

District of Katepwa

NEWSLETTER

www.katepwabeach.com

NOVEMBER 2010

KATEPWA'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN DEMYSTIFIED

Just 50 minutes east of Regina lies a unique oasis – a glacier-developed valley and lake set apart from the usual prairie landscape. Renewed enthusiasm about the provincial economy, coupled with baby boomers starting to plan their retirement, is making Katepwa one of the most sought after resort areas in Southern Saskatchewan. As the traditional sites of development along the shoreline and in the “village” are taken, there becomes more pressure to develop other parts of the valley.

Because of the Valley's status as a “hot commodity”, it is necessary for the District to implement a plan to clearly define what we want our Valley to be and to develop guiding principles that will protect the valley's unique environment. Enter the Official Community Plan (OCP).

The OCP being planned for Katepwa is not unique to our area but is part of a provincial initiative to transfer more control of local planning and development to the municipal level – in our case the District of Katepwa. Over time, this responsibility has changed. In the 1970 and 80's, some of you may remember the Qu'Appelle Valley Authority – a government agency that had broad responsibility for overseeing development in the valley. This responsibility was subsequently transferred to a Provincial Department and now, with passage of the Provincial Planning Act, 2007, responsibility now rests with the local community.

Once passed by our council and formally approved by the Dept of Municipal Affairs, the OCP will be the guiding policy and protocol for Council, developers, and individuals who are planning any development in our District. The OCP will be fully enforceable and it will clearly define matters that will impact the Valley like building and zoning bylaws. It will clarify land usage (ie: development verses conservation) and it will identify infrastructure needs like the building of roads, lake access points, etc. A plan like this is absolutely essential.

In August the Committee in charge of this plan, led by Ted Alport along with Council and John Wolfenberg (Certified Community Planner), held an open house to give ratepayers clarity on the purpose of the plan, why it is necessary, and reasons why we need to take this plan seriously. The meeting was well attended and the presenters did a great job demystifying the Official Community Plan (OCP).

The “community plan” is well named because it is intended to reflect the views and values of those people who live in the community. This can obviously only be achieved if you share your views and ideas on the kind of community you would like to live in five or ten years from now. This means that the Community at large needs to consider and weigh in on the long-range sustainability plans of the Valley and not just our own immediate property or that of our neighbours. The development of the OCP will include consultation with bordering municipalities who are responsible for making decisions about land use adjacent to our District (technically, only about 60% of the Katepwa lake shore line is in the Katepwa District).

John Wolfenberg is a certified community planner and has been instrumental in helping many communities develop their plans. Our Council's number one concern is to protect the sides of the valley from unsafe use and to define the physical limitations of this land. The best tool available to help Council in this effort is the OCP.

It is worth noting that we aren't leading the pack with the development of our OCP – many other Saskatchewan communities have, or are developing their own plan. Fort San and B- Saytah, at Echo Lake, already have their plans in place. While we won't have the first plan, with your help, we hope to have one of the best plans.

The development and implementation of the OCP is expected to be a year-long process. Ratepayers have been invited to provide their input, suggestions and feedback through mailed surveys. The survey was due October 31. While the deadline is past, it is never too late to send in your feedback for consideration.

Our website, www.katepwabeach.com, will keep you up-to-date on the status of the OCP. You can also access the printable surveys through the website. All OCP updates and surveys results will be posted under Resident Services. Stay informed and participate in this process to protect our valley.

DISTRICT OF KATEPWA

BOX 250

LEBRET, SASK

S0G 2Y0

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT 41738517

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY TRAINING COURSE

All snowmobile operators born on or after January 1, 1989 are required by law to complete a snowmobile safety-training course before operating a snowmobile on public land. You must be at least 12 years old to enrol in a snowmobile course. To find a course near you, Call Toll Free: 1-800-499-7533 or visit: www.sasksnowmobiling.sk.ca/trail_maps.htm.

HEY CHECK THAT ICE FIRST!

Always be sure to measure clear hard ice in several areas before venturing out.

MINIMUM ICE THICKNESS RULES FOR NEW CLEAR HARD ICE

3" (7 cm) or less	- STAY OFF!
4" (10 cm)	- ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing
5" (12 cm)	- one vehicle - snowmobile or ATV
8-12" (20-30 cm)	- one vehicle - car or small pick-up
12-15" (30-38 cm)	- one vehicle - medium truck

LION'S CLUB REPORT:

New Christmas Lights:

In the spirit of the season, the Lion's Club has donated new Christmas Lights and will be hanging them throughout Katepwa South and Sandy Beach.

You may notice new **playground equipment** in the Katepwa Regional Park. It was donated by the Lions Club and Kids at Katepwa and installed by volunteers.

Katepwa and District Lions are continuing the **Fishing Derby** tradition. It will be on March 13, 2011. Watch for news about the Fishing Derby on the web site www.katepwabeach.com

Thanks to all the District residents who donated items to our **flea market** in July. Fund raised go to our community projects. To all of you who purchased Grey Cup Pool Tickets...Good Luck!

7 large Cartons of E-Waste Recycled!

The Katepwa & District Lions thank all residents for supporting the Think Recycle program. To date, seven large cartons of e-waste materials have been shipped to the Greentec recycling company based in Cambridge, Ontario. The list of electronic items that can be deposited in the collection bins has now been expanded to include iPods, MP3 players, and laptops. This is in addition to inkjet and laser cartridges, cell phones and digital cameras. The Lions ask that alkaline batteries be removed from the items and deposited separately in a plastic bag. The batteries are accepted for recycling at outlets such as Future Shop.

COUNCIL MEETINGS: ● BREEZE PARK - PAST AND PRESENT

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

WINTER GARBAGE PICK-UP:

● Tuesdays ● (returns to Monday the week ● following May long weekend). ● PLEASE, keep garbage bag ● weight to NOT more than **20 lbs.**

WINTER LANDFILL HOURS:

● Saturday 1:00 - 3:00 ● (weather permitting ● or by appointment)

WINTER OFFICE HOURS:

● 9:00am -12:00pm ● and 1:00pm - 3:00pm ● Monday thru Friday. ● Closed all Stat Holidays

● Phone 332-6645 or email at ● katepwabeach@sasktel.net

DO YOU HAVE BOOKS TO DONATE?

● Thanks to Blanch McRorie and ● her group of dedicated volunteers ● who spend many hours stamping, ● organizing and shelving books. ● Due to limited shelf space the library ● will now only accept donations of ● books published within the last 10 ● years. If you have books to donate ● that you feel would be an asset and ● don't fall in this guideline, please ● call Blanche at 332-6002, Elaine ● at 332-1460 or Sue at 332-4258. ● They are not currently in need of ● puzzles or games.

● If you wish to order books, e-books ● or audio books on line and do not ● have a Southeast Region Library ● card you may fill in a form in our ● library (kept near the check-out ● binder) and it will be sent in for ● you. You may also secure a card ● from any full service branch of ● Southeast Regional Library, Fort ● Qu-Appelle is the closest branch.

KATEPWA JOB SHOP.CA:

● The District of Katepwa Council ● is looking for a motivated ● individual who is interested in ● keeping our village safe and ● enjoyable. There is a position ● available for **By-Laws Officer** ● from May 1 – September 30th. ● Core duties are to respond ● to complaints in the form of ● education and to resolve minor ● issues. The Bylaw Officer will ● work closely with the District ● office on issues as well as patrol ● and monitor ongoing situations. ● Those interested can find a full ● job description on ● www.katepwabeach.com

● As you descend into the valley on ● highway 56, the land on the South ● side of the lake welcomes you. ● This is the East and West Maples, ● now known as Breeze Park, after ● the late Ed Breeze, former Mayor ● of South Katepwa.

● About eight years ago a committee ● known as South Katepwa Recreation ● Committee was formed to try to ● create some recreational facilities ● in this area. Many hours were ● volunteered by these Committee ● members: Sue Borys, Gail & Jodi ● Wheatley, Ed & Carmel Breeze, ● John & Eldeen Boehmer, Laura ● Hollick, Mickey Boyle, Vivian ● Robinson, Virginia Jedlik, Cory & ● Glenda Hodson. I apologize if I ● missed anyone from that committee.

● Some of the planning ideas included: ● a driving range (later developed ● in the West Maples area), a ● recreation center, ball diamond, ● horseshoe pitch, lawn bowling, ● skate centre, tennis courts, a ● walking path, tree planting...and ● the vision went on!! Over ● \$13,500 was generated to help ● develop the area. Sadly, over the ● years the vision of Breeze Park ● fell by the way side. Some money ● was initially spent on planning ● incidentals but in the end, the ● Breeze Park account was left ● with a \$10,500 balance.

● Fast forward to 2010! A new ● committee was struck by Glen ● Horvath with a fresh vision for ● Breeze Park developments. ● The Committee consists of Bob ● Burnett, John Boehmer, Eileen ● Fisher, Cory Hodson and Mayor ● Fred Weekley as an advisor.

● The vision.... building a new ● approach/access on the south ● side of Breeze Park, with a ● parking area and bathroom ● facilities. A new regulation ● 60x120ft tennis court is being ● built. Thank you to Cory Hodson ● for doing the foundation work! ● Funding for this work is in part ● from the Breeze Park account ● and from the District of Katepwa ● (\$3,000 towards labour). The ● actual paving of the court has ● been donated by Brian Lawton, ● of BLS Paving (thank you BLS ● Paving) and will be completed ● next summer. The tennis court ● will also have two basketball ● backboards at opposite sides ● of one end and a 10ft fence ● around the perimeter of the ● tennis court. All the needed ● equipment (nets, basketball ● backboards, etc.) have been ● purchased and will be installed ● in the spring/summer of 2011. ● Volunteers will be needed in ● the spring to help install the ● tennis posts, net, and painting ● the lines. If you are interested ● please contact any of the ● committee members or myself ● at 551-5315.

● An area by the alfalfa field is ● going to be used for an un-● boarded rink this winter. The ● area has already been cleared ● and will be ready for the ● skating season.

● Future plans for the park include: ● children's play area at the ● entrance of Breeze Park (near ● the flags), park benches and ● a walking path. A sand ● volleyball court will be built ● next summer along the tree ● line. There has been some ● discussion of a possible ball ● diamond; however, nothing has ● been finalized at this time.

● The Committee is taking every ● effort to consider the privacy ● of residents of this area when ● planning the upgrades to the ● park and are hopeful that the ● end result will be in line with ● the vision of the original ● committee who wanted ● everyone in the district to ● benefit.

● Glen Horvath, ● Chair, Recreation Committee

MAYORS REPORT

The District and PARCS (Provincial Association of Resort Communities)

Many people are wondering “What’s happening to our Highway 56 bridge on the South side of the Lake?” I spoke to the foreman on the job and he tells me that the pillars are being replaced and the bridge resurfaced. It should take about 2 months. Meanwhile the detour is past the old school house and over the old bridge. It adds an extra 4 minutes to your time but I think we can live with it!

Quads and ATV’s: I have said it before; we are not alone in our concerns. It appears that Resort Villages across the province are having the same problems (destruction of land, noise and creation of dangerous situations) - so much so that at the PARCS convention, a resolution was passed to take this exact issue to the Government. There is a petition in our office to have ATV’s registered (similar to boats) in order to assist with enforcement of laws by the RCMP. The petition is gradually collecting names. If you are concerned about this please get your name on the list, the more we have the greater the impact with the Government.

Road repairs in the District: After waiting patiently all summer to get the much needed road repairs completed, we will have to wait longer. The paving has not been completed, and with the recent snow fall it has set it back again. The District of Katepwa has made arrangements to ensure the major holes are patched before the next snow fall.

Community development: Every Resort Village is being burdened with the same issues. The costs and the amount of necessary paper work are going up with the new Government regulations on ‘everything’. This includes such things as landfill, sewage, public works regulations. All of this impacts our costs but is intended in good faith to help maintain our communities. Unfortunately the additional work creates a burden on our staff and on our budget.

Want to bring more nature to our Village? “Darken the Sky” by turning out all your yard and overhead lights! This program, in effect in many communities, has yielded success: statistics have shown that less lighting actually ADDS to security and reduces vandalism rather than the reverse! If you think about it, this makes sense...if the vandal can only see the side of your building with a flashlight; it’s tougher to cover it with graffiti. The same holds true for your yard – if a trespasser needs a flashlight to see what you have to steal then they become more obvious in their activity. Not only that, but it saves money and reduces greenhouse emissions. Try it and see if we can’t do our part to reduce light pollution. You can learn more about this concept by visiting www.darksky.org.

Snowbirds!! As you while away your time in warmer climates keep an eye on the new web page for all your updates from the District of Katepwa, it’s meant to keep everyone informed. Please don’t call or email us to tell us how WARM it is where you are!



Merry Christmas to all, have a great season!

Mayor Weekly

30 MINUTES WITH THE MAYOR

So many things have taken place in the District over the last year and the Communications Committee thought it would be a good idea to catch up with the Mayor and see what he thought!

Q: It’s one year down in a 3 year term. You have a number of new councillors on deck and it appears that everyone is busy with new initiatives and a lot of internal “housekeeping” issues. How has the year been?

With any new council there is a steep learning curve but so far everyone has done a great job. This is an excellent council. We have had a few difficulties coming to an understanding about the odd issue but it is good to have a range of dynamic opinions. For the most part it is a unified council.

The change in council has made it clear to me that policies need to be developed to aid with consistencies from council to council and I plan to insure that this gets addressed before the end of this council’s term.

Q: How did a council see wisdom in approving the Berry Hills Development and why was there no public consultation prior to this approval? Granted, there was the public input ads placed in the Indian Head Newspaper. But why didn’t council force the public consultation process until it was satisfied that adequate communication about the development had been achieved?

You have to understand that Council does not operate by its own devices when it comes to approving new development proposals. The Community Planning Branch of Provincial Government oversees and approves all subdivision within the District of Katepwa. Council’s job is to notify them of any problems or concerns but they make the final discussion. Municipal law dictates that the developer has to own the land; it has to be designated for the correct usage (e.g. residential); building codes must be adhered to. This development satisfied all of these requirements.

In terms of informing the public, a letter must be sent out to anyone living within 75 meters of the development. No letters were sent as there are no home owners within 75 meters of Berry Hills. We must host a public meeting and notify our ratepayers of this meeting through paid advertising (The Hearing was advertised in both Indian Head/Wolseley News and Fort Qu’Appelle Times running the weeks of Jan 8, 2008 and Jan 15, 2008). It was also posted on the bulletin boards, in the office, on the office door and printed in the posted minutes. Council met the communication requirements as per bylaw no. 17-05 Public Notice Policy and as per requirements in the Planning and Development Act 2007.

Q: Ratepayers in the south end of Katepwa asked council to work with Berry Hills Estates to try to diminish the impact of the street lighting that is installed up the hill. Was the lighting changed and was it effective?

At our request, SaskPower replaced lights in two of the light standards going up the hill but the effect was minimal; it seems that no one noticed.

One of the ways we are attempting to tackle this issue is through the newly launched “Darken the Skies” program. We encourage all residents to, whenever possible, turn off any overhead lights that are not required. Council is also investigating the possibility of turning off some of the street lights in order to save money and have a more desirable ambience in the village. This is in the infant stage of development.

Q: During your time as Mayor, have you seen the level of interest, attendance at meetings, and feedback from ratepayers increase? If so, what are some hot buttons for ratepayers and has the increase in newsletter issues and the website helped to communicate back to your constituents or do you feel we are just scratching the surface here?

As an elected official you always hope that your constituents will show interest in the issues that affect all of us in the District. At the end of every council meeting we have an “Open” session where any ratepayer can ask questions and comment on any topic. All council meetings are open to the public. The attendance varies, but typically, there are only 3 people who regularly attend council meetings. I have to express surprise and disappointment that our “Open” session is not better attended and I continue to encourage our constituents to attend our meetings.

Q: Vehicle and boat trailer parking in the park in the summer on the weekends has swelled to capacity. Would council support seeing the implementation of park fees at our provincial park to control parking and dock capacity?

Unfortunately managing traffic and parking in the provincial park is not under our jurisdiction. We have no ability to control this but there may be an opportunity down the road to work with the province to address some of these issues.

Q: There has been a lot of bylaw enforcement action this past season within the District, in particular the clean up and reclaiming of beach access sites. This has resulted in controversy amongst ratepayers and the Council. Is this a success story or is there more work to be done?

Yes it certainly is a contentious issue because infringement on District property has been going on for years and some of our ratepayers seem to believe it is their right to absorb space that does not belong to them. Clearly there is still work to be done on this issue. Council has asked that signs be erected identifying public property so that everyone is aware that absolutely no personal structures are allowed on public property.

Q: There are no welcome signs or marking of any kind at either end of the lake. Is Council addressing this?

Absolutely. We fully intend to install signage. We had a competition for “a sign of significance”, something pleasing to the eye and descriptive of our District but to date have received only one submission. We continue to look for the development of the new visual identity for the District before we produce and install the signs.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER EVENT VOLUNTEERS!

Two events were held this summer that would not have been as successful without the help of our volunteers. The annual Sand Castle Building Event and the Katepwa Mile Swim were great successes. The Recreation Committee tips its hat to volunteers Lisa Alport and Cailin MacPherson for their great work in organizing both events. A special thank you also goes to Aura Lee MacPherson and Sandy Stepan for their volunteer judging of the Sand Castle Event, a daunting task with over 90 participants! The Recreation Committee is working on ideas for next year, if you have any suggestions please call Glen Horvath at 332-3730.

Q: The lagoon is a hot topic. The task of getting sufficient funds to rebuild the lagoon is very daunting. Can you share any information about this infrastructure problem?

There are options for funding but council knows that isn’t enough. We have worked with various levels of government in order to qualify for grants, but have been turned down. Our environment officer is impressed with our current system – we just need to expand it. Meanwhile, we are hoping that residents try to be good waste water managers. There is currently a Rebate program to encourage low flush toilets, for example.

We have researched options for funding the new lagoon and they are few. We have worked with various levels of government in order to qualify for grants, but have been turned down. The Provincial environment officer is impressed with our current system – we just need to expand it. The last council was able to get to the point of qualified estimates for the expansion and those costs vary but are in the neighbourhood of \$2,900,000, apparently there is more to adding to the lagoon than ‘digging a hole’. Meanwhile, we are hoping that residents try to be good waste water managers.

Q: Many times throughout the past year you have asked for volunteers to help with various issues in the District. We have sensed your frustration when nobody steps up. Why is volunteering, or the need for volunteers, so imperative to the success of a community?

No question, it is difficult to get volunteers. In the past we have asked for volunteers to help with the recreation committee and the education tax committee for example. Some people did step forward and look what we managed to achieve with the Education Tax issue. Huge success! So much can be accomplished with volunteers but it is a constant struggle to get people to commit. Our Lion’s Club is an excellent example of volunteers at work to improve our community, as is the Trans Canada Trail Committee.

Residents need to understand that the council members do this job essentially as a volunteer group; most councillors have full time job/careers elsewhere. Residents also need to understand that we do NOT have full time public works staff; we have ‘seasonal’ staff from roughly May to October. Our budget does not allow for full time staff in all departments to help achieve the goals we MUST accomplish. Therefore... volunteers are helpful in improving the community.

Q: As Mayor, what was the most satisfying event/occurrence/outcome that you saw take place in your District this past year?

Hands down it was the saving of \$250,000 in education taxes! The district was instrumental in making that happen and I am extremely proud of our successful efforts!

Q: Some ratepayers feel that they are paying high taxes in relation to the services that are offered - and we still aren’t out of the woods if you think about the lagoon, road repairs, landfill, etc. What are your feelings on this? i.e. is the ratepayer getting fair value for their tax dollars, and is Council trying to implement change to sustain the community long term?

I know that without a doubt, ratepayers are getting fair value for their tax dollars. Last year our District had a \$642 budget surplus – as you can see we just break even. Clearly we are able to do what we need to do to just maintain services to the District. Education tax is high and land values have skyrocketed, so we acknowledge taxes have increased. Still, there are no luxuries or heavy surpluses in the District budget. I am very pleased with our sound financial management practices.

HERO OF THE YEAR!

“I am very pleased to bestow Gerry Racette with our Hero of the Year Award!” announces Mayor Weekley. “He has worked with the District for over 10 years as our Landfill Foreman - very efficiently I might add!”

Gerry has lived in the valley or near Katepwa his entire life - that means for the past 71 years. He has worked as a carpenter for about 55 years. He attended school at the Katepwa school (yes, there once was a school at Katepwa!), using horse and buggy as a means of transportation. In his youth, Katepwa was self-sustaining – Gerry remembers that his family was able to purchase their supplies at Katepwa.

Many of you know that Gerry runs a tight ship over at the landfill and recently he added some life to the site. Gerry found a new contractor to dig and compact our landfill site. The work that was done was not only cost efficient but will extend the life our landfill by several years! This translates to huge savings to the District and the Ratepayers. Thank you Gerry for thinking of our community needs and for keeping things running smoothly at the landfill!

KATEPWA’S NEW BUILDING BYLAWS TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2011

It’s official: Municipal Affairs, Government of Saskatchewan has confirmed that our Building Bylaws meet all requirements of the law and have been fully approved. The new building permit rates for plan review, site inspections and administration fees, as published in the August newsletter, come into force January 1, 2011. They have changed to reflect rates charged in other jurisdictions. Full details of the bylaws can be found on the website www.katepwabeach.com