

# Elbow Council News - March 2014

**Assessment Notices** – along with this mail out you will find your 2014 Assessment Notice. The Village of Elbow has submitted requests to SAMA (Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency) for over 10 years now, to conduct an actual physical re-inspection of the Village. Well, that finally happened. Along with the re-inspection, where SAMA found numerous changes to properties (new or removed decks, garages, interior finishes, etc.) SAMA also lowered the “Market Adjustment Factor” or MAF for the Village of Elbow. These assessments are still based on the January 1, 2011 base date (as they were with last year’s revaluation). The next change to the base date will occur with the 2017 provincial revaluation.

Updated Village maps are for sale at the Village Office - \$25 ea

The Village Office now has a colour photocopier. Colour copying is available for \$1/page.

**Dog Poop!** – please remember to clean up after your pet and be considerate of other property owners. No one likes to see it (or step in it!) along sidewalks, by the post office boxes, public areas, or in their yards when they don’t even have a pet.

The Assessment Roll is open now until May 1, 2014. During this time you have access to all of the assessment figures for the Village, and this is the only time where you are able to lodge an appeal. If you’d like to see your ‘Assessment Profile’ or field sheet, which outlines what you have been assessed on, the Village Office can provide you with that information, or you can log onto SAMAView’s website [www.sama.sk.ca](http://www.sama.sk.ca) where that same information is available. You can also call SAMA at 1-800-667-5203 to speak directly with a SAMA assessor with specific questions on your assessment.

**Loraas Rate Increases, Construction Waste and Seasonal Changes** – Loraas has informed us that effective immediately, they will be beginning their collection route along Highway 19 each week in Elbow. All garbage and recycle carts should be placed curbside the night before in order to not miss the truck, which will be making its rounds by 7 a.m. There have also been some changes in regards to the 4 – 6 yd construction bins and scheduling pickup. Please inquire at the Village Office for more information on construction bins. Loraas curbside recycle and garbage rates increased March 1, 2014, and Council has made the decision to provide this service on a cost-recovery basis; the \$17/month you were being charged didn’t fully cover the actual charge from Loraas to provide this service. The new rates will be \$21.06/month for recycle and garbage service. Starting this fall, seasonal properties that “turn off” the recycle and garbage service will continue to be charged \$2/cart/month over the winter months. There will no longer be the option of turning the carts in and not paying (Loraas’ policy, not ours!). So for this billing cycle (January – March 2014) you will notice your garbage/recycle rate is as follows: \$55.06 (\$17 for January + \$17 for February + 21.06 for March). Next quarter your rate will be \$63.18 (\$21.06/month).

**Water Rate Increases** – effective April 1, 2014 the water rates will increase to \$11.65/1,000 gallons; up from \$10.69 which represents the 9% increase in water rates from SaskWater. The new rate will show up on your June billing (April – June quarter). For an example; if your household uses 7,500 gallons in a quarter, that would be a \$7.20 increase you would see.

**Email online payments** – For those that do not bank at Prairie Centre Credit Union and can’t use their MemberDirect online payment service, there is another option to make online payments to the Village of Elbow. Many financial institutions now offer INTERAC e-Transfers, a quick and secure method to make payments or transfer money. All you need is your recipient’s email address to send money in just a few quick and easy steps. This might be something you’d like to consider in order to make your water bill or even tax payments. Check with your financial institution to see just how easy it is to set up and to inquire about service fees for this type of service.

**AED Installation at the Rink** – as part of the National AED Program, the Village of Elbow qualified for a free AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to be installed at the Rink as well as CPR/AED training for up to 10 individuals. CPR alone offers a victim a 5% chance of survival, while an AED used in conjunction with CPR in the first three minutes of an arrest can mean a survival rate of 75% or greater. With the increased use of our rink in the summer, this will be a great tool to have if ever needed. Please remember that there is also an AED, which was purchased by the Elbow First Responders, at the Credit Union that is accessible all the time.

**Watermain Flushing** – during the month of April, Village maintenance staff along with SaskWater will be flushing watermains as part of our water distribution system maintenance. During this time you may notice some pressure fluctuations and discoloration of water; this is normal and the water will still be safe to consume.

**Clean Up our Neighbourhood** – as stated in the December 2013 newsletter, Council has begun steps to clean up our neighbourhood, with junked vehicles being the first “problem area” to be addressed. According to the Village’s Nuisance Bylaw, a junked vehicle is described as any vehicle that has no valid license plate attached to it, or is in a rusted, wrecked, partly wrecked, dismantled, partly dismantled, inoperative or abandoned condition. It has also been noticed that many properties have trees, shrubs, and bushes that have become very overgrown and are encroaching in the back alleys and need to be trimmed back. This spring, Council intends to further act on the Nuisance Bylaw to get our town looking better. Council appreciates your cooperation.

**Yard/Garden Waste pick up** – while we may be a little ways off of yard clean up, we just want to remind you of our semi-annual yard/garden waste pick-up. As always, this will happen following the May long-weekend. So please have your garden waste placed out in bags or manageable piles in your back alley, no later than May 20<sup>th</sup>. Our maintenance staff will make one pass over the Village, so if you haven’t placed it out in your back alley by May 20<sup>th</sup> and you are missed, you will need to make arrangements to haul your waste to the Transfer Station on your own.

**Transfer Station** – will open for the season near the end of April, depending on the weather. The hours of operation are Mondays from 4 – 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. – noon. Watch for posters and the Elbow website for updates.

**Mowing** – again, we are a little ahead of ourselves, but we want to remind everyone of the need to keep their property in Elbow mowed (full time residents, seasonal residents, and vacant property owners). Letters will be sent out to the seasonal and vacant property owners in April reminding them of this requirement and providing them with a list of students and people in Elbow willing to provide mowing service. We ask that you respond to that letter letting us know what arrangements you have made for the coming season. This is by no means meant to “pick on” our seasonal or vacant property owners, it just assists our maintenance staff in knowing which properties need our mowing services or not. As part of Council’s ‘clean up our neighbourhood’ priority – ALL properties are expected to be mowed on a regular basis. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Dog Bylaw** – please remember that the Village of Elbow does have a Dog Bylaw! We’ve had numerous complaints this winter about dogs around town; in fact, one lady ended up hitting the ditch and getting stuck while trying to avoid hitting a dog that was running around. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to ensure that their dog is NOT running at large (off their premises when not on a leash). It is also the dog owner’s responsibility to pick up their dog’s poop from any private or public property. The full bylaw is available at the Village Office and on the Village website. Charges/fines can be laid under this bylaw (\$75 for a dog running at large; \$40 for defecation). Please be considerate – pick up your dog’s poop and keep your dog at home and/or on a leash.