

SaskTel Internet Service – Wireless internet customers were notified in early September that SaskTel's wireless internet signal will be shut down in our area on December 31, 2012. Other options SaskTel presented us with included: Xplornet, and mobile internet (or the 'stick'). A recent development will also allow another choice – YourLink. YourLink and the Village have just signed an agreement whereas their equipment will be placed on the elevator in Elbow. See further information included in this mailout.

Elbow Volunteer Fire Department – The Village purchased and outfitted a 'Wildland' vehicle, partially funded with grants from FCC and Enbridge. This has already proven helpful in fighting combine and grass fires. We were also able to purchase a 'jaws of life' to go with the Wildland truck. We are grateful for this new equipment and the training and expertise that Fire Chief Glen Amor is able to provide from his experience with the Regina Fire Department. We are so thankful to have a large number of trained volunteers to man our equipment: Glen Amor, Paul Ganes, Ron Sisetsky, Dan Hoppenreys, Kevin Luchia, Rick Ector, Rick Diederich, Rod Daniluk, Scott Fiske, Tyler Pisiak, Andy Travers, Dale Norrish, and Lynden Lepage. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer fire fighter, please contact the Village Office or Glen Amor.

House Numbers – please make sure that you identify your home with a house number. Not only will it help in emergency situations (EMS, Fire, Police), but also with new staff reading water meters!

Friends of the Orchard – the many volunteers that help out in the orchard have contributed some 100 hours of time in tree and shrub pruning, weeding, placing mulch, and irrigation line maintenance that has contributed to the success and beauty of the park. They will soon be placing plaques naming the various tree varieties. The plaques will be secured to a concrete leaf that will be mounted on a metal post. If you haven't already done so, please make a point to walk through this fantastic gem; and also express your appreciation to this group of volunteers!

Other Council Meeting Highlights:

- Council passed a bylaw establishing a mail-in ballot voting system (legislative changes this spring made this provision possible). Information about this was sent out with every tax notice August 1st. The deadline to register was September 24th. Unfortunately, only 3 ratepayers are taking advantage of this option.
- Council has begun working on a policy manual. A policy manual provides for consistency, fairness and continuity, especially as Council's change. It can assist in the decision making process by providing a starting point. It also provides administration staff with definite direction.
- The Village contributed half of the funds to reshingle/repair the museum roof.
- Council continues to receive requests from 'non-ratepayers' for use of Elbow's lagoon
- Council asked the Dept. of Highways to do some contract repairs to Saskatchewan Street. It's doubtful that will happen this fall now. We are quite pleased with the repairs Highways did to their portion of Railway Avenue.
- The speed monitor was vandalized in August. The estimated cost to repair the wiring and replace the solar panel is \$2,000. If you have any information on the damage, please report it to the RCMP.
- Perimeter fencing has been purchased for the Transfer Site – plans are being made to have it installed in the spring

Civic Centre and Rink Rental Rates – the Village Office has been questioned over Civic Centre and Rink rental rates quite frequently lately; and not by out of town people – they think the rates are CHEAP! Our 'locals' however, don't necessarily agree. Even with the rates we charge, the facilities are not self financing; so you as taxpayers are subsidising the people that rent the facilities. Any shortfall (or deficit) is covered by property taxes. The rental rates were recently reviewed by the Facilities Committee and will remain as is.

FYI – in 2011 the Rink ran a **deficit of \$5,596.56** which was funded through taxes.

Rentals (skating fees, rink rentals, and 75% share of gym fees) - \$2,621.25

Expenses (janitor, insurance, repairs, power/gas, water/sewer/garbage, supplies) - \$8,017.81

FYI – in 2011 the Civic Centre ran a **deficit of \$4,421.25** which was funded through taxes.

Rentals - \$6,940 (down \$935 from 2010 due in part to reno's that started in late October 2011)

Expenses (janitor, insurance, repairs, power/gas, water/sewer/garbage, supplies) - \$11,361.25