

PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION of RESORT COMMUNITIES of SASKATCHEWAN



parcs@sasktel.net; (306) 630-9698; 125(A) 2nd Ave. NE, Moose Jaw, SK, S6H 0C4

From: Lynne Saas, Coordinator of PARCS Member Services

To: Cottage Communities on the PARCS mailing list

Date: October 1, 2019

Re: PARCS Upcoming Convention

As the registrations secretary for our upcoming PARCS Convention, I wish to take this opportunity to speak to all of the cottage communities who receive PARCS monthly newsletters (resort villages, organized hamlets and rural municipalities that contain cottage communities). I wish to speak with you, first about the lobbying that PARCS does on your behalf, and secondly about the importance of your support for our annual convention.

1 – Celebrating Recent Successes

Background - Last year PARCS prepared for convention by sending out a long list of our proposed amendments to the Municipalities Acts, for presentation during the 2019/20 legislative session. A subset of those recommendations were adopted at last year's convention and were then forwarded to the Ministry. They are now working their way through the review process. Because lobby efforts take time, PARCS members can sometimes mistakenly assume that we are not achieving the changes that we ask for. That is not so. It's time to point out that *PARCS is making some significant achievements on your behalf!*

Yesterday I received an email from Allan Laird¹ asking for PARCS input into regulations that are being drafted to accompany, among others, **TWO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ACT**. The following is a **quote from our reply to Allan Laird**:

"I spoke with chairman Garry Dixon this morning and we both wish to express the following two comments:

- 1) PARCS applauds the first amendment, focusing on the statement (p.2) that says that the "new amendment to section 42, which comes into force January 2, 2020, would mean a council member that met eligibility requirements in 2016 as a result of holding a lease in the resort village WOULD NOW BE DISQUALIFIED – but would allow that council member to complete his/her term." **PARCS applauds the proposed amendment to section 42 that will no longer allow lease holders in resort communities to run for council after January 2, 2020 [Known by PARCS members as the Tobin Lake issue]**
- 2) PARCS also applauds the proposed changes to Form R of Appendix C (p. 5) which, as explained on page 6 means that "where a municipality has adopted a bylaw for the use of mail-in ballots, the form may be signed by a person authorized by the bylaw". We assume this to mean that the bylaw could allow for a person to **have his registration form witnessed by an authorized person IN HIS HOME COMMUNITY (rather than having to travel back to the cottage community) and then mail his registration to the municipal office to receive the mail-in ballot. [Known by PARCS members as the OH of Indian-Point Golden Sands and OH of Turtle Lake Lodge Issues because it arose regarding the voting for these 2 OHs from the RM of Parkdale to become a new resort village.²]**

Please accept PARCS' appreciation for these 2 amendments to the Local Government Elections Act 2015 and their accompanying changes in regulations."

Today, Allan Laird replied saying: "You are correct on both counts. Thanks for the comments."

¹ Senior Legislative Analyst, Policy and Program Services Branch, Ministry of Government Relations

² Which, with the support and background lobbying of PARCS, they won. They will become the 41st Saskatchewan resort village in January of 2020!

Also please note the following: As a result of PARCS ongoing calls for representation by population on RM councils, the Policy and Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations has sent out a 56-page document for stakeholder review with about possible 2019 amendments to the Municipalities Act, (including the suggestions passed as resolutions by PARCS delegates at our last convention). One of these suggestions from the Policy and Planning Branch ***calls for a regular review of RM division boundaries to establish for equitable representation by population!***

In conclusion: Your PARCS board of directors has been doing an exemplary job of lobbying for legislative changes where they are needed for cottage communities.

2 – Looking to the Future

The PARCS Convention - The PARCS convention serves two important roles for its members.

1. First, **THE NET REVENUE THAT IT GENERATES TOWARDS PARCS TOTAL BUDGET**. During ***the past four years, from 2015 to 2018***, convention registration fees have represented an equivalent of **90 to 98 full registrants**.³ Needless to say, those revenues contribute significantly to PARCS bottom line, each year. **To date, we have only 42 registrants for the 2019 convention!**
2. Secondly, the PARCS convention is where **WE LEARN ABOUT CURRENT ISSUES**. For example:
 - Does your community use **the reference material that are catalogued** and listed in the PARCS Guide for Research? Why or why not?
 - President Dixon will be speaking to three of the enduring issues facing cottage communities:
 - 1) **Boat launches, docks, marinas.**
 - 2) **Recreational vehicles on residential lots.**
 - 3) **Agreements with other communities and agencies.**Are you interested in discussing these issues with other communities?
 - If PARCS were to gather **a resource document containing EXAMPLE POLICIES** for your reference, would you be interested in obtaining a copy? Would you be apt to use it?
 - PARCS is hosting a pre-convention training session about effective practices and policies for resort villages, RMs and OHs. It is **especially suitable for administrators**. Has your administrator enrolled?
3. Finally, the PARCS convention is where **WE ESTABLISH OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE**. How would your council or board respond to the following questions?
 - Should PARCS be doing more to reach out to **new subdivisions springing up around our lakes**? If so, how?
 - Should PARCS be enrolling in **“Constant Contact”** to do a better job of keeping our email contacts for newsletter up-to-date?
 - Should PARCS hire a **media consultant** to develop a PARCS presence on Facebook and/or on Twitter?

It's not too late to register for the 2019 fall convention. Just send the attached registration form (page 4) - or just send an email saying: "please register these folks for the convention, fees will follow at the convention."

³ Based on fees of \$225 per full-time equivalent. Fees have not changed during this time.

PROGRAM for PARCS CONVENTION 2019 – “Getting Along and Working Together”

Friday, Oct.18 & Saturday, Oct.19, Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18th

9:15 am Final registration for the Pre-convention workshops (Coffee and snacks to take into meeting rooms)

Pre-convention workshops:

10:00 - 12:00 Villages & Resort Villages (<i>Garden Centre/South</i>)	Organized Hamlets & RMs (<i>Downstairs</i>)
Learn how your council can be more effective at working with staff, with the community and with each other – by using the 10-minute training sessions offered by the Ministry of Government Relations and demonstrated at this session.	A panel of 8 presenters - 4 pairs from each of 4 RMS – will each share their stories about successes and challenges in working together . Each pair will include 1 spokesperson from the RM council and 1 spokesperson from an OH Boards.

11:30 - 12:00 Hallway registration for attendees at the regular convention that follows

12:00 noon Luncheon for attendees at regular convention (*Garden Centre and South*)

1:00 to 2:30 **Plenary: Dispute Resolution Office – Murray Walker, Consultant**
(*Garden Centre and South*) How we can help when problems get in the way

2:30 to 3:00 Nutrition Break (*Garden Centre and South*)

3:00 to 4:00 **Plenary: Office of the Privacy Commissioner – Diane Aldridge, Director of Compliance**
(*Garden Centre, South*) What your community needs to know about protecting the privacy of your residents

7:00 pm *President’s Banquet* (*Garden Centre and South*)
Skit – When the Council meeting goes off the rails

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19th

8:00 am Breakfast (*Garden Centre and South*)

8:30 am **PARCS Business – Part I – Reports from Executive** (*during breakfast*)

9:00 to 10:00 **Plenary: Enduring Issues faced by Cottage Communities – Garry Dixon, PARCS Pres.**
(*Garden Centre and South*)

10:00 to 10:30 Nutrition Break (*Garden Centre and South*)

10:30 am **PARCS Business – Part II – Regional Meetings** (*4 locations to be announced*)

12:00 noon Luncheon (*Garden Centre and South*)

1:00 to 2:00 **PARCS Business – Part III – Annual Meeting** (*Garden Centre and South*)

2:00 to 3:00 **Plenary Session: Joe Carson, Sask. Director of Regulatory Modernization**
(*Garden Centre, South*) *When policies can help and when they can hinder*

3:00 pm Adjournment

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019 PARCS CONVENTION:

Cottage community/association: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please check (✓) yes or no:

___ **YES**, also attending the Friday a.m. session

___ **NO**, not attending the Friday a.m. session

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Attending for both days (includes Friday a.m.)

- Number of attending **members** (voting delegates):

Names: _____/ _____

- Number of attending **non-members**:

Names: _____/ _____

Copy this form and fill it in.

If you cannot copy the form, just include the information in a regular email to: parcs@sasktel.net

We will confirm by email.

_____ x \$ 225 = \$ _____

_____ x \$ 325 = \$ _____

Attending for Friday (Day only - includes Friday a.m.)

- Number of attending **members** (voting delegates):

Names: _____/ _____

- Number of attending **non-members**:

Names: _____/ _____

_____ x \$ 125 = \$ _____

_____ x \$ 225 = \$ _____

Attending for Friday (Includes Friday a.m. plus evening banquet)

- Number of attending **members** (voting delegates):

Names: _____/ _____

- Number of attending **non-members**:

Names: _____/ _____

_____ x \$ 150 = \$ _____

_____ x \$ 250 = \$ _____

Attending for Saturday only (Does not include Friday a.m.)

- Number of attending **members** (voting delegates):

Names: _____/ _____

- Number of attending **non-members**:

Names: _____/ _____

_____ x \$ 100 = \$ _____

_____ x \$ 200 = \$ _____

Extra banquet tickets (no spousal packages available):

_____ x \$ 40 = \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

REGISTER SOON by email to:

Lynne Saas, PARCS, Member Services

Phone - 630-9698 Email - parcs@sasktel.net

Registrations cancelled after Oct. 1st will be invoiced for full fees.

___ Fees are enclosed

___ Fees will follow by mail

___ Fees will be paid at convention

HOTEL ROOMS at Hilton Garden Inn - We have reserved **30 rooms with either two queen beds** (\$124) or **one king bed** (\$134) for the night of Friday October 18th (plus 10 for the night of Thursday, Oct. 17). **Phone: (306) 244-2311** Rooms are held on first come, first served basis.

There are other hotels nearby but no rooms have been reserved: the Holiday Inn, at 101 Pacific Avenue - OR - Holiday Inn Express, 315 Idylwyld Drive N. To contact either, call 877-654-0228