

## **CARE OF GROUNDS AND TREES**

To be an environmentally sustainable community, the Resort Village will, **generally:**

- Promote a sustainable approach to the day-by-management practices in the Village.
- Be protective and conservation-oriented in recognition of the semiarid fragile dry-land environment in the Village.
- Monitor the effects of ATVs and quads on the natural environment
- Be proactive on the water quality of Lake Diefenbaker.
- Monitor groundwater quality and potential risks.
- Use drought tolerant native plants [grasses and trees] genetically adapted to local growing conditions.
- Preserve natural areas, including habitat protection and enhancement, nesting habitat and wildlife corridor.
- Engage the community in environmental stewardship.
- Protect groundwater.
- Foster recreation opportunities such as nature appreciation, bird watching, hiking and cycling paths and winter trails.
- Engage in inter municipal and interagency cooperation that protects the environment.
- Preserve the park like resort setting.
- Avoid risks from man-made hazards, for example:
  - Locating parking lots so as to avoid destruction of native trees,
  - Avoiding construction that would interfere with wetland habitats,
  - Keeping parked vehicles off grass to avoid risk of grass fire.

**Specifically** some of the approaches that the Village takes in its day-by-day maintenance so as to be true to its sustainable approach include:

### Roto-tilling along tree belts

- Typically, tilling need not happen more than once a year, usually in early spring.
- Tillage should be kept as shallow as possible to reduce root injury, loss of moisture and to prevent tree dieback.

### Cutting of grass

- Road edges should be avoided to prevent damage to the edge of new pavement. Road edges will reseed themselves naturally. There will be invasive weeds for a while.
- Cutting should concentrate on the public areas such as along the roadways and around the Community Center.

- Green spaces are done less often, typically once a year. During a rainy year, they may require more cutting. During drought, the green spaces are left along.
- The mower height should be set at 6 inches to allow the grass to develop strong root systems and thus be able to compete with invasive weeds.

### Tree cutting

- Only hazardous dead-standing trees are removed. Dead trees support wildlife and help collect snow. Hazard trees are identified by Maintenance under the supervision of Council.
- Only the Village takes out these hazard trees (example: near property or power line). Other people require a permit to take out dead trees (marked by Maintenance under the Council's supervision.)

### Tree pruning

- Pruning should not be done to accommodate roto-tilling. The objective is develop closed tree stands, shaded ground cover, windbreaks and wildlife cover.
- Pruning should concentrate on 1-2 year seedlings, peeling out a leader (no forked tree).
- Evergreens (spruce, pine or larch) should not be pruned.
- Sucker trees are encouraged with trees growing randomly once they leave their rows from the tree nursery. The idea is for trees/shrubs to adjust to site conditions (and not to the roto-tiller or to being schooled for rows).

### Collection of winter snowfall

- Undergrowth in tree bluffs will assist with snow collection, as will long grasses.
- Trees should be planted to act as natural snow fences.

### Weeds

- The village does not use chemicals for weed control.
- Tent caterpillars may be removed and burned.
- Dandelions along roadways are best controlled through mowing.