

PARCS UPDATE #13 – OCTOBER 4, 2010



THE RESORT VILLAGE EDITION

Speaking with folks from 38 Resort Villages

Over the past week, PARCS spoke with mayors or administrators from 38 of the 40 resort villages in our province. We posed the question: "What have been some of the main issues that have occupied your resort village council over the past year or so?" This newsletter provides a summary of your replies.

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1. Development

Saskatchewan is experiencing a period of significant development and our resort communities are no exception. The District of Katepwa has seen the establishment of three new subdivisions resulting in about 100 new lots in their village. Resort villages such as Candle Lake, Sunset Cove and North Grove are dealing with the pressures of new development going on around them, with the resulting strain on access roads and the provision of emergency services. The RV of Fort San reports that they were involved in the planning for the residential expansion that went on around them.

The RV of Shields is also managing their own development, having added 32 lots in their village and planning for another 100 lots by a private developer on annexed land. Other villages are seeing development from within as owners of previously undeveloped lots are putting them up for sale (Kiviamaa-Moonlight Bay, Wakaw Lake, Wee Too Beach and Pelican Point). The RV of Tobin Lake is looking at the purchase of neighbouring land and may have a plebiscite regarding expansion. The RV of Grandview has opened a new block of lots that they are currently selling. The RV of Beaver Flat, however, consulted their cottage owners who turned thumbs down to the notion of expansion.

2. Sewage

As resort communities become larger, as more cottages are being used year-round, and as government regulations are predicted to become more stringent, resort villages are faced with increased demands regarding sewage disposal. While some resort villages are still field spraying, their administrators or mayors report that they know those days are numbered. The RV of Metinota is part of the group planning a regional lagoon in collaboration with the Village of Meota and the RM of Meota, while the RV of Mistusinne is involved in negotiating for a similar partnership with a neighbouring village and RM. The RV of Kannata Valley has their own lagoon, as has the District of Katepwa who is seeking to expand their lagoon because of the demands of expansion. The RV of Tobin Lake is looking to buy land for a lagoon. The RV of Thode is putting in year-round sewage lines out to their own lagoon.

The MEMBERS FAIR session at convention will include the Resort Village of Chitek Lake describing how they were given a Building Canada Futures grant to pioneer a new model for the **MECHANICAL TREATMENT OF SEWAGE**. This session will provide an intriguing way of looking at sewage disposal for small communities.

3. Rainfall

The extraordinary amount of rainfall this past summer created issues for many resort villages especially for the Resort Village of Manitou Beach where rising water levels in a land-locked beach have diluted the lake's natural salinity which in turn affects the growth of algae and commercial revenues. While Manitou battled hillside erosion, Big Shell tried to cope with repairs to roads washed away by the flooding. The resort villages on Round and Crooked Lakes continued to seek resolution to water level issues on their lakes, while those on Diefenbaker Lake battled the shoreline erosion caused by high water levels.

4. Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Issues

The pressures of development have highlighted the need for comprehensive and up-to-date *Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws*. This past year, the Resort Villages of Alice Beach and Bird’s Point have been working with a planner to update their Zoning Bylaws. The RV of Wakaw has found that a new co-operative development has existing structures that fail to meet their zoning provisions and they must decide which Zoning Bylaw provisions to enforce and which exceptions to grandfather. The RV of B-Say-Tah has found that home-based businesses are necessitating formal revisions to their Zoning Bylaw and the RV of Glen Harbour are also making revisions to deal with recreation vehicles and trailers squatting on occupied or unoccupied lots, while the RV of Sun Valley is also considering this issue. The RV of Greig Lake has been updating their building bylaws. The RV of Melville Beach has appreciated the assistance of the Community Planning Branch in dealing with a private developer that was trying to avoid its responsibilities to make changes in their villages. The RV of Mistusinne passed a new Official Community Plan in 2009 and has been busy educating residents and service providers about implications of their new zoning bylaw.

Having trouble dealing with boat trailers, campers, and other recreational toys breaking your zoning regulations and parking off-site on public lands? The MEMBERS FAIR session at convention will include the Resort Village of Big Shell describing how they built and sold **MINI OFF-SITE STORAGE** lots to alleviate overcrowding and create a revenue source for their village.

5. Potable Water

In 2003, all resort villages on Jackfish Lake were told that they could no longer bring lake water into cottages and that only potable water could go into a cottage. Consequently the RV of Aquadeo is building its own water treatment plant. The RV of Cochin is upgrading their potable water system from seasonal to year-round. The RV of Shields opted to join onto a rural water line from Saskatoon to Dundurn. While the RV of Tobin Lake has the wells and the year-round infrastructure, they are seeking to build a reverse osmosis treatment system to improve their water quality. The RV of Kannata Valley is also building a new water treatment plant to bring their distribution of well water “up to meet the 2002 water regulation standards”. As in many resort villages, the cottages in the RV of Chitek Lake either have private wells or cisterns; the resort village is looking to provide a “pail-fill” system for cottagers who need a reliable source of water to haul to their cisterns. The RV of Mistusinne is looking to conserve the potable water in their wells by installing an irrigation system from the lake, thus taking stress off their ground water supply for watering their golf course, their trees and residential yards.

6. Grants

The frustrations with the grant provisions to resort village were voiced by many resort villages. “We received \$300 for mosquito control while a neighbouring village the same size got four times that amount.” The RV of Candle Lake has lobbied their MLA stating that “perhaps the per capita amount for resort villages should be higher to compensate for the seasonal population”.

“We seem to be the last ones to ever qualify for any grant support”. RV of Grandview

The Resort Village of Saskatchewan Beach, however, was pleased to receive a \$30,000 RINC grant for a major upgrade to their playground. They have also obtained monies from Saskatchewan Lotteries to operate an activity program for kids on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

At the MEMBERS FAIR at convention, the Resort Village of Coteau Beach will describe how they used grants from the Community Initiative fund, from Shell Canada, from SOGO along with other donations to **upgrade their playground and their community centre**.

7. Building Community Spirit

Resort communities are comprised of both permanent and seasonal residents who have little opportunities to meet their neighbours. Resort villages described initiatives they are undertaking to bring people together and build community spirit. The MEMBERS FAIR session at convention will include the RV of Cochin describing how their **COCHIN DAYS** gets everyone in the community involved.

8. Quads and policing

The ongoing issue of quads on public reserves was mentioned by several resort village contacts. The RV of Big Shell spoke to the need for education, especially for parents of underage drivers and for those drivers who do not respect private or public lands. The RV of Sun Valley is considering a bylaw describing the areas where quads are permitted and those where they are disallowed.

The MEMBERS FAIR session at convention will include the Resort Village of Candle Lake describing how they **HIRED A BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICE** to educate people about their bylaw provisions

9. Waterfront Issues

By far the most frequently mentioned issues reported by resort village administrators and mayors were related to the management of our beaches, boat launches and waterfront. The examples were almost too numerous to mention:

- "Lake-front cottage owners squared off against back-row cottage owners over the issue of boat lifts". (RV of Kiviamaa Moonlight Bay)
- "Although the government beach and dock are falling apart, we have been unable to either be get control of them in order to maintain them or to get the province to do the maintenance." (RV of South Lake)
- "Our shoreline is eroding; we have been working with Oceans and Fisheries to protect it, a huge project." (RV of Tobin Lake)
- "Shoreline properties are a big issue. We need to know the rules and know that they will be applied consistently by Sask Environment." (RV of Candle Lake)
- "People putting in private marinas, causing wakes issues and boats driving through our buoys and clogging up our boat launches" (RV of Wakaw Lake)
- "We required permits for boat houses, but three were built without permission. We took them to court and we won, establishing a precedent for other resort villages in the province." (RV of Island View)

"The ongoing issues arise from the idiots who try to take over the shore line." Frustrated resort village administrator.

The convention agenda includes the topic: **WHO OWNS THE BEACHES** where PARCS delegates will have the opportunity to pose their many questions regarding these waterfront issues.

10. Resort village profile

After speaking with administrators or mayors from most of our resort villages we were not only impressed with the magnitude and number of issues faced by resort village councils, we also learned more facts about resort villages.

- There are **9,263** cottages¹ located in resort villages in Saskatchewan:
 - 8 resort villages have 50 to 99 cottages,
 - 16 resort villages have 100 to 199 cottages,
 - 8 resort villages have 200 to 299 cottages,
 - 8 resort villages have 300 or more cottages.
- The largest resort village is Candle Lake with 2000 cottages.
- The average size of a resort village is **236 cottages**.
- Some resort villages share an administrator with other resort villages. Examples:
 - Big Shell, Echo Bay and Pebble Bay on Turtle Lake,
 - Pelican Point and Sunset Cove on Last Mountain Lake.
- Some resort villages share an administrator with a nearby village or RM.
- At least 9 administrators work primarily out of their homes.

PARCS 2010 CONVENTION ABRIEVIATED AGENDA – Saskatoon Inn

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14 – AFTERNOON AND EVENING

- 2:30 p.m. *Registration and coffee*
- 3:00 p.m. **PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP** – two concurrent sessions:
 • **RESORT VILLAGES: Administrator Requirements**
 • **ORGANIZED HAMLETS: Acquiring Resort Village Status**
- 7:00 p.m. Convention Opening and Greetings
- 7:15 p.m. Social Evening featuring **Lionel Hughes, editor of Prairies North magazine.**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 8:00 a.m. *Registration, Breakfast, Announcements*
- 8:45 a.m. *Special AGM Session* to deal with an amendment to Bylaw C.
- 9:15 a.m. **OPENING PLENARY**
Recreation or Environmental Destruction? - What the RV dealers don't tell you.
- 9:45 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 10:15 a.m. **WORKSHOP**
Environmental Reserves, What they are, why we need them, how they are created
- 10:45 **WORKSHOP**
Who Owns our Beaches?
- 12:00 noon *Lunch*
Luncheon Speaker, Irwin Blank, SAMA
- 1:30 **WORKSHOP**
Trail Building
- 2:30 p.m. *Coffee Break*
- 2:45 p.m. **MEMBERS FAIR**
Sharing our ideas
- Piloting a mechanical methods of sewage disposal
 - Enhancing your community centre
 - Working with a bylaw enforcement officer
 - Establishing an Environmental Advisory Committee
 - Setting up a recycling program
 - Selling off-site mini-storage units
 - Planning community spirit days
 - Upgrading our community centre
- 3:45 p.m. Regional Meetings
- 6:00 p.m. *President's Banquet*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 8:00 a.m. *Breakfast*
- 9:00 a.m. **GUEST SPEAKER**
Dark Skies and Light Pollution
- 10:00 a.m. **WORKSHOPS**
Lake Water Quality Testing
Zebra Mussel Infiltration
- 11:00 a.m. *Coffee Break* and Annual Meeting followed by convention adjournment.

Name of Community: _____
Contact email: _____
Contact phone no: _____

Number of attending **members**
(voting delegates - Includes all meals, banquet & Pre-Convention seminar): _____ x \$175 = \$ _____

Number of attending **non-members**
(non-voting - Includes all meals, banquet & Pre-Convention Seminar): _____ x \$275 = \$ _____

Number of spousal registration packages (Includes all meals and banquet): _____ x \$150 = \$ _____

Number of extra banquet tickets: _____ x \$ 40 = \$ _____

WALK-IN REGISTRATION for the following HALF-DAYS (no meals included):

___ Thurs. afternoon (pre-convention seminar)

___ Friday morning

___ Friday afternoon

___ Saturday morning _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed: = \$ _____

Pre-Convention Workshops (Please specify the number of delegates attending):

___ RESORT VILLAGES – Administrator Requirements

___ ORGANIZED HAMLETS – Acquiring Resort Village Status

Names of Voting Delegates

Newsletter Competition
Remember to bring a copy of your community newsletter for entry into the annual competitions for Best Newsletter, to be awarded at Convention

Register by mail

Lynne Saas, Coordinator of Member Services
Box 52, Elbow, SK, S0H 1J0

Register by fax with fees to follow

854-4412

Register by email with fees to follow

saas@sasktel.net

Watch our Web Site for more convention updates: **Parcs-sk.com**

Questions

Call Lynne at 854-4658

Full registrations will be accepted by phone, fax or email up to and including Monday Oct. 11th.

For farmers and others who are unsure as whether they will be available to attend. Walk-in registrations will be accepted up to and including the days of convention. Walk-in registrations do not include any meals.