

Elbow Council News - March 2013

Snow! - wow! What a winter and spring we've had so far! We appreciate everyone's patience as the Village has tried to deal with the snow accumulation this winter and also during the past two storms when we've been without maintenance staff. Much appreciation to those that helped their neighbours out blowing or moving snow. We also greatly appreciate the help of Bert and Troy Bramble and Dale Hundebly. There is no way our equipment could have dealt with the amount of snow that blew into town. With all this snow, the spring melt is going to be quite a concern. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter a few suggested mitigative actions put out by the Water Security Agency.

Be a good neighbour – these things should go without saying, but due to recent calls to the Village Office, we'd like to remind everyone to be considerate of your neighbours

- please remember not to pile or push your snow onto your neighbours property
- don't drain the water from your property onto your neighbours property
- be considerate to your neighbour in regards to noise and your pets
- talk to your neighbour, get to know your neighbour, work out any differences you may have

New Maintenance Employee – The Village of Elbow is pleased to announce that we have hired Scott Scrimbitt for the town maintenance position. Scott started on March 25th. We once again appreciate your understanding during this transition period and thank you for your patience with our new staff member as they learn the equipment and their role working for the Village.

Assessment Roll – The 2013 assessment roll is now open until May 16, 2013. During this time you have access to all of the assessment figures for the Village. You can also access this information on the SAMAView website – go to www.sama.sk.ca and click on the SAMAView link, agree to the terms of use, click on map search, type in ELBOW in the 'choose a municipality' field. You can then search for a particular property by keying in different information or you can zoom in on the map (zoom tool in top right hand corner – or use scroll button on your mouse). You can also access detailed property profiles, through SAMAView or through the Village Office.

Summer Maintenance Assistant:

Applicants must have a valid driver's license, be physically able and willing to learn and work at a wide variety of tasks. Experience with equipment an asset. Start date: May 6, 2013. Wage: \$14/hr, 40 hrs/week. Submit complete resume with references and a cover letter indicating if applicant is attending secondary or post-secondary education in the fall. Village of Elbow, PO Box 8, Elbow, SK S0H 1J0 Fax: 306-854-2229 or elbow@sasktel.net by April 15, 2013.

If you want to contact the SAMA assessor directly with specific questions on your assessment, please call SAMA at 1-800-667-5203.

Remember – the appeal deadline is May 16, 2013, and that you must have a valid reason to appeal – “my assessment (or taxes) are too high” is not considered valid grounds for appeal.

School Division Mill Rate and Tax Incentives (discounts) – effective January 1, 2013 tax incentives (discounts and rebates) set by municipalities will no longer apply to education property tax. What this means, is that the Village is still able to offer the early payment tax discount amounts to the Village's portion of your property tax bill, but NOT on the school division's portion. All payments made up to August 31st will qualify for the 5% discount on the Village's portion only. For those that have pre-paid a portion of their 2013 taxes, an adjustment will be made to the school division portion.

The Province has just set the education mill rate at 5.03 mills for residential property; commercial will be 8.28 mills. To calculate what your education taxes will be for 2013, take your taxable assessment (from your 2013 assessment notice) x .00503 (or .00828 for commercial property) = school taxes. Almost all of the properties in Elbow will see a school tax increase in 2013.

FYI – in 2012, the Village approved 15 building permits for a total construction value of \$1,662,450!

January – March Council meeting highlights:

- speed limit signs purchased to be placed in the vicinity of both ends of King St. In an attempt to slow traffic down
- joined the WaterWolf District Board of Revision
- plans are being made to tender out an addition to the existing Tuft's Bay washroom facility, and a grant application is being made to the Community Initiative Fund – Community Vitality Program towards this project
- Council signed agreements with the R.M. of Loreburn, Resort Village of Mistusinne, Harbor Golf, and Lakeside Marina for use of our lagoon for 2013.
- Adopted the WaterWolf District Plan as per section 102 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*
- Notification that we received the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund Grant for the Elbow Rink Relighting and Electrical Project that will see improved lighting over the ice surface as well as extra electrical outlets.
- Entered into discussions with the R.M. of Loreburn and the Resort Village of Mistusinne in regards to a regional lagoon

FYI – in 2012 the Rink ran a small surplus of \$154.12

Rentals (skating fees, rink rentals, and 75% share of gym fees) - \$5,788.75

Grants – (RM of Loreburn \$1000, Community Rink Affordability Grant \$2,500)

Expenses (janitor, insurance, repairs, power/natural gas, water/sewer/garbage, supplies) - \$9,134.63

Spring flooding – due to the above normal snow pack in much of the province, the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency had suggested the following mitigative actions that could be taken to eliminate or lessen the impacts of flooding hazards:

- Shovel or remove snow from around your home and move it to a position where melt water will drain away from the foundation.
- Clear channels in the ice/snow to allow melt water to drain away from effectively from your home, including clearing culverts, ditches, etc.
- Ensure downspouts are extended so they discharge rain or meltwater a minimum distance of 2 metres from your home to avoid it draining back towards your foundation
- Check to make sure your sump pump is working. If you don't have a sump pump, consider installing one.
- Consider installing a mainline Sewer Backwater Valve to protect against sewer backup if you don't have one.
- Keep basement sewer caps in place
- Check your basement regularly for signs of water and consider installing a water-sensing alarm

FYI – in 2012 the Civic Centre ran a deficit of \$11,953.31 which was funded through taxes (this does not include the capital upgrades to the facility)

Rentals - \$7,055

Expenses (janitor, insurance, repairs, power/natural gas, water/sewer/garbage, supplies) - \$19,008.31

Elbow's Website www.elbowsask.com – remember to check the Village's website for upcoming events, and news items. Council meeting minutes are posted once they've been approved at the following meeting. This is YOUR website and will only be as good as the content you provide us with. Community groups – please remember to give us your information for upcoming functions. Do you plan to host a garage sale this spring? Let us know and we'll advertise that for you for free! Do you have a boat or property for sale? For a small fee you can list your 'for sale' items as well.

Just a reminder that utility bill payments can be made online through Prairie Centre Credit Union.

If there are other financial institutions you'd like to be able to make utility payments through, please advise the Village Office (elbow2@sasktel.net). We may be able to extend this service to your financial institution depending on the number of people using that same bank/credit union and the service fees associated with setting it up.

We also accept post-dated cheques, and there is the drop slot on the ramp side of the building to drop off payments after hours.