

# Elbow Council News - June 2012

**CANADA DAY in ELBOW** – A day of food and fun! Council's pancake breakfast served 225 with proceeds being donated to the museum, the annual Wildlife Fish Fry served 424 people, and as always our spectacular fireworks display that had the streets lined with people! Special thanks go out to Council, and members of the museum board for putting on the pancake breakfast, the Wildlife Committee for the fish fry, and Dale Norrish and his crew for the fireworks display. Thanks also to the Resort Village of Mistusinne, RM of Loreburn, Village of Loreburn, Celebrate Canada Day Grant, and all of our local businesses, organizations and private donors for contributing to the fireworks. Bryan Cafferata and his staff (Tammy & Mel) also deserve a pat on the back for all their work in rounding up the many donations . . . without the assistance from the whole community; our fireworks display would not be as spectacular!

Did you know that people come from quite a distance just to view our fireworks? We've had calls from people in Tugaske, Central Butte, Outlook, Davidson, Kenaston, and even Saskatoon who come out to Elbow on July 1<sup>st</sup> just because of the fireworks!

**Build Day** – another great show of "community". Around 320 people registered on Build Day (May 12<sup>th</sup>) to construct the playground equipment, develop the walking path, clean out trees, haul mulch, plant, serve lunch and refreshments, etc. A work bee was recently held to continue improvements to the park. We look forward to the installation of the peace pole, which is being designed and built by Joe Fafard. Elbow's community park project has recently been featured in the SUMA Urban Voice magazine, and the latest issue of FYi put out by the Moose Jaw Times Herald. Continue to check [www.elbow.ltbk.ca](http://www.elbow.ltbk.ca) for updates.

**Stormy weather** – a huge thank you goes out to all those that have helped out the Village, neighbours, and their community in dealing with the damage done by the recent stormy weather. Numerous trees were blown over, many branches broken, and various yard items blown around. Luckily we avoided much more serious weather (no hail this time thank goodness!)

*If you are a seasonal resident/property owner, it is very helpful if you can provide us with your contact information – permanent resident phone number, cell number, and email address. Storm damage reporting is just one of the many instances where this information would be very useful. Email Claudia at [elbow2@sasktel.net](mailto:elbow2@sasktel.net) with your contact info.*

**Staff Changes** – Hannah Hundebly joined our maintenance team in May as our summer student. Hannah was raised on a farm just outside of Elbow so is familiar to many. Hannah will be with us until the end of August when she returns to school.

We were sorry to lose James Swedberg at the end of June after a short term as our maintenance foreman. James has accepted another position, but will maintain his home base in Elbow. We wish him well with his new job. We are presently in the hiring process and hope to have a new employee in place shortly. We appreciate your understanding during this transition period.

***We would also ask you to have patience with our new staff as they learn the equipment and their role working for the Village.***

**Swimming Lessons** will be offered at Tuft's Bay in Elbow this summer: August 13 – 17 (with Max Bumphrey), and August 20 – 24 (with Josee Bumphrey). Please contact Michelle at 867-4471 or email: [michelle.babiarz@sasktel.net](mailto:michelle.babiarz@sasktel.net) to register your child.

**Utility Rate Increases** – just a reminder that utility rates will be increasing this year. SaskWater provided notice that potable water rates increased as of April 1, 2012 by 9%. As well, they will increase by an additional 9% in 2013 and 2014. Our contract with SaskWater for the operation and maintenance of the distribution system, sewage collection and treatment, also increased by 2%. Council is in the process of adjusting the Village's rates to cover these increases. The Saskatchewan Municipal Board, Local Government Committee has to approve all utility rate increases. It is anticipated that our rate increases will come into effect October 1, 2012.

**Live Well With Chronic Disease** – is a peer-led patient education program. It is facilitated by pairs of trained volunteers from the community to groups of up to 12 – 16 people, once a week for 2.5 hrs for six consecutive weeks. Course participants are persons who are experiencing any type of chronic health condition and their support people or caregivers. Although different chronic illnesses (such as diabetes, arthritis, lung disease, heart disease, high blood pressure, etc.) may have their different physical impacts on a person's body, they often cause similar problems related to activities of daily living, interactions with health care systems, communications with family, friends and caregivers, and dealing with negative emotions such as fear, anxiety and depression.

Five Hills Health Region (FHHR), in conjunction with other health authorities, offer a 4 day program for peer leaders with room, board, and travel costs reimbursed. Schedules usually are during September/October. We are preparing a list of

prospective trainees for submission to FHHR. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Bill Nike at 306-854-4520 or at [bnike@sasktel.net](mailto:bnike@sasktel.net) Your name, address, telephone, email information will be required for referral to the FHHR Program Coordinator.

**2012 Budget/Mill rate** – the 2012 Operating and Capital Budget was adopted at the May 30<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Some of the highlights of this year's budget include:

- School division and municipal mill rates remain unchanged
- Purchase of a 'Wildland' Fire Truck and jaws of life in partnership with the R.M. of Loreburn (FCC AgriSpirit grant, and grant from Enbridge covered the Village's share in this partnership). Talks are underway that may see some form of 'Regional' Emergency Services along Highway 19 communities.
- Completed the Accessibility Project at the Civic Centre (elevator, accessible washroom, numerous unanticipated upgrades, etc.)
- Purchased a quality conference phone to allow Council members to attend meetings while they are away from Elbow via conference call. 'Electronic' meetings are likely going to become more common with our seasonal and snowbird nature.
- Upgraded the front end office computer and software upgrade; budgeted for replacement front door at the Village Office; and new self-watering planters that will be able to be utilized in 2013
- Budgeted for some dust suppressant, but due to issues with the weather, our streets, and now the loss of our foreman, we aren't sure just when this will take place. Rest assured, Council is looking at a few different options.
- Replacement of faded street signs
- Budgeted to re-seal the surface of Saskatchewan Street (Pacific to Railway Avenue)
- Budgeted funds towards an engineered study of the state of the Village's streets, drainage, and recommendations to address these issues. With this information, Council will be able to formulate a plan to correctly tackle these issues over time.
- Fencing for the Transfer Site as required by Saskatchewan Environment
- Budgeted funds towards a new civic bulletin board (Thanks to Mayor Cross for the temporary fix to our existing one that should work until we have a new one in place)
- Some new fire pits and picnic tables for Tuft's Bay Campground
- Gravel, gravel, and more gravel!
- Selected sidewalk replacement/repair
- Repairs to the lagoon truck dump area and berm
- Proposal to extend a 4" water line to Ron Hundebly's subdivision, that will also service Village property at 1/5<sup>th</sup> the cost of the total project

**If you have been in the rink recently, you may have noticed the new plastic tables recently donated by the Elbow & District Wildlife – MANY THANKS TO THEM FOR THIS VERY USEFUL DONATION!**

**Village Website** – Remember to check the Village's website for upcoming events, and news items (all on the home page). Council meeting minutes are posted once they've been approved at the following meeting. Other areas of the website continue to be developed and updated. Remember, this is YOUR website – be sure to provide us with your community events, news items, and photos!

**Election Year** – This October will see another civic election for members of Village Council. The term of office will now be 4 years with the change in legislation. Another legislation change allows for mail in ballots. Council is currently reviewing a draft bylaw that would enact this option. If you are a Saskatchewan resident that is not able to make it out to vote in October, please contact Yvonne Jess, Returning Officer at [elbow@sasktel.net](mailto:elbow@sasktel.net). Once the procedures are in place, we will let you know how to officially register for a mail in ballot. Another change to legislation is the requirement to show ID when voting – just like in the Federal and Provincial elections.

Please consider either running for Council yourself or encouraging someone you think would be interested. The Village Office can provide more information. Council meetings are open to the public – consider attending to see what it's all about.

**As I See It** (submitted by Mayor David Cross) – With four months left in my term on Council, I would like to share some of the things I learned over the past nine years.

- (a) Elbow is thriving because of the support from our surrounding region. We need to continue to nurture our relationship with the R.M. of Loreburn (ex. sharing cost of bulk loader, shared cost of Wildland Fire Truck & jaws of life, R.M. contributes to our library, skating rink, fire dept., etc.); the Resort Village of Mistouinne contributes to our first responders, fire department, and library, as well as support our businesses, seniors club, library, etc.; the wider region sees Elbow as a centre for recreation (golf, camping, fishing, boat launch) and solitude. We need to continue our involvement in Lake Diefenbaker Tourism and our other tourism connections. Without promotion, people do not think about you when planning their vacation and recreation time. We need to invite the province's new migrant and immigrant population to visit us.

- (b) Our Village is changing. Many of our original families and founding citizens are leaving – their property is frequently for sale. The majority of buyers or those who are building have homes elsewhere – we are their recreational (summer) home. This means a larger population in the summer (700ish) and a base population (300) in the winter. Many of our ‘permanent’ residents choose to spend at least some of the winter outside of Elbow; often in warmer climates. This results in challenges for our businesses to remain open/make a living in the winter. Our Fire Department, First Responders, Village Council, Village groups and committees lose valuable members for several months of the year. How can we keep the social/organizational life of the Village going during this period?
- (c) New residents want limited responsibility. Our new residents and those building recreation homes often want limited responsibility toward the Village. They are here to relax; recreate (boat, fish, swim, golf) but feel their main responsibility is to the location of their principal residence. Often unwilling to run for Council or various community organizations, etc. because they are not here that often. They disconnect water and garbage/recycling collection services in the off season. Our challenge is to encourage their greater involvement in our Village government and committees.
- (d) There is no end to being an active citizen. Ian Hill (Let Them Be Kids) expressed that fact in his address at the gala. We live in a wonderful country and province. Most of the world envies us – we enjoy prosperity, guaranteed medical care and freedom. In return, each citizen, no matter how old, is expected to be knowledgeable about legislation and bylaws being enacted, and use their freedom to express opinions to oppose bad and support positive action. At the very least, you are required to vote in each election after expending some effort to become knowledgeable about the issues. Grumbling at coffee row doesn’t solve anything – get involved, run for office, join the Service Club, do something positive!

**The Sugar (Gratitude) Crystal Miracle** (submitted by Councillor Bill Nike) - Imagine a great clear glass urn filled to the brim with water. You begin to drop grains of sugar (Gratitude) into the water, counting each one as you drop it in. One, two, three . . . four hundred . . . eight hundred . . . twenty-eight thousand . . . on and on it goes. Each grain you drop into the water disappears as it is absorbed into solution. It is invisible . . . gone. The water appears unchanged.

For each grain of sugar (gratitude) you drop into the water, you think of some effort you have made for your community. So many meetings, where almost nobody came. So many meetings and workshops, and hours and hours of hard work that nobody noticed. Gone. As if you had done nothing. The community appears unchanged.

But you continue to drop the grains of sugar (gratitude) into the water, and you count. Two million . . . six million . . . and, suddenly, after so many that you have lost count a hundred times, you will drop one more drop into the water, and it will be enough. The water is saturated. It cannot hold another grain in solution. And so a dramatic shift takes place before your eyes. As you continue to drop grains of sugar (gratitude) into the water, a beautiful crystal forms before your eyes, tangible and undeniable.

And so it is in communities. Like the sugar in solution that needed to reach the critical saturation point before making itself visible, a critical mass of vision, energy, unity and commitment must be reached before it appears that much of anything is happening in community transformation. Before that moment in time, it can look to all the world like nothing is happening. Despite all the sacrifices, the plans, the campaigns, the programs, nothing seems to change. But then something happens. A trigger, a catalyst of some sort, perhaps only in the heart of one key person, perhaps an event that stuns the whole community. Whatever it is that happens - the result - the result is that a sudden, dramatic (and often chaotic shift occurs), and for a brief moment in time, a new possibility appears on the horizon. Everything seems to be shaken up and disassembled into its constituent atoms. Will it come back together in the same old pattern, or will it reassemble in a completely new form?

History has shown us many such moments. Some of them are so close to our own time that it is hard to predict what the new pattern will be because the period of (rapid) transformation still lingers. Are we in one of those key moments when time seems to stand still and everything seems possible?

Such moments do not occur at random. There is an underlying pattern, a buildup toward that critical shift point. And our part, as members of community-in-action, is to drop our grains of sugar (gratitude) in every encounter, every day, and uphold the conviction that **“to speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven.”** \*  
 (\*Johannes Gaertner)

***“You never get to retire from being a citizen!”***  
**Ian Hill – Let Them Be Kids**