

MISTUSINNE COUNCIL UPDATE #29 – AUGUST, 2013

1. UTILITY BILLINGS

In our July newsletter we explained that the bills for **irrigation water** could not be mailed out because the Local Government Committee were back-logged and had not yet approved our rates. It was the Local Government Committee who insisted that our rates be increased from \$40 to \$60, stating that we needed to set more aside for future replacement of our utility equipment. Your 2013 utility bill is enclosed.

2. A DOZEN GOOD REASONS TO CELEBRATE THE SUMMER OF 2013

#1 – The irrigation system worked well all summer. Except for one short 2-hour period, there was no interruption to the flow of irrigation water to our village. We have all watched the “greening up of our village” and also appreciate the extra water available for fire fighting, should we need it.

#2 - The swimming platforms and buoys stayed in place for the entire season!

Thank you to Ken Arcand and Kevin Engell for devising a new system of attaching this equipment to the bed of the lake in the early spring while the lake waters were still low. It worked perfectly and the kids had a great time on the platforms all summer long.



#3 - We began the reclamation of a former eyesore.

The poplars south of the maintenance building were planted in the 1970's and once provided a lovely shaded grove. However, they began dying off during the past decade. Many were harvested by village residents, leaving behind a tangled mess of huge stumps and brush. This summer the village arranged for the stumps to be bulldozed out of the ground. Our maintenance man, Corey, then undertook to carry away the stumps and to begin clearing the underbrush and leveling the area. (We had originally allocated \$1,600 in our budget to contract this work but Corey undertook to do it himself.) Plans for next spring include irrigating the reclaimed area and replanting grass, along with planting evergreens around the perimeter. Thanks Corey for tackling a long-standing eyesore!

#4 - The annual golf tournament was fun for all those who attended. The chipping contest brought lots of laughter. Prizes were excellent - the fireplace from the Dorwards and Quinneys, the birdhouse from Tim Katchuk, the lounge chairs and deck cooler from the Pettigrews, the propane fire-bowl from Millars ... and the list goes on and on. Thanks to all of the volunteers on the committee who made it happen for the 13th year in a row! Also thanks to Keith and staff who provided such support to the work of the committee.

#5 - Fireworks on the beach – Thank you to the many families who took their fireworks to the beach this summer! You not only shared them with other residents who watched from their lots; you protected us from any danger of fire.

#6 - Our boat-launch road has been upgraded. The village purchased gravel and Corey kept the road graded. We all appreciated the absence of the old washboard surface!

#7 - Our village never looked better. Every corner has been mowed at least twice. We appreciate the volunteers who looked after the flower beds and shrub beds at the front entrance, at the entrance to Chekepak and at the playground sign on block 6. Our students have done a great job mulching the new tree beds along our front entrance streets. Thanks Max and Levi for being such on-task self-directed workers this past summer.

#8 - Our tree stands are being upgraded.

Our policy is to leave dead trees standing in the back areas because we have been advised that dead-standing trees provide life to the birds. In our front entry area, however, our policy calls for dead trees to be removed for reasons of aesthetics. Corey has attacked the dead trees energetically and is also beginning a process of removing the tall stumps. Our students also did intensive whipper-snipping around these 'upfront trees'. With our recent hot weather, Corey has been watering our new trees.



A park-like setting for our Village entrance

#9 - Our golf course was in the best shape ever! Many of you commented about how our course was so well-kept, how most of the greens were super and that how you appreciated the new watered T-off areas. Thanks Keith, for another great golfing season.

#10 - Our new shade structures

provided much needed shade on Canada Day and at the pot luck supper at the Golf Tournament. (Plans are in place to add some drop-down awnings to increase their effectiveness next season.) They also looked fantastic decorated with colored lights during the Concert. Thanks to the team of volunteers who worked for two days to construct our shade structures.



Under the new shade structures

#11 - Our concert was so much fun.

The stars and colored lights twinkled above; the kids and grandparents danced; the audience sang along with Wyatt. Best of all, we raised \$2,200 toward the purchase of a new slide for the playground. Thanks Craig and Marilyn for spear-heading this event. Hope we can look forward to another next summer.

#12 - We won a grant for \$5,000 to further improve our tree plantations. Last spring a grant application was submitted to the *Canon Take Root Program* on behalf of the Friends of Trees Committee. Imagine our delight to learn, in mid-July, that we were Saskatchewan winners of the \$5,000 grant.

The grant carries the following conditions:

- 1) We **must plant at least 250 trees or bushes.**

We have decided to plant 450 flowering bushes, mainly in the areas along our entrance streets. The bushes must be native to Saskatchewan and we must plant them this fall. You will have noticed that we enlarged these beds and are applying fresh layers of mulch.

- 2) We must take **before and after pictures of work done this fall** for an illustrated report.

The grant includes a new Canon Power Shot Camera. The grant has been awarded based on our 7-year history of tree planting.

- 3) We must host some type of **celebration to honour our volunteer tree-planters**.

We are planning a **Volunteer Appreciation Fall Supper** which will be part of the fall tree planting. The grant will cover the supper costs of the Fall Supper for our tree planting volunteers. In addition, the Village will cover the costs for other volunteers.



We have budgeted our new grant dollars as follows:

- A semi-load of mulch (\$ 2,000)
- 450 flowering shrubs (\$ 1,450)
- Travel (\$ 300) and misc (\$ 140)
- Rent of hall for fall supper (\$ 160)
- Volunteer suppers (\$ 950)

NOTE THE INVITATION ON THE LAST PAGE.



3. REMINDERS FROM JANICE

Fall Pump Outs

- **Avoid unnecessary septic charges/pump-outs.** Please contact the Village office 306-854-4637 or mistusinne@sasktel.net by **September 20** if you are planning to use your cabin after October 11th. We will remove your name from the Fall Pump out list if you are using the cabin later into the fall. Removing your name from our fall pump out list means *your septic tank will not be measured by village maintenance and will not be pumped automatically by Millars* if there is more than 12" effluent in it (therefore saving you some money). *Residents who use their cabin after Thanksgiving, assume the responsibility of ensuring the septic tank is pumped before winter.*
- **Please label** your pump-out request card with **"Final pump out"** (at the top of the card) *when you are requesting the last pump out for the season.* This helps us determine which cabins won't need to be measured, because they have already had the "final pump out for the season".
- Please **do not** block access to your septic tank. Septic tanks that we do not have clear access to, (ie under an enclosure, vehicles parked over etc.) in order to determine if they require a fall pump out, **will be pumped out automatically.** You can avoid this additional charge from Millars if **a)** you don't block access to your tank; or **b)** have your tank pumped out for the season **before** Thanksgiving **and label** the pump out request form as **"Final pump-out"**.
- We need your assistance to ensure that all septic tanks are at a minimum capacity before winter to ensure that the sub-zero temperatures do not cause the liquids stored in the septic tanks over the winter to freeze and expand, cracking the tank.

- *Thank you* for your assistance in helping our fall tank measurements and pump outs go much smoother!

Irrigation System

- We will be blowing out the irrigation lines early in October again this year. Please ensure you have all of your ***personal attachments disconnected from the standpipe*** (such as hoses, splitters & other attachments) by **September 30**. Do not remove the taps that the Village Maintenance department have installed.
- Also, if you have an irrigation line (pipe) running from the standpipe to your property, please remember to have that blown out before freeze-up. *We will not blow out anyone's personal lines* for them - we assume no responsibility for any damage that is done if your irrigation lines freeze because you did not blow them out. The Resort Village will only blow out the irrigation lines on village property up to and including each standpipe and the taps attached to the standpipe.

Storage at the maintenance yard

- We require your assistance to put a name to every item stored at the maintenance yard. Please contact Janice at the office to be placed on our master list if you have anything stored in our maintenance yard.

4. AN INVITATION TO ALL MISUTINNE COTTAGE OWNERS

FALL SUPPER, SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 5:00 pm, ELBOW CIVIC CENTRE

You are invited to attend this old fashioned fall supper with turkey and all the trimmings. The supper is open to all Mistusinne cottage owners and their families (but is not a fundraiser open to the public).

The supper is free to all residents who have volunteered (for tree planting, for helping with Canada Day, for helping with the golf tournament, for one of our work bees, for caring for the library or the flower beds, etc. etc.).

If you have not had an opportunity to volunteer, you can still purchase tickets:

- Adults, students 12 and over: \$14.00
- Children under 12: \$ 7.00

The theme of the supper is **A Celebration of our Volunteers**. To hold your ticket for pick up at the door, all you need to do is ***phone the village office and leave a message***. **YOU MUST CALL BY WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH**

Here's an example: "This is Tom Jones calling from lot 670. Please reserve three tickets for the Fall Supper for one volunteer, one paid adult, one paid child." We would hold the 3 tickets (1 free and 2 paid) and you would pay at the door. The declaration as a volunteer is made on the honor system.

SPECIAL FALL TREE PLANTING

You are also invited to be part of the special planting on the morning before the fall supper. We will gather at the Maintenance Building at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a spade. We will be planting the flowering shrubs in our newly mulched beds. Some volunteers may also be spreading mulch.

Helping with the tree planting is NOT a prerequisite to attending the Fall Supper. We do hope, however, to have a large turn-out for both events. ***Hope to see you there!***

5. THE FINAL WORD IS FROM SOPHIE, age 10, whose letter is attached.