

Quarterly ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

December 2018

Multi-Use Facility

Work is progressing with the new multi-use facility. The electrical and mechanical is well underway and the trenching for the new waterlines are finished, making most of the “groundwork” completed.

The framing of the partition walls are also completed and we will soon be ready to install the drywall!! We are in the process of organizing another open house to show off the amazing work that has been completed to date. Everyone will be able to see the progress and the layout of the building. Please watch for open house details coming soon!

Fundraiser — The Multi-use Committee is in the very preliminary stages of organizing another fundraiser. They are planning another fun event for March of 2019. Please watch for more details as the committee finalizes their event plans. Without the help of the community, this project wouldn't be possible. Thank you for your support!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Birch Hills Town Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a festive holiday season.

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year blessed with laughter, peace and love.

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Multi-Use Facility



Time to Update your Contact Information

Customer Contact Information

With so many homes disabling their landline telephones and as the generation is shifting towards more electronic communication, the town is having difficulty being able to communicate with our customers and ratepayers.

We have been working hard to update our customer contact information with little success. Please help us by filling out your contact information and drop it by the town office, mail it to Box 206, email it to birch-hills.town@sasktel.net, or call us at 306-749-2232.

If we have up-to-date contacts with an efficient and effective way to communicate, it will be easier to inform people of:

- project updates that effect your area of town.
- localized water advisories
- short notice water shut-offs due to construction, breakage, maintenance
- leak detection reports
- any changes effecting you or your property
- etc.

Help Us Keep You Updated!

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Numbers: Home: _____

Cell #1 _____ Cell #2 _____

Email: _____

Town Office Statutory Holiday Hours

Please take note that the Town Office will be closed on the following statutory holidays:

- December 25, 2018 for Christmas Day
- December 26, 2018 for Boxing Day
- January 1, 2019 for New Year's Day
- February 19, 2019 for Family Day

Regular office hours are 9 am to 4 pm. Monday through Friday.



Holiday Hours

Community Christmas Tree

The Town of Birch Hills would like to thank the Birch Hills Community Church and Saron Lutheran Church for decorating the Town Christmas Tree again this year.

The Christmas tree has been a tradition enjoyed by many in the community and the Town greatly appreciates the hard work the Church does to make this annual tree lighting event more enjoyable for all!

Town of Birch Hills Council Meetings

Please remember that letters addressing the Mayor and Council need to be submitted to the Town Office by 4:00 pm on the day before the council meeting is scheduled. This way we can make sure items are added to the meeting agenda in a timely fashion.

Even if you are addressing the Mayor and Council in your letter or report, and especially if you are asking for a decision to be made on a particular topic, you need to submit your correspondence to the Town Office so it can be added to the agenda so a motion of council can be made.



PTIC-SCF Grant — Town of Birch Hills

Provincial Territorial Infrastructure Component—Small Communities Fund



GO GREEN!

Receive your invoice by email

The Town sends out approximately 450 utility notices each month and we currently have approximately 60 customers signed up to receive their invoice by email.

Receiving your invoice by email will ensure you receive your invoice in a timely fashion. Currently, our local mail has to travel to Saskatoon before it is sorted and delivered to your post office box.

Sending our invoices by email saves the town time, paper, envelopes and postage.

The Provincial Territorial Infrastructure Component (PTIC) is part of the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF). PTIC is divided into two sub-components: 1. National and Regional Projects (PTIC-NRP) 2. Small Communities Fund (PTIC-SCF).

The Town of Birch Hills made application for funding to the PTIC in January 2017 for Water Treatment Plant Upgrades. Finally on September 11, 2018, the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announced more than \$80.9 million in combined federal, provincial and local community funding under the Small Communities Fund Component. Deputy Mayor Sharon Rolfes had the honour to attend the press conference as Master of Ceremonies where she had the opportunity to introduce Honourable Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and Honourable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Government Relations. Deputy Mayor Sharon Rolfes also had the opportunity to speak about Birch Hills and our project plans. On September 11, 2018 it was confirmed that the Town of Birch Hills will receive \$3.7 million dollars in combined federal, provincial and local grant funding.

The Town of Birch Hills will be signing the federal, provincial, local grant contribution agreement in the very near future. Any project costs incurred prior to signing the contribution agreement are not eligible for funding. We are extremely excited to start this project as our water system needs upgrades in order to meet the new Regulations and Standards coming into effect in 2020.

The Town of Birch Hills is grateful to receive continued support and funding from the federal and provincial government to assist in our rapidly aging infrastructure within our community.



Pet License

2019 Pet License — 2019 Business License

Pet License & Business License

Your 2018 Pet License and 2018 Business License is going to expire December 31, 2018. Renewals are now available at the Town Office for 2019! Licenses are required annually for both pets and businesses. The license year runs from January to December and required to be renewed each year.

Please remember if you have a dog or cat, they need to be registered at the Town Office — Or if you own a business outside of a commercial premises, you need to obtain a municipal business license from the Town Office.

For more information regarding animal control, please refer to the Town's Animal Control Bylaw #04/12. For more information regarding business & Licensing, please refer to the Town's Business & Licensing Bylaw #05/12. Our bylaws can be found on the Town of Birch Hills Website at www.birchhills.town.

Reminder letters will be sent out to individuals who have obtained a license from the Town Office in the past. Please accept our apologies and notify the Office if you do not require a license for your pet or if you are no longer operating your business.



License

Paying your Water & Sewer Utility Bill made easy!

You can pay your utility bill by cheque, cash, debit, credit card, preauthorized debit, online bill payment, or E-transfer.

You can also receive your utility bill by email. Email consent forms can be obtained on our website or at the Town Office.

PREAUTHORIZED DEBITS— your payments can be withdrawn out of your account on the 20th of each month. Please fill out a PAD agreement if you wish to utilize this method of payment.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS— through any Credit Union affiliate, CIBC, Scotia Bank, TD Bank

E-TRANSFER— sent to birchhills.town@sasktel.net

Water & Sewer Utility Bill Payments

Thank you to all the residents who have taken a special interest in keeping their property neat and tidy.....it has not gone unnoticed.

The Town has completed some enforcement with troubled properties and is still in the process of enforcement with some others.

However, there are still many properties that contravene the requirements of our municipal bylaws and due to numerous complaints and comments, we will be continuing to strongly enforce these bylaws with notices of violation.

Please help us keep our community beautiful and enjoyable for everyone!

Building Permits

Please remember that a building permit is required whenever work regulated by *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act and Regulations* and the National Building Code of Canada.

Changes to the Building Code of Canada will come into effect in January 2019.

Building permit applications and forms can be obtained at the Town Office or on the town website at www.birchhills.ca, under forms & permits. All building permits have to adhere to the Town's Zoning Bylaw and Building Bylaw.

Construction is prohibited to start until the applicant receives all required approval from Town Council and the Municipal Building Official.

Applications need to be reviewed and approved at a Regular Meeting of Council then sent to our municipal Building Official for the required plan review before any approvals are granted to the applicant. The Town will forward all applicable approvals, with the building permit fee invoice to the applicant as soon as they are received in the office.

Once the plan review and responsibilities are reviewed and the building permit fees are paid by the applicant, construction can commence.

2015

National Building Code of Canada

Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes



First Fire Truck in Birch Hills—1923 Model “T”:

Birch Hills Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

How we began.....This 1923 Model “T” was the first unit purchased by Birch Hills in the creation of the Fire Department in 1924. The bed of the truck contained two steel cylinders filled with soda, and in each of these cylinders were a single glass container filled with Acid. The activation process began at the rear of the unit where you would find a manually activated hand crank and by rotating this firmly 90 degrees it would break the glass inside the cylinders and the resulting chemical interaction would provide a Foam Agent to smother early stage fires.

To assist in the abilities of this unit to perform fire suppression duties, the “T” pulled a two-wheeled cart that held an additional water tank. This water was made available by two firefighters each grabbing one end of the pump handles and manually supplying the power to pump water. The output of this process was totally dependent on the strength and speed of the members manning the handles.

This unit was the only fire truck from 1923 to 1949. In 1949 the “fleet” was increased by the purchase of a used 1946 Ford Truck and the Birch Hills Volunteer Fire Department was born. The 1946 Ford was a major improvement; it was powered by a V8 with a PTO. The members at that time converted this unit by the addition of a water tank and PTO driven pump to increase the abilities of this unit and fill the “T” and pump tanks.

In 1966 changes were at hand again with the purchase of a used 1952 Chevrolet Fire Truck from the Prince Albert Fire Department. The department expanded their coverage area in 1967 with the addition of fire coverage for the RM of Birch Hills.

Sadly, 1950 was the last year of “Active Service” for the Model “T” as she was decommissioned from active duty. But, on the plus side — We Still Have Her! Her primary use now is for parades only and she appears in these under her own power. With a little TLC she would probably pump water again!

Currently, the Birch Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is owned by both the Town of Birch Hills and the R.M. of Birch Hills No. 460 with administration through the Town Office. To date our “fleet” consists of: **Pumper Unit**—1990 Grumman Pumper Truck that was purchased in 2009; **Snuffer Unit**—1996 Freightliner FL80 Tandem that was purchased in 1996; **Tanker Unit**—1973 Mack Truck that was purchased in 2004; and **Command Unit**—1999 Ford F450 Diesel 4x4 that was purchased in 2015.

The Town and RM are reviewing and updating our joint bylaws and legislation. Please watch for updates regarding bylaws, constitutions and rates. For further information please visit the Town of Birch Hills Website at www.birchhills.ca.

Thank you to our local department for all you do!

Water & Sewer Utility Billing

Important things to remember

- Utility bills are generated on the first of each month. This bill is for water usage for the previous month.
- Water meters are read monthly. Therefore, all monthly bills are based on actual consumption.
- Penalty of 10% will be added to all outstanding water and sewer accounts at the date of next billing.
- If a Utility account remains outstanding more than 60 days, the Town will disconnect services.
- Upon disconnection for non-payment, the utility service will be reconnected only after all arrears and reconnection fees are paid in full.
- If any accounts remain unpaid for 120 days, the outstanding amount may be added to and thereby form part of the taxes on the land or buildings with respect to which service was provided.

HOW TO READ YOUR WATER METER



The Water Utility will read your water meter for billing purposes, but **should you wish to monitor your own consumption**, here's how:

- ◆ Shine a flashlight over the flashlight icon (located on the register) to activate the LCD display *
- ◆ Take a reading at a set time of the 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.

Leak Indicator
Displays a possible leak

- ◆ **OFF** – indicates no leaks
- ◆ **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 water flow

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

Unusual higher consumption (bills)? Check for leaks....most leaks are unnoticeable. Take a night water meter reading when you are done using water for the day, followed by a morning reading. Meter movement overnight may mean a plumbing issue. Also, check the Leak Indicator on your water meter. Please call your plumber to fix any problems.

One of the most common issues is a leaking toilet. A good test to use is the dye test. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank of your toilet. Do not flush your toilet for at least 30 minutes. Food coloring should not appear in your toilet bowl. If the food coloring does appear, then your toilet is leaking and you should contact a plumber to fix the problem.

Plumbing leaks add up fast!

Drip—1 drip per second wastes 32.7 litres daily and 11,937.6 litres yearly

Dribble—3 drips per second wastes 98.1 litres daily and 35,813.2 litres yearly

Drool—5 drips per second wastes 163.5 litres daily and 59,688.6 litres yearly

Leaking Toilets—a running toilet could be wasting more than 750 litres in a day

Leaking Showerhead—a showerhead that drops 10 drips per minute wastes more than 1,800 litres per year

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

Visit us on the web at
www.birchhills.ca

Regular Town Council meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Agenda items should be brought to the attention of the Administrator no later than the day before the Council meeting.

Elected Town Council

Mayor Dale Pratt
Councillor Barry Evans
Councillor Sharon Rolfe
Councillor John Herd
Councillor Keith Matheson
Councillor Graham Tweten
Councillor Owen Stubbs



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Also, read the blog at :
bhwaterplant.wordpress.com