



PARCS UPDATE #2 – AUGUST 5, 2009

1. EXCITING NEW PROGRAM FORMAT TO THIS YEAR'S PARCS CONVENTION

The 23rd Annual PARCS Convention will be held at the Saskatoon Inn beginning the afternoon of Thursday, October 15th and concluding at noon on Saturday, October 17th. Besides a number of plenary speakers, our new format will feature **FOUR WORKSHOPS WITH PANEL PRESENTATIONS and SMALL GROUP INVOLVEMENT**. The panels of presenters will include representatives from resort villages, rural municipalities and cottage community hamlets. We've also included time on the agenda for small group discussion to provide opportunities for different community representatives to share their stories. (See page 3.)

"Our aim with the new format is to provide opportunities for resort communities to hear from other resort communities", says Shirley Gange, one of the conference organizers.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS SEMINAR

If you are a newly elected mayor or councilor as a result of the recent resort village elections, or if you would just like further information about councilors' rights and responsibilities, you will want to attend this **PRE-CONVENTION SEMINAR** on the evening of **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** Administrators and clerks are also invited to attend. The seminar will be led by Carol Ingham, Senior Advisor, Municipal Advisory Services. If you are already registered for the convention, this seminar is included in your convention package. If you are unable to attend the convention, you may register for this seminar only, for a fee of \$50. (See page 3.)

"Councilors and administrators who have attended Carol's seminars in the past report them to be very useful", says George Watson, PARCS 1st Vice-President.

BOOK YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND WIN A COMPLIMENTARY SUITE

Convention participants who make their room reservations **BEFORE AUGUST 31ST** to enter into a draw for a **FREE LUXURY SUITE AT THE SASKATOON INN**. Rooms will be available at the convention rate of \$124 until September 14th. **ONLY EARLY-BIRD REGISTRANTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAW**. If your community reserves 3 rooms, you will have 3 entries in the draw. The winner of the early-bird draw will be notified by telephone on Sept. 1st. Reserve early to win!

Call the Saskatoon Inn at **242-1440** or toll free at **1-800-667-8789** early to qualify to win a luxury hotel suite. Be sure to ask for the PARCS convention rate of \$124.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Did your resort community apply for one of the Building Canada's Future grants? If you were successful, we would be interested in hearing from you. PARCS believes that there should be a fairer distribution of grant funding to resort communities.

Perhaps you submitted a grant proposal under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada grant. The first Rinc grant intake resulted in only 14 grants being awarded in the province and **NO GRANTS WERE AWARDED FOR RESORT COMMUNITIES!**

PARCS is committed to lobbying for equitable allocation of capital grants. If you have not yet renewed your membership or are not currently a member, please consider joining the organization that speaks for resort communities in Saskatchewan. (See page 3) Also, please note that **THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PARCS HAS CHANGED.** →

NEW PARCS CONTACT

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3. THE URBANIZATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Anyone who has driven through the countryside surrounding our cities cannot help but notice the many new housing developments springing up in rural areas of Saskatchewan.

	Organized Hamlets	Unorganized Hamlets	TOTAL
RM of McKillop #220	9	11	20
RM of Mervin #499	12	4	16
RM of Meota #468	13	2	15
RM of Hoodoo #401	2	12	14
RM of Grayson #184	4	1	5
RM of Leask #464	1	3	5
RM of Sasman #336	2	2	4
RM of Hudson Bay #394	3	1	4
16 other RMs, with 1-3 resort hamlets, totaling			23
RESORT HAMLETS:			106

The trend toward the urbanization of rural areas is happening not only because of the increasing numbers of homes on rural acreages but also because of the growing number of cottages and cottage communities.

In Saskatchewan there are 24 rural municipalities that administer more than 100 organized and unorganized hamlets that are cottage communities. Both the number of cottages and the number of cottage subdivisions have been on the increase.

GROWTH - Interest in cottage communities continues to increase. The significant increases in cottage prices over the last few years have, for the most part, held in spite of the current recession. On lakes surrounded by private property, land is being purchased by private developers. Rural municipalities are dealing with requests to take quarter-sections of agricultural land out of production to allow for new cottage development. Four new subdivisions have sprung up on the east side of Last Mountain Lake in recent years as a result of privately owned land being sold to developers. Some rural municipalities have a policy that any new subdivisions must amalgamate with existing subdivisions. Many rural municipalities are working with a community planner to arrive at an Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw to facilitate orderly future development.

SERVICES - As the number of people in cottage communities increases, so do the request from these communities for improvements to their existing services. Some cottage communities are looking for upgrades to their **potable water systems** to meet the demands of their increased population. Some rural municipalities have partnered with neighboring towns or villages to contract rural water lines from Sask Water. Many rural municipalities are finding increased demands on their lagoons from sewage being hauled in from cottage holding tanks. Those cottage communities that continue to field spray the effluent from holding tanks are wondering how long such arrangements will be permitted. Many cottage communities are looking to accelerate their plans for a **regional sewage lagoon**. Increasing numbers of permanent residents at cottage communities are asking for more road maintenance and for snow removal.

NOTE - The upcoming **PARCS CONVENTION** will feature a session on **Dealing with Sewage at the Lake**. A cottage owner will tell how their cottage community and the RM cooperated to plan and obtain grant funding for a regional lagoon to service the needs of a number of cottage communities.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE - Having a dozen or more cottage communities in a rural municipality imposes a unique set of administrative demands on the rural municipality. There are more roads to be graded, more signage to be erected, more green areas to be mowed, more accounts to be paid, more bylaws to be enacted and enforced, more assessment notices and tax notices to send out, more needs to be assessed and more communication to facilitate. Rural municipalities enter into agreements with their organized hamlets such that 40% to 75% of the taxes collected from within the hamlet goes into their "special Hamlet account" in accordance with The Municipalities Act. Administrators report ongoing **urban issues** such as the behaviours of quad users, problems with dogs, and the need for bylaw enforcement. There is a growing trend in Saskatchewan whereby the growth in resort communities has resulted in the **urbanization of some rural municipalities**.

NOTE - The upcoming **PARCS CONVENTION** will feature a session on **Governance at the Lake**. A representative from municipal affairs will speak about rural municipalities, organized and unorganized hamlets, and about resort villages. The session will deal with the powers and duties of each.

Watch for PARCS UPDATE #3 featuring a Saskatchewan lake and its resort communities.

