

# MISTUSINNE COUNCIL UPDATE #32 – MAY, 2015

## 1. OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER IN 2015

The first Mistusinne Council Update was issued in August of 2006. Here we are, almost nine years later, with our 32<sup>nd</sup> edition. This is the time of year when we provide a review of the past winter and a preview of the upcoming season.



First, a welcome back to the snow birds and to the other folks who close up their cottage for the winter. The winter of 2014/15 was quiet. As you can see from the picture of Bernie Volk<sup>1</sup>, the ice fishing was good.

Corey kept the snow off the streets and Council met regularly, albeit sometimes by conference call, dealing with an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw, a study of the effects of groundwater run-off in our wells, as well as traffic and other intrusions on the green spaces. We also negotiated an extension to our lagoon access agreement with Elbow. These matters will be explained at our public meeting report (see attached spring schedule on page 2).

## 2. FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES TO JANICE

Janice Scrimbitt joined the Mistusinne staff as our Village Clerk in May of 2009. During the following six years, she completed the university classes necessary to becoming an Administrative Assistant and played a very valuable role as our front line employee in the Village office. Janice not only accepted your tax payments, she handled all of our accounts payable, answered your questions about building and zoning bylaws and coordinated the ordering for the maintenance department. Janice was employed half-time and alas, when the opportunity presented itself for her to work full-time elsewhere, she felt it necessary to move on. Council accepted Janice's resignation at their March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with sincere regrets at losing her and with all our best wishes for her future. Janice's position was advertised in the local newspapers, with posted notices in neighboring communities and via email to our cottage owners.

## 3. WELCOME TO LEEANNE

At the April meeting of Council, councilor Leeanne Hurlburt presented her resignation as required by legislation because she was announcing her intention to apply for the Administrative Assistant position. As per our personnel policy, a hiring committee (Mayor, Administrator and one Councillor) was struck for the purpose of interviewing the two applicants later in the month. The position was offered to Leeanne who accepted and who will soon begin training with Yvonne (as soon as our computer is up and running).<sup>2</sup> See the schedule on page 2 regarding the by-election for the vacant council position.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Besides burbot and whitefish, Bernie hauled in 8 jackfish ranging in size from 22 to 35 inches. She only kept two medium fish and returned the other fish to replenish the fish stock in the lake with their eggs.

<sup>2</sup> Also during April, the village computer crashed and the hard-drive had to be replaced. A portion of our data was lost and Yvonne has been putting in some very long hours re-building the financial accounts. Fortunately our 2014 accounts had already gone to the auditor.

<sup>3</sup> **A one-year position on Council until the regular resort village elections in July of 2016.**

#### 4. WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SPRING?

##### **SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10:00 a.m. – PUBLIC MEETING**

Please join us at the Maintenance Building for our yearly Public Meeting. We would have liked to have mailed out the year-end report for 2014 along with the 2015 budget for your advance study. However, our computer crash has delayed the completion of our budget <sup>4</sup> (but we hope to have hand-outs for the public meeting). Please join us and don't forget to bring your lawn chair.

##### **LONG WEEKEND, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> – COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP, FREE**

Your Council has placed a high priority on protecting the green spaces behind our cottages and along the lakeshore<sup>5</sup>. Council is particularly anxious to encourage residents to remove all materials such as woodpiles and building supplies stored on the green spaces behind their lots. For **this weekend only**, there will be **free access to large open-top Loraas bins** for building materials and other junk that cottage owners need to get rid of. Take advantage of this opportunity to get rid of your junk, particularly from the green spaces behind your lots. Council is reluctant to have to resort to an "Order to Remedy" which means that Council can remove these materials and charge the removal costs back to you. Let's all pitch in and clean up this weekend.

##### **SATURDAY, MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – TREE PLANTING**

Once again, Friends of Trees are inviting all villagers to show up at the Maintenance Building, bringing along their spades. We will be planting approximately 300 trees, mostly in the park area that we are establishing between the maintenance building and the Sask Tel building. Keith is planning to use the nearby well and pump to install a watering system in this park area. We are also hoping for a large turn-out to help with mulching in various locations.<sup>6</sup>

##### **SATURDAY, JUNE 13, (11 a.m. – 2 p.m.) – NOMINATION DAY**

This is the last day to **file nominations** for the by-election. It is also the last day that the office is open for you to **register to receive a mail-in ballot** if you are unable to attend at the by-election on July 18<sup>th</sup>. (Voter ID will need to be produced when you are registering for a mail-in ballot)

##### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> – CANADA DAY**

As usual, parade participants gather at 9:45 a.m. near the telephone building while parade watchers assemble around Block 6. Games, crafts, face painting, and barbeque lunch follow. Be there!

**SATURDAY, JULY 18, (9 a.m. – 8 p.m.) – BY-ELECTION, VOTING DAY** Please note there will be NO Advance Poll. Please take advantage of the mail-in ballot (see above) option if you won't be at Mistusinne on Election Day. Voter ID will be required (Drivers' License works the best).

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<sup>4</sup> We are pleased to report, however, that because of a large number of capital purchases in 2014, we had budgeted to spend \$278,009. However, our actual expenses for 2014 were held to \$245,631. Our 2014 revenues were almost identical to budget – so 2014 was a successful financial year for our village.

<sup>5</sup> Please do your part to help **preserve our shallow rooted natural grass** around the village. Please do not drive on the green spaces with vehicles, licensed or non-licensed. Even though we do not currently have a bylaw specifically prohibiting golf carts on the green space, they also make paths on the green space and wear out the grass. We are asking for your cooperation to help preserve our grass by using the roads. Please ensure that your children and your grandchildren are safe and that they know the rules. The **Trans Canada Trail is not intended for motorized vehicles of any sort**. The Trans Canada Trail was created for hiking, bicycling, walking, and skiing.

<sup>6</sup> Speaking of mulch, please remember that **grass clippings and leaves also make a great mulch for the trees**. You can put the clippings on the black plastic that surrounds some of the earlier plantings and it will help deteriorate that plastic. Remember to give the tree breathing space when placing the clippings around the trunk; please do not place the clippings tight around the base of the tree.