

# ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

May 2016

## Electronic Utility Notices

**Go Green!** The Town of Birch Hills is now offering email utility notices. If you would rather receive your utility notice by email, please fill out an email consent form and return it to the Town Office. An email consent form can be obtained on the Town website or at the Town Office.

### How to read your water meter

In order to clarify any confusion regarding your water meter, we are including some information to monitor your water meter if you wish to do so between readings.

- Shine a flashlight over the flashlight icon (located on the register) to activate the LCD display
- Take a reading at a set time of day
- Take a 2nd reading at the same time the next day
- The difference between the two readings is your daily water consumption

Note: when the register display is first activated via a flashlight, all icons will be briefly displayed followed by firmware information. The register display will then toggle (every 4 seconds) displaying the reading and then the flow rate. The flow rate is per minute. When the display indicates "RATE", the flow rate is being displayed.

### DID YOU KNOW...

*A running toilet could be wasting more than 750 L of water in a day*

*A showerhead that drops 10 drips/minute wastes more than 1,800 L per year*


*Faucets—Drip: 1 drip/second wastes 32.7 L daily and 11,937.6 L yearly.*

*Dribble: 3 drips/second wastes 98.1 L daily and 35,813.2 L yearly*

*Drool: 5 drips/second wastes 163.5 L daily and 59,688.6 L yearly*

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**Leak Indicator**

Displays a possible leak

**OFF**—indicates no leak  
**Flashing**—water usage for more than 50% of time in 24 hour period  
**Continuous ON**—there is most likely a leak in your home



The LCD figure displays your meter reading in cubic metres. The last 4 digits are decimal points.  
 (e.g.—26.3987 cubic metres)  
 (decimal will be displayed)

**Flow Indicator**

Displays direction of flow

**ON**—water in use  
**OFF**—water not in use  
**Flashing**—water is running slowly  
**(-)**—indicates reverse flow  
**(+)**—indicates forward flow

Reading Your Meter



Ulmus (Elm) Tree

## Protect Your Elm Trees

### Do Not Prune Elm Trees Between April 1 & August 31 Each Year

To reduce the risk of Dutch elm disease (DED), pruning of elm trees will once again be prohibited throughout Saskatchewan from April 1 to August 31.

Elm bark beetles that spread the disease are most active during this time of year. Fresh cuts from pruning can attract the insects and increase the chance of a DED infection.

Proper elm tree pruning outside the annual ban period helps keep trees healthy and better able to resist all diseases, including DED. Removing dead and dying elm wood through pruning also helps reduce places for beetles to breed, and curbs their populations. Throughout the year, including during the ban period, DED-infected elms should be removed promptly.

Provincial regulations require commercial pruners of elm trees to complete a recognized training program or be under the supervision of someone who has. Improper pruning techniques can spread many tree diseases, including DED.

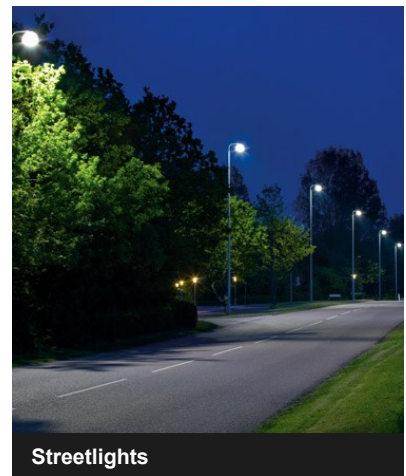
Because of the risk of spreading DED, transporting or storing elm firewood is illegal. Elm wood must be disposed of promptly, using the method and locations chosen by each municipality.

For more information about Dutch Elm Disease Control Regulations and safe elm wood disposal, contact 1-800-SASK-ELM (727-5356).

## Municipal Street Lights

Did you know that the Town of Birch Hills has 143 Street Lights? These streetlights are owned and maintained by SaskPower and are considered residential street lighting.

If you notice a street light not working, contact SaskPower at [www.saskpower.com](http://www.saskpower.com) and follow the links OR call 1-888-757-6937 OR contact the Town Office. Your assistance in reporting street light outages helps the Town make sure we are receiving the services that are being paid for.



Streetlights

*Taxes will be mailed by the end of May.*

*Town Council was able to keep the Millrate at 11 mills—the same as 2015.*

*Payments before the end of June receive a 5% discount on Municipal portion of tax levy.*

## Pet Licenses

Pet licensing is an important way for pet owners to maintain the safety and security of their pets.

By licensing your pet, bylaw enforcement officers and Town staff can easily find pet owners and return pets to their homes.



Birch Hills Civic Centre

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*Please Remember—*

*Anyone that is making a payment to the Town Office by Internet Banking must allow a few business days for the Town Office to receive and process the payment. Utility Bills are processed on the 1st of each month with interest applied to unpaid accounts on the last day of the month. For further information please contact your banking institution to clarify the length of time to process payments .*

*We are still receiving payments dated for in the prior month several days into the new billing month that has already been charged interest*

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## Civic Centre Rental

Please take note of some minor changes to the rental of the Civic Centre. Effective January 1, 2016 there will be an hourly charge fee implemented for general rentals. The fee is \$25.00 per hour with a minimum of a 2 hour rent. This is for general rentals for functions without a liquor permit such as come and go teas, wedding showers, fundraisers, craft fairs or trade shows, birthday or anniversary parties, decorating the day before function, etc.

The Council Chamber is also available for rent for the fee of \$75.00 per meeting. This is a separate rental from the Civic Centre. Please specify during the time of booking if you require the Council Chamber at the time of your function because there will be an additional charge.

Rental for Special Event Functions with a liquor permit is \$300.00 until 2:00 am and \$75.00 per hour after 2:00 am. This rental includes having the Civic Centre opened as early as 8:00 am. If you require the building the day before, the hourly general rental fee will be implemented.





Vote on October 26, 2016

## Municipal Election Year

### Election Day is October 26, 2016

The Town of Birch Hills is governed by 6 elected council members and 1 mayor. Those elected serve a 4 year term, and have the opportunity to run for election for an unlimited number of terms.

The Municipal Election is open to anyone who owns property, or resides within the Town of Birch Hills that is the age of majority. The next general election will take place on **Wednesday October 26, 2016**.

You are qualified to run for Urban Municipal Election if:

- on the day of election is 18 years of age; and
- at the time of submission of the nomination paper, is a Canadian citizen
- has resided in the municipality for at least three months and in Saskatchewan for at least six months.

Eligible voters must be:

- at least 18 years old on Election Day
- a Canadian citizen;
- a resident of Saskatchewan for at least 6 consecutive month immediately preceding election day; and
- either:
  - a) A resident of the municipality for at least 3 consecutive month immediately preceding the day of the election; or;
  - b) An owner of assessable land for at least 3 consecutive months immediately preceding the day of election

### Garbage & Recycling Bins

Please ensure you garbage and recycling bins are removed from the street the same day as collection day. This has been an issue for street maintenance (street sweeping, grading, snow removal) and parking.

A Bylaw is currently being drafted to enforce this problem.

## Spring Clean Up Week

The Town has declared May 22 through May 28 as Spring Clean Up Week

Please have your compostable material bundled and available for pick-up in you back alley where back alley access is available. Loose material will not be picked up

The Town Compost Site will be open free of charge on:

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Saturday, May 28, 2016

Fall Clean Up Week will be declared October 8 through October 15.

The Compost Site is available to be opened during business hour at a fee of \$15.



Compost Pick Up/Clean Up Week

*Please watch for more information to come as the Town Office works toward Preauthorized Debit for payments of utility and tax accounts*

## Business Licenses & Directory

Please remember, if you own a homebased business, you are required to have an annual business license from the Town of Birch Hills. Business licenses are required to be renewed January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. This includes home-based businesses of all sorts, direct sellers, transient traders, contractors, sub-contractors, etc. If you operate a business out of a commercial property, you do not require a separate business license.

The database created when businesses are licensed with the Town will help establish our business directory that is in the process of being created. Please ensure your business license is current and the Town office has your most up to date information.



Help keep public & private property maintained

## Tree Trimming

The Town of Birch Hills is making an effort to ensure that the trees on all private property are not encroaching onto public areas. All property owners are requested to please check their property to ensure that all trees and shrubs are contained within their property and are not encroaching onto public property, including sidewalks and alleyways. If you require assistance in determining what areas, if any, may need attention, please contact the Town Office.

It is requested that you, please, trim back the branches of any trees to ensure that they do not overhang onto any municipal or private property including streets, alleyways, sidewalks and neighboring yards. The cut line of your branches should be flush to the property line.

Any trees that interfere with power lines may have to be trimmed by SaskPower. Please contact them at 1-888-757-6937 with any questions.

Thank you for your attention in ensuring that your property is in compliance.

# House Numbering

To help the Emergency Services reach you in the quickest possible time, please ensure that your house number is visible. Emergency response providers rely on you as a homeowner or business to post a civic address as this enables the emergency vehicle driver to locate your property.

In subdivisions, some numbers are too small or too far from the road to be seen. Bushes can hide the numbers, especially in spring or summer.

Ensure that your number stands out, especially at night time with exterior lights on or off. Have a friend or neighbour assess it for you.

It is the responsibility of the home/building owners to have house numbers to be of a size and color that allows them to be clearly seen from the road.

Consider removing any obstructions, including vegetation or fencing, that restrict visibility of a house number from either direction on the road.

## Let Us Help You

- Do you have a posted number?
- Is anything obstructing that number?
- Is the number visible from the roadway?
- Is it reflective?
- If power is off, can it be seen?
- Is the number contrast to the background bright enough to be seen at night?
- Has the number rusted or faded?

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*The Town Office would like to update their customer contact information.*

*This will help the office be able to contact you regarding any advisories, short notice water shut offs, leak reports, etc.*

*We are now able to generate leak reports and have had some difficulties contacting customers to make them aware of the situation.*

*Please ensure the Town Office has your most up-to-date contact information.*

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## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or if you have any questions.

### Town of Birch Hills

126 McCallum Avenue  
Box 206  
Birch Hills, SK S0J 0G0

(306) 749-2232

[birchhills.town@sasktel.net](mailto:birchhills.town@sasktel.net)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.birchhills.ca](http://www.birchhills.ca)

The Town is in the process of updating the Town's website. This has been a very long ongoing process.

We ask for your patience at this time as we feel confident that the new site will benefit everyone.

We welcome any pictures or ideas from the community that we may use during the development.

### Elected Town Council

Mayor Shirley Ulvild  
Councillor Barry Evans  
Councillor Dale Pratt  
Councillor Sharon Rolfes  
Councillor John Herd  
Councillor Owen Stubbs  
Councillor Tyler Cochrane