

PARCS UPDATE #16 – JANUARY 9, 2010

A Special Invitation from SUMA and PARCS



This year's SUMA convention will begin on Sunday January 30th at 1:00 p.m. at TCU Place in Saskatoon and continue through to Wednesday, February 2nd at noon. Although convention fees for SUMA non-members are \$299, PARCS and SUMA are pleased to announce that **one part of the convention will be free to current PARCS members and non-member cottage communities.**

There are two parts to this **SPECIAL SESSION** on **TUESDAY, FEB. 1ST:**

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. – **Sector Specific session for towns and villages with populations under 500.**

- This is a regular session at the SUMA convention at which one of the SUMA executive provides an overview of current issues facing small communities along with SUMA initiative on their behalf.
- Cottage communities are invited to sit in on this session for FREE at the 2011 convention.

3:45 – 4:45 p.m. - **Keeping our Small Communities Safe**

- This **panel presentation** will be hosted by PARCS and will also be FREE to delegates in attendance. The panel will address the following questions:
 - How much is the RCMP able to assist small communities with enforcing their bylaws?
 - Why did one small community employ a Bylaw Enforcement Officer and what were the results?
 - What are Citizens on Patrol and how can this program help keep your community safe?
 - What are Doorknockers and how can they help educate those ratepayers who tend to ignore the bylaws?

Delegates from cottage communities MUST REGISTER prior to Wednesday, January 26th by emailing Lynne at saas@sasktel.net. Please indicate your name, your community, your home phone number and your email address. Your registration will be confirmed by email immediately upon receipt, along with more information about the exact session location. Remember there is no fee for attending this session in Saskatoon on Tuesday, February 1st.

A Special Collaboration between Elections Saskatchewan and PARCS



This year is election year in Saskatchewan. On November 7th voters will head to the polls from their homes in cities, towns, villages and on farms. More and more voters will head to the polls from a cottage that is their primary dwelling (*see inset*).

The unique characteristics of resort communities pose some challenges for enumerating those voters whose primary residence is in cottage country. An enumerator visiting a cottage community in September or October may be hard-pressed to identify which cottages are seasonal residences and which are year-round residences.

Many enumerators may not be regular visitors to the cottage communities in their polling area. Without a list, the enumerator typically is faced with the time-wasting alternative of calling on 250 cottages in a community when, perhaps, only 20 are primary residences. Many voters get overlooked.

Another typical challenge for enumerators is that some cottage communities may not be laid out in a well labelled grid. Cottages communities may or may not include lot numbers and frequently are laid out on meandering crescents and lanes, up and down wooded hillsides, alongside lakeshore coves.

A further challenge to enumeration in resort communities is that resort village administrators and RM administrators may typically be unable to use their tax rolls to advise the enumerator by differentiating between those ratepayers that are seasonal residents versus those that are primary residents.

Elections Saskatchewan and PARCS are collaborating in the compilation of a manual that will be used by election officials in the 2011 election. PARCS has opened up its data base of cottage communities (resort villages, organized hamlets, hamlets and unorganized subdivisions). The first phase has been to sort each cottage communities' into the correct respective constituency and to determine an estimated number of cottages that are **primary residences**¹. The second phase will be to seek contact information for permanent residents to assist enumerators in reaching all potential voters in cottage communities.

As more and more baby boomers retire, many of these seniors are electing to establish their primary residence at the lake. Some of these retirees are snow birds who head south for part of the year while others reside at the cottage year-round. Either way, both make their lake cottage their primary residence.

Where cottage communities are located within a reasonable distance of urban centers, many working people are choosing to commute from their lakeshore primary residence to work.

Each of these people is entitled to be registered as a Saskatchewan voter.

Quote from the new handbook for Election Officials titled Cottage Communities in Saskatchewan

¹ The main residence that the occupants call home, even if the occupants are snowbirds.

Collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and PARCS



Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment has invited a representative from PARCS to participate in the development of guidelines or "codes" previously contained within an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit. These codes will define terms, applications and compliance for all works in and near Crown waters in Saskatchewan.

Areas to be addressed in this first round of discussion include the following topics:

- Beaver Dam/House removal;
- Culverts: replacement or maintenance of existing ones only;
- Docks: new installations (public and community) and removal of old docks;
- Boat Launches: new installations (public and community);
- Beach Creation and Maintenance (public and community)
- Marinas: maintenance of existing ones;
- Bridges: maintenance or repair of clear-span, low-level or seasonal ice crossing;
- Dredging: routine maintenance;
- Shoreline stabilization;
- Utility Lines: installation or removal of individual poles or small sections of line.

The objective of this exercise is to simplify applications for work in or near waters in Saskatchewan. This will be accomplished by setting a clear set of goals, objectives and standards throughout the province and preventing duplication or conflict with provincial and federal coverage. The new code should be ready for implementation by June 2011.

The work of PARCS on this committee will require feedback from our members from time to time. Information will be forwarded to the PARCS director for your region who may decide to consult with members as the need arises.

Please feel free to contact our First Vice-President, Shirley Gange directly (982-3311 or hgange@sasktel.net). if you have further questions or concerns regarding the work of this committee

Third of Three Post Convention Newsletters

The first post-convention issue, PARCS UPDATE #14, was devoted entirely to reporting on the session WHO OWNS THE BEACHES? The second post-convention issue, PARCS UPDATE #15, was devoted to reporting on the member sharing sessions. The third and final post-convention issue, originally scheduled for this January issue was pre-empted by the need to advertise the workshop on February 1st. Watch for PARCS UPDATE #17 in early February for reports about those convention sessions presented by visiting "guest experts".