



DISTRICT OF *Katepwa*

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

DON'T JUST TALK ABOUT IT, *BE* ABOUT IT

Rick Pattison, Mayor

I learned at an early age that if you're not prepared to do something about a situation, don't just complain about it. Change requires action, which is why I've decided to get involved with council and address the community in this newsletter.

I have spent the past 40 plus years enjoying the beauty and serenity of the valley and consider it to be one of my most favorite places on the planet. During this time we have had several properties, with the West Maples being our home for the past 15 years.

The natural beauty of this valley has been the backdrop for much of the strategic planning that has contributed to the success of my business, Pattison Liquid Systems Inc., which turns 35 this year! To me, this is truly amazing. It seems like just yesterday when we started out on this adventure.

During this time, I have been on more boards of directors than I can remember — from small-town boards to municipal, divisional, provincial, national and international boards.

Despite this schedule, I would like to offer my services to council. I care about this community and I believe that my business and board experiences allow me to bring a degree of much-needed expertise in areas that require immediate attention, including:

1. Rebuilding council and providing proper guidance to members.
2. Improving the business operations of the district and returning it to financial health.
3. Implementing proper governance and protocols.
4. Implementing transparency in all district business dealings.

Unfortunately, some decisions were made in recent months that left the district in a state of disarray, impacting both the financial health and the overall morale of our friends in the valley.

At a lengthy strategic planning session on September 10, your council has identified and prioritized the issues that must be dealt with immediately (they are listed below). Although progress is being made on all fronts, issues with the highest degree of urgency will be given priority.

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DISTRICT OF KATEPWA
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I want to assure you that these issues *will* be dealt with, in the most timely and cost-effective manner as possible.

- The slump on the road in Lakeside — This poses a serious safety concern. At the time of this writing, repair work will commence immediately.
- The district's finances — Cost-cutting measures are being implemented and other funding is being explored. My remuneration for this year will be \$1.00.
- Water quality — Members of council have been involved in many meetings on all of the water issues and we have been active with CLDPC, Calling Lakes District Planning Commission, (which brings a unified voice from our four lakes and local districts). Again, at the time of this writing, we are aware of major changes that will be made to ensure the safety of our lakes water quality into the future.
- Restructuring council and implementing proper protocol — This has been done. Your council now speaks with a unified voice and has a new direction. All district dealings will follow proper procedure and protocols. Council will stand behind its commitment to total transparency.
- Landfill — All options are being investigated keeping the district's best interests in mind.
- Lagoon — The repayment of this debt is a top priority and will be done as quickly as possible. Options are being explored to better utilize the lagoon.
- Road allowances — Discussions with other districts are taking place to determine how others are dealing with these issues. A plan will be put in place that will be fair and equitable to all.

In addition to the above, council is also working on a five-year plan; collaboration with neighbouring councils to discuss possible cost sharing; parking areas; discussions with the provincial parks on boat launch and parking; park beautification; and road maintenance and repair.

As you can see, council has a busy year ahead! However, all members are excited about the positive changes that will come as a result of this approach.

We ask for your patience and cooperation. If we can all work together and focus on the future, the Katepwa that we all have come to enjoy will continue for generations to come.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Darwin Chatterson

The District finances are not in trouble if Council stays on the present course of action and budgeting. In a nut shell, the lagoon cost about \$2.2 million with a loan of \$1.8 million. Even though the landfill fire took us off course, this past year the loan is down to about \$1 million. We are making monthly payments of roughly \$20,000, which before this last \$400,000 pay down was mostly interest. We will hopefully budget another \$300,000 payment from the 2016 taxes. This will bring our debt down to just under \$500,000. By doing the same for 2017, we should be just about debt free.

Council is trying to maximize the life of the landfill, and to that eventful end, Council is adding funds to reserves for decommissioning the household garbage portion or area of the landfill.

BY-ELECTION IN THE DISTRICT OF KATEPWA

Due to the resignation of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in July, 2015, a by-election was held in the District of Katepwa.

A poll was not required pursuant to the Local Government Election Act for the office of MAYOR.

Mr. Rick Pattison was elected by acclamation.

In the poll for Councillor Ward 3, voting took place on Saturday, September 5, 2015.

Mr. Nathan Hollick was elected Councillor for Ward 3

These terms are in effect until the next Election in the District of Katepwa, which will be held in August of 2016.

BREESE PARK UPDATE

Dave Thauberger

Breese Park is located in the Maples Subdivision of Katepwa South, divided into East and West Maples. It is named after former Mayor of Katepwa South, Ed Breese. The Breese Park volunteer committee have been working on a number of projects:

- Tree planting in West Maples
- Construction of a walking trail
- Cleaning up the flood site in East Maples
- Weed control in East Maples before the end of September, 2015
- Tennis Court resurfacing will be delayed until spring of 2016.
- Test areas for dust control on roads were successful and will be applied next year.

Nathan Hollick will be the Council Representative on the Breese Park Volunteer Committee.



WATER QUALITY THREATS AND SOLUTIONS

Development Chair, Mike Alport

Just like the scene out of the 1978 thriller *Jaws*, people are lined up on the beach on a beautiful summer day but hesitant to get in the water asking themselves “is it safe to enter?” Only it’s the water quality, or lack thereof, that’s making them second-guess instead of a 20ft man-eating great white shark. Slicks of sludge, blue/green algae blooms, unfamiliar debris, cloudiness, muck along the shorelines- you name it, we’ve all seen it all. Water quality has been the buzzword and a concern for everyone. And so it should be – clean water is critical for public safety, aesthetic reasons and recreational use.

Going through a wet cycle, population booms, and loose environmental regulations, the river basins and many sewage lagoons in southern Saskatchewan are operating at or near capacity. Our Qu’Appelle river system is facing the following ecological threats:

- Quill Lake Diversion Project - The Quill lakes form the northern edge of our water basin, however do not feed into our system as they are classified as evaporation lakes, meaning that they are stagnant bodies of water with no drainage to river systems. As a result, they have an extremely high concentration of salinity and other serious contaminants. In recent years, high precipitation has flooded the area, raising the lakes 22 feet higher in the last decade. The current level is 1-2 feet away from reaching the natural spill point into our river system, and threatens loss of Highway #6 and significant CP rail line serving a potash mine. The **Water Security Agency** (WSA) undertook a study to look at ways to divert water away from the lakes to eliminate further flooding.

One of the 9 options they considered was to divert Kutawagan Creek that feeds Quill Lakes into Last Mountain Lake. The WSA requested an environmental exemption from the province so it could begin construction. The **Lower Qu’Appelle Water Shed Stewards (LQWS)** and The **Calling Lakes District Planning Commission (CLDPC)** (our district is a member), had made motions that were not in favor of the proposed bypass project until further consideration was given to other options and a complete environmental investigation had been conducted.

In a press release of Sept 17, the provincial government is not proceeding with the Kutawagan Creek Diversion Project for the Quill Lakes. The Water Security Agency will now be reviewing other possible alternatives around the Quill Lakes including, but not limited to, application of the risk-based drainage regulations in the new Agricultural Water Management Strategy. For more information visit: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media>

- Sewage Bypassing – Much to our dismay, we learned to late that the City of Regina was able to secure a permit to bypass 15 million litres of raw sewage down our precious lakes in the peak of summer. There was no Public Notice from Health Canada, very little communication or warning from the City to downstream recipients, and zero fines for bypassing. It’s hard to imagine that this can be done in 2015. Through the CLDPC, we have lobbied, protested, and made our voice heard that we will not tolerate being treated as a back-up sewage lagoon;

- Agricultural Drainage – Although difficult to account for how much of this contributes to lake elevations and quality, it all adds up. Modern day farming practices have evolved to maximize land use and crop output by eliminating riparian areas that hold smaller bodies of water on their land. At present there is very little regulation and monitoring from provincial agencies to limit this activity.
- Invasive Species – The threat of both Zebra and Quagga Mussels has been increasing exponentially. They have recently been discovered in Lake Winnipeg and are a big concern for Saskatchewan Environment who are now monitoring our water systems. The Mussels are extremely harmful to the ecosystem, having no predators, multiply quickly, can live up to a month out of the water, and flourish in a wide range of water conditions. Signs have been posted at all boat launches informing boaters to properly drain, clean, and dry their boats before transferring from other foreign lakes.

Feeling alarmed? No need to agonize as there has been a lot of good work done to increase public awareness and bring these concerns to the attention of our political leaders. Some of the initiatives include:

- The **LQWS** is a non-profit community organization representing all stakeholders and communities within the Lower Qu'Appelle. Recently, they have developed a Research and Monitoring Committee to identify the major contributors of nutrients and other pollutants to the Lower Qu'Appelle River, understand the determinates of oxygen levels, and advise on the correct management actions. They are also analyzing sewage surveys, and continue to liaise with the WSA, and other watershed management agencies. For more information please visit: www.lqws.ca.
- Members of the CLDPC include Fort Qu'Appelle, RM No.187, Fort San, B-Sah-Tah, Lebret, and our District of Katepwa. The group is a very vocal advocate to regulatory agencies to best manage what comes downstream into our lakes. The CLDPC continues to collaborate with neighboring communities and groups such as The Last Mountain Stewardship Group, and Round and Crooked Lakes to achieve consistency wherever possible. For more information please visit: www.4callinglakes.ca.
- Friends of Katepwa Provincial Park is another non-profit group with similar goals of public education and working with others to preserve and improve the park and lake quality. The group and working to form an Eco Museum to help a balance between economic activity, development and environmental responsibility.
- The WSA are implementing strict guidelines and regulations to “farm drainage management” to reduce the impact of flooding to downstream landowners, habitat loss, and water quality. These regulations are the first changes in over 35 years. This most significant change is that landowners will no longer be allowed to drain off of their land. WSA is hopeful to bring all drainage management into compliance over the next 10 years starting with the most at risk flood prone areas. To read more please visit: www.wsask.ca.
- The Government of Canada, and Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta formed The Prairie Provinces Water Board. The board has agreed to new water quality objectives aimed at ensuring all prairie waterways are protected. As part of these new objectives a regulatory board has been formed and fines for those communities not conforming to the new standards will be stiff. The City of Regina will have to comply with these new objectives once their new Waste Water Treatment Plant is completed by December 2016.
- In summary, our beloved lake is very sick and facing ongoing environmental threats. The issues are complex with the major contributory factors pollutants being loosely regulated. But, change is on its way and we are making our voices heard. It is important to note that there is no need to point any fingers or lay direct blame and understand that the good news is on its way with political leaders being supportive and recognizing the importance of good water quality. The solution lies not just with the politicians - we can all help. Things you can do to help in keep our lake clean:
 - Educate yourself and others. Information and knowledge are key to good discussion. The web sites in this article include a lot of good information.
 - Please complete the Sewage Survey. They can be picked up from, and returned to the village office.
 - Be conscience of what you products you're using around the lake. Can you fuel your boat on shore instead off the dock? Can you be using environmentally safe shower products if you're in or near the lake? Do you still have a creosote railroad tie retaining wall? If so, could it be replaced?
 - Be environmentally aware. Every bit helps!

BYLAWS REPORT

Murray Penny

Katepwa gets to be a lot more quiet once September arrives. Vacations are over and harvest is underway. Many people close their cabins until next spring. For many it is time to winterize the fishing boat and ready the snowmobiles and ice fishing gear.

Parking and storage is always an issue. Recreational vehicles, boats and watercraft are more plentiful and physically larger every year. Please show consideration when storing these seasonal items. If you are unable to store them on your own property, consider taking them to a commercial storage facility.

Our bylaws enforcement contractor, The Commissionaires, have a detailed account of activities and report to Council via the District Office. If you have concerns or questions of what may be an infraction, contact the District Office.

The Commissionaires expect to service 80 communities in 2016. They currently provide bylaw enforcement service to about 40 customers. Our contract is annual and if there are other suggestions or options, please contact the office. Ideally, we wouldn't need the service at all!

Have a great Fall and Winter!

COMMUNICATION REPORT

Dawne Zahorski

Summer has come to an end and your council hopes that you, your families and your friends were able to share in creating wonderful summer memories.

Something else has come to an end - the mailing out of PAPER NEWSLETTERS.

There are two reasons for this:

1. Cost savings
2. The District is catching up with the modern times of technology.

If you do not have access to, or own a computer you can either pick up a paper copy at the office or ask the office administration to put you on the mailing list.

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE ONLINE NEWSLETTER YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR IT.

You can do this by going to the District website
www.katepwabeach.com
and register.

To stay informed, read the newsletter, access the website and Facebook site. The District of Facebook site is public, meaning you do not have to be a member of Facebook to access it. Use a search engine and punch in District of Katepwa + Facebook and have a look through it. It even has beautiful pictures of the lake taken by locals.

LIBRARY - A HOME FOR MANY ACTIVITIES

Darwin Chatterson

The library (Katepwa Centre) continues to be popular among our readers, internet users, quilters, card players and painters. Our summer student, Madeline Bray, has done an excellent job of weeding out older books, putting returns back on the shelves, having book sales, and even trying to give duplicates away. We are still planning to purchase another batch of new books this fall, including the Giller and Booker finalists.

If there is a particular or favourite author you feel should be included in our fall purchases, please contact Elaine or Darwin at:
306.332.1460

Thanks to the **Katepwa Lions Club** for purchasing a computer tower with Windows7 for the library - hopefully it will be a little faster.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Dawne Zahorski

Your council is already making plans for July 1, 2016 and for Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.

Please consider contributing to help fund the fireworks. Again, the District will consider matching up to \$5,000. This past July 1 fireworks were a great success - by the positive feedback received they were very much enjoyed and appreciated. You can call the office or mail your donations in to the office throughout the year. Let's make this a community event.

If you live at the beautiful Katepwa Lake, or have a 4-season cottage please be a kind and thoughtful neighbour for those cottage owners that close up tight for the winter. Keep a look out for anything that may cause concern or, need attending to. If you think there is a reason the property owner needs to be contacted and you do not have that information, please contact the office.

KATEPWA AND DISTRICT LIONS CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY

Dick Teece

It has been a busy summer. The Katepwa and District Lions held three Texas Hold'em's over the summer months. In July the Club initiated a new program ("Welcome to Katepwa"). The objective of this project is to welcome new residents to the District and the valley.

The Lions purchased a new computer tower for the Library, contributed to the July 1st festivities and donated an enclosed trailer to house the Emergency Measures equipment.

Looking forward, the Lions and volunteers from the community will be doing the annual maintenance on the Christmas lights and will begin preparations for the annual ice fishing derby, March 12, 2016.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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GARBAGE PICK-UP:

Every Monday

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

The District of Katepwa will only pick up 3 household garbage bags placed in containers. Tags for additional bags may be purchased for \$2.00/bag at the District office.

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

WINTER LANDFILL HOURS:

November 1 - March 30

Mondays: 9:00am to 12:00pm
(Contact Jerry at 306-331-9317 if you need access after hours)

WINTER OFFICE HOURS:

October 1 - March 30

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

Closed on all STAT holidays.

NEW FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR KATEPWA

Dwight Fisher

Katepwa is now able to respond more effectively to fires in the District, with the purchase of a generator, a high pressure water pump, and fire hoses. Thanks to generous donations following the flood of 2011, an "EMO fund" was created, which allowed purchase of this emergency equipment. (This was not funded out of taxes generated from rate payers). The sand bagging machine was also purchased out of donations to the EMO fund. Thanks to the **Katepwa Lions Club** for purchasing a trailer for storage and transport of the equipment.

In a case of emergency, call 911. The Balcarres fire department then contacts First Responder, Corey Hodson. If available, he will be the one who has access to the trailer and goes to the scene to try to contain the fire. The new equipment will help to fight grass fires and contain residential fires until the volunteer fire department from Balcarres arrives.

However, we currently only have one person as a first responder in the District. If you are interested in becoming part of this important team, please contact the office.

KATEPWA & DISTRICT TRANSCANADA TRAIL

Sharon Blenkin

The Katepwa & District TransCanada Trail extends from Shumus Shores Road, South Katepwa to Sandy Beach. It was developed and is maintained by interested volunteers of the community. It is a non-profit organization.

New members and volunteers are always welcome. To become involved is easy - contact Sharon Blenkin at sjblenkin@gmail.com or Deb Highmoor at highmoor.4@sasktel.net.

Thank you to all volunteers who maintain the trail by trimming the trees and brush, keeping the trail groomed, repairing "broken" areas, and planting the flower pots along the TransCanada Trail. Your work is noticed and appreciated!!

STREET LIGHT OUT?

If you notice a street light that isn't working, Sask Power wants to know about it!

There are two ways to report:

- 1. **CALL 1-888-757-6937**
- 2. **GO TO THE WEBSITE:**
www.saskpower.com
- streetlight troubles.

An interactive map will appear. Type in an address (e.g. Katepwa Drive), or use an icon and the street lights in the area will appear. If they are green, Sask Power assumes they are working; if they are red, the report has already been made to Sask Power. Follow directions on the website to report a street light problem - it's easy!

UPCOMING EVENT!

PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER

FOR THE TRANSCANADA TRAIL

sponsored by:

**WOODEN NICKEL SALOON (in Indian Head)
AND THE KATEPWA BEACH QUADDERS**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015

- Cocktails: 6:00 pm**
- Pig Roast Supper: 7:00 pm**
- 50/50 draws: 8:00 pm**
- Grand Prize Draws: 9:00 pm**

Tickets \$25.00 available from

Sharon Blenkin: 306 332-2886 or Deb Highmoor: 306 736-7346