org/photos.asp

nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/zebramussel/zebra_gallery.aspx

CLEAN

- Clean and inspect watercraft, trailer, equipment and all related gear.
- Remove all visible plants, animals and mud.
- Inspect the hull, all drains, water in-takes, transducers, motors, propeller
- Inspect the trailer and vehicle.
- Wash, scrub or rinse using hot water away from storm drains, ditches and waterways.

DRAIN

- Ensure to drain all on-board water: motor, live wells, bilge, and ballast tanks etc.
- Remove the boat drain-plug during transport and storage.

DRY

- Your watercraft, equipment and all related gear - completely.

Also:

- Dispose of all unwanted bait in the trash, not into the lake.
- Never release leftover leeches or crayfish, plants or water into our lakes, rivers or wetlands. When you are tired of your aquarium fish, do not put the fish down the drain or release them into the wild!

SWIMMING LESSONS AT THE PARK

The Red Cross Swim Kids program will be offered this summer at Katepwa Point Provincial Park.

Lessons will run in 1 week sessions beginning Monday July 6th- Friday August 14th, 2015.

Registration will be held every Sunday prior, from 11-12 at the main swim office in the park.

Please bring any previous report cards at the beginning of the week.

For more information or to register, please contact Bryn Yanko or Rachel Schiebel at (306) 216-8705.

See you this summer!

NEW BYLAW ADDRESSES GOLF CART USE

Waaayyy back, prior to the year 2000, even earlier... the folks on Council put a 'policy' (not a by-law) in place regarding golf carts.

At that time and until now the 'policy' allowed golf carts to be used throughout the District provided that:

- a) They were going to or from the golf course,
- b) They carried golf clubs and
- c) They were limited to two (2) persons presumably of driving age... after all they WERE going to the golf course.

There was no 'implied' permission to use the golf carts for everything that they were use for. Our Ratepayers just took the liberty to use them for whatever they wished.

In the summer of 2014 the Government of Saskatchewan' through SGI, mandated that each municipality that 'wished' to allow the use of golf carts for transportation to and from their local golf court must have a 'Golf Cart' by-law in place prior to the golf season in 2015. If the town/ village/ District did not have a by-law in place it would be illegal to operate a golf cart for ANY reason in that jurisdiction!

So, to allow our ratepayers the use of their golf carts...we put a golf cart by-law in place. It follows the parameters set out by SGI. It requires liability insurance (good idea) and a slow moving vehicle sign (not a bad idea) as well you must have a drivers license (another good idea)!

What can you legally use the golf cart for? Well, going to and from the golf course! Just as the policy stated before the by-law was enacted.

Understand that the 'liability' is on the golf cart owner/operator. It was illegal to use the golf cart for other uses in the past and it still is under the new by-law but . . . now you CAN legally use it for going to and from the golf course.

Our authority does not extend to the Provincial Park lands and we have been advised that it will continue to be illegal to drive a golf cart within Provincial Park limits.

The above is the 'Readers Digest' version of the by-law. The full Katepwa by-law with the traffic act regulations can be found on our website www.katepwabeach.com.

Fred Weekley Mayor

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENTS COLLECT DATA ON HEALTH OF THE CALLING LAKES

Bert Fox Community High School Science teacher Phil Langford hopes his students will become critical consumers of science. To that end he will be leading his Grade 11 Environmental Science students out to the lakes in the fall to collect data for the Calling Lakes Eco Museum project. While details are still being fleshed out, Langford hopes this will be the start of an annual process of data collection which will help to indentify patterns over time. This data will be made available to the Eco Museum project and may be used to inform those who make decisions impacting the Qu'Appelle Valley watershed.

Langford hopes that this student-generated data will be influential in the daily lives of those living in the Qu'Appelle Valley, and to those who set policies concerning watershed use (including policies regarding effluent flow into the lakes). Langford hopes the students will learn the skills involved in collecting specific pieces of data and to view that data without judgement. Perhaps even more importantly he hopes they will develop a lifelong concern for the subject area, using data to inform and elicit change.

This is definitely a project worth watching. It is a great example of diverse segments of the community coming together for a common goal. For more information, contact Phil Langford at Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'appelle 306-332-4343 or by e-mail at phil.langford@pvdsd.ca.

What is an Eco Museum?

An Eco Museum does not have walls. It is community driven, non profit and a rescue mechanism for a threatened landscape. In this instance, the Eco Museum is the Qu'Appelle Watershed and everything that touches or impacts it.

Here are a few of the accomplishments of the hard working volunteers (the Qu'Appelle Initiative) working towards a better landscape:

- The Calling Lakes District Planning Commission has been nominated for a national planning award for their collaborations and work with the water.
- The Eco Museum was part of the Saskatchewan Eco museum Initiative that received a United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise Flagship Award.
- The Eco Museum received recognition at the Regional Centre of Expertise May 6th at the University of Saskatchewan.
- Relationship building with the Lower Qu'Appelle Water Stewards, Ducks Unlimited and Nature Conservancy of Canada.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Phone: 306-332-6645

Fax: 306-332-5808

E: katepwabeach@sasktel.net

W: www.katepwabeach.com

GARBAGE PICK-UP:

Every Monday

If Stat holidays fall on a Monday, garbage pickup will be Tuesday.

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

LANDFILL HOURS:

May 1 - October 31

Monday, Friday & Saturday:

9:00am to 5:00pm

(otherwise call for appointment)

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

May 1 - September 30

Monday to Friday

8:30am to 12:00 noon

1:00 - 4:30pm

Closed on all STAT holidays.

FROM THE OFFICE:

Online payment of your taxes is now available. You will need to contact your financial institution to add the District of Katepwa as a "Vendor" or "Payee". Your account number will be the "Roll Number" which can be found on the upper left hand side of your tax notice.

THE LOWER QU'APPELLE WATERSHED STEWARDS – LOOKING OUT FOR OUR WATER SUPPLY

The Lower Qu'Appelle River Watershed is comprised of the downstream half of the Qu'Appelle River Basin. It covers an area of about 17,800 square kilometers in southeastern Saskatchewan and includes six major lakes - Pasqua, Echo, Mission, Katepwa, Crooked, and Round.

One of the organizations tasked with monitoring and overseeing this watershed is the Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards Inc. (LQWS). This non-profit organization has existed as a committee since 2010 and was incorporated as a non-profit in 2013. Funding is derived from grants and membership fees. The LQWS is one of 11 such stewardships in the province. The vision of the organization is a long-term, stable, high-quality water supply for people and for the environment. Water quality in the Lower Qu'Appelle Lakes will be able to support recreation, fishing and economic development within the ecological limits of the system.

Alice Davis, who has been with the LQWS since 2010 as a committee member, board member and, more recently as the manager, is justifiably proud of what has been able to be accomplished during its short life-span. Highlights include:

□ Working with youth - the LQWS sponsor a poster contest each year aimed at grades 5, 6 and 7. This year the theme is "Water and Wildlife".

□ The Wetlands Restoration Project - a partnership involving three other area Watersheds as well as Ducks Unlimited and the Saskatchewan Water Association with funding from Environment Canada's National Wetland Conservation Fund. Wetlands will be restored using earthen plugs. Landowners will sign a 10 year agreement to keep the restored wetlands in place.

□ Monitoring invasive species - This summer watersheds will deliver the Saskatchewan Adult Invasive

Mussel Monitoring (AIMM), Co-ordinated by the Saskatchewan Fisheries Unit in partnership with non-government agencies. Of particular concern are the Zebra and Quagga Mussels. Work is being done with invasive plant species as well, through work with the RM's and SARM.

□ Work with agricultural producers - The Calling Lakes Farm Stewardship Group delivers the Agri- Environmental Program and the Farm Stewardship programs. In 2014/2015 \$364,865 worth of projects were completed, with \$189,493 eligible to be returned to producers. Program dollars will continue to be focused on projects that have a direct impact on surface water.

To learn more about the Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards visit: www.lqws.ca.

KATEPWA & DISTRICT TRANSCANADA TRAIL

The Katepwa District TransCanada Trail extends from Shamus Shores Road, at the south end of Katepwa, to Sandy Beach. It was developed and is maintained by interested volunteers of the community.

We are always looking for new members. To become involved is easy - contact Sharon Blenkin at sjblenkin@gmail.com or Pat Salter at salterpa@hotmail.com.

Thank you to all volunteers who maintain the flower pots and the surrounding areas along and on the TransCanada Trail. Your work is noticed and appreciated!!

Upcoming Events:

June 3 - Annual Spring Meeting - Katepwa Center - 5:45- Pot Luck, 7:00 - meeting

June 8 - Clean-up of Trail and Roses

August 17 - Katepwa & District TransCanada Trail Golf Tournament (Fundraiser)

Oct - Fundraising Dinner - Wooden Nickel Hotel, Indian Head (Date not determined yet)

For more information on Trans Canada Trail news in Saskatchewan and beyond, visit www.tctrail.ca