

PARCS UPDATE #42

APRIL, 2014



WEEKEND WARRIORS VERSUS YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTS

1. NOT IN MY BACK YARD

Resort communities in Saskatchewan are one of the many tourist destinations in this beautiful province. Our lakes and parks are scattered throughout the province and provide opportunity for water sports, golf, fishing, camping and eco-tourism. Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks are seeing unprecedented utilization rates and the volume of traffic on our provincial highways increases each weekend as many people 'head to the lake'. While some people seek the sanctity of nature for some rest and relaxation and as a means to get away from it all, others seek escape through other means and often become part of the stereotype who are referred to as the 'weekend warriors'.

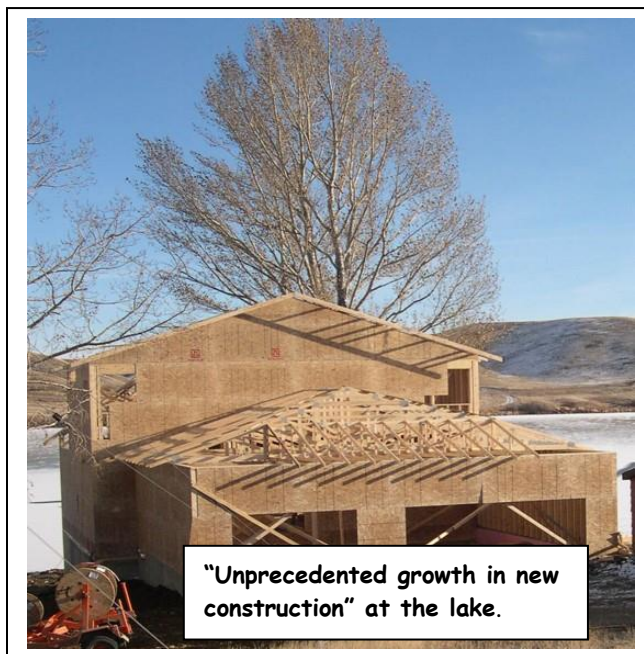
Tourism brings major economic spin-offs to our resort communities. It is a sure and welcome sign of spring and summer when the ice is off the lake, seasonal properties are once again inhabited and you can hear the sounds of children playing on the beach and boats coming in and out from local docks. The fabric of family networks are strengthened as family members converge in a campsite, at a picnic area or at the family cottage. Local businesses pray for good weather to keep people coming during their busiest time of year, a season that can make or break the rest of the year. Tourism paints a nice picture, both economically and socially.

Just as tourism is a growing industry in Saskatchewan, many Lakeshore Hamlets and Resort Villages have also seen unprecedented growth in building and development of year round and seasonal residential properties. Many people choose to live or retire at the lake. The demands on infrastructure in hamlets and resort villages is also growing with the increase in tourism, both seasonal and year-round development. Yet, infrastructure in the form of water, sewer and roads must be built to meet the demands of maximum capacity, despite the fact that the off-season sees a major reduction in utilization of lakes, campgrounds and seasonal properties.

So who pays for all of this? Well, we do . . . the taxpayers. This point hits home particularly hard when you own property at the lake, either in a Hamlet, Resort Village or other form of cottage community. The infrastructure that the municipality must plan and build is there to support the tourism industry as much as it is there to support the property owner. There are many recreational facilities, parks, campgrounds, marinas, docks, picnic areas and walking trails that are built

In the first article in this issue, PARCS President Sherry Jimmy discusses the challenges posed by the different priorities of some tourists (the "weekend warriors") and some "year-round residents".

In the follow-up article, Lynne Saas, Mayor of the Resort Village of Mistusinne, challenges cottage communities to bring different groups together to draft compromise bylaws that will enable them to address these challenges of living together in each other's back yards.



"Unprecedented growth in new construction" at the lake.

and maintained by the tax dollars from the residents and property owners of the area. These people choose to invest in their community for the benefit of themselves, their families; but they also invest on behalf of the people who visit . . . the tourists.

To 'the tourist', the lakes, parks, trails, playgrounds and campgrounds are a wonderful place to visit. But what is not readily apparent is that these communities are also 'home' to many residents of Saskatchewan. It is the clash between the values of the 'resident' and the values of the 'tourist' that make this picture not so ideal. The resident may value getting a good night's sleep as they have to go to work the next day; the tourist may value late night campfires and rowdy campfire songs as the family gets together only once a year. The resident may value a clean and tidy area of yard, park or public reserve; the tourist may value easy disposal of garbage . . . in the form of bottles and cans in the front yard. The resident may value a quiet fishing, canoeing or paddle-boarding area on the lake; the tourist may value the nicest boat, fastest motor and loudest music to truly make the vacation rock.

Tourism, to be truly successful in our resort communities, must be built on mutual respect. Resort communities in Saskatchewan are constantly seeking a balance between the seasonal and permanent needs of tourists and residents. To avoid the inevitable long weekend clash of values, we must each do our part to remember the basic principles of getting along: common courtesy and respect. Whether dealing with water, garbage, noise or traffic, we all want a safe, healthy and comfortable place to come to . . . whether it be 'home' or that 'tourist' destination. No matter where we go, we must remember that ***we are most often in someone's 'backyard'***.

<p>This article, written by PARCS President Sherry Jimmy, will appear in the next issue of SARM's RURAL COUNCILLOR on behalf of PARCS.</p>
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2. PLANNING OUR BACK YARD TOGETHER

When the surge in new construction and the influx of new visitors occurred in our resort village, our community¹ experienced many of the tensions between groups of residents described in the preceding article.

For example, we had the tension between the owners of quads and motorbikes versus the non-owners. Some of the former group delighted in roaring through the green spaces behind cottage lots, running over the seedlings that the village had planted in the open spaces, cutting across the golf course and thundering along the beach, scattering both the endangered Piping Plovers and a spray of sand onto the blankets of families assembled on the beach. A hue and cry went up from the residents who did not own quads or motorbikes, demanding that these vehicles be banned from the village. The quad owners accused the non-owners of *"trying to take all the fun out of being at the lake"*.

About the same time, the Village Council had struck a number of committees for the purpose of gathering input into various issues to be addressed in the upcoming ***Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw***. An ad hoc "Quad Committee" was struck with volunteer members on both sides of this issue.

At the committee's first meeting, the local RCMP Corporal spoke to the group, pointing out that all quads operating off the owners' cottage lots (whether on the green spaces or on village streets) were operating illegally and that his detachment was ready to start imposing fines. One of the moderate quad owners suggested that he would be willing to restrict his "quading" to the sandy lease lands north of the village if it were legal for him to travel to that area from his cottage site. The corporal suggested that the Village could pass

¹ The Resort Village of Mistusinne

a bylaw permitting travel of quads and motorbikes within the village only on main roads (hence providing legal access to the new quad area north of town).

The resulting bylaw was drafted by the committee and has, since 2007, provided a compromise set of rules that have allowed quad owners and non-owners to co-exist peacefully in their common back yard.

Another committee of snowmobile users drafted a similar set of rules for snowmobile users.

When the village boat launch became overcrowded with drive-in users from the nearby provincial park, another ad-hoc committee of village boat users met and recommended that users of the village boat launch be assessed a hefty fee for parking stickers for parking their boat trailers (residents' parking stickers being provided free). The rule has, by and large, discouraged the overcrowding from drive-in traffic – and the solution was determined by a committee of residents.

Bylaw 02 07 - Non-Licensed Motorized Vehicles and Motorbikes

This bylaw states that licensed motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles:

- Shall be permitted on the grassed lease lands north of the village.
- Shall, within the Resort Village, be permitted to travel only on paved or main access roads.
- Shall not be allowed on public lands (in roadway ditches or on green spaces) within Village limits.
- Shall not be allowed on the public beaches between April 1st and October 31st,

The bylaw also requires that persons operating a licensed motorcycles or an all-terrain vehicle must:

- Not create any nuisance or undue annoyance to residents.
- Not create a danger to other persons or property.
- Wear a helmet in the prescribed manner.
- Be sixteen years of age, or if between the ages of 12 and 15 inclusively, be accompanied by an adult rider or directly supervised by an adult with a valid driver's license.
- Not operate that vehicle at night without prescribed lights.



When different groups of people share the same “back yard” – the best way to arrive at compromise ways of living together is to work together to determine the rules governing their common space – either in the form of bylaws – or as part of an overall **Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw.**

For more information about Mistusinne policies and bylaws, visit their website at **Mistusinne.com** and select the bylaws tab or the policies tab.

3. CONVENTION 2014

Our 2014 Convention, will be held at the beautiful **Willows Golf and Country Club** just south of Saskatoon, on **Fri. /Sat., October 17th/18th, 2014**. Mark your calendar.



Here are some of the questions we will be answering

- How does the **Alberta Lake Management Society** work to protect their lakes?
- What are the **current challenges that are facing Organized Hamlet cottage communities** in Saskatchewan?
- What are the best practices recommended in the new edition of the **Guide to Organized Hamlets** for Rural Municipalities and Organized Hamlet cottage communities?
- What are some best practices for Resort Villages to utilize **communicating with their ratepayers**?
- What is the current status of the development of **new provincial codes on docks and lakeshore development**?
- How can lakeshore communities prevent the **invasion of Zebra and Quagga mussels** into Saskatchewan waters?
- How can cottage residents **guard against general and title fraud**?
- What are some of the **interesting and quirky fact from the Weather Lady**?
- **Environmental codes and sewage disposal** – How can we keep on top of the rules?

The next newsletter will provide an agenda and a registration form.

Meanwhile, we remind you to reserve your hotel rooms. Rooms are being held on a first come, first served basis. Phone early to hold your room. Call and book one of these **40 rooms** now for the night of Oct. 17th. You can always cancel if things change.

Hotels in southern Saskatoon:

SOUTH WEST

Best Western Blairmore, Hwy 7 and 14, **242-2229**

20 double queens at **\$149** (reduced from \$179) – Complimentary breakfast

CLOSEST TO THE WILLOWS

Four Points by Sheraton, 103 Stonebridge Rd, **933-9898**

20 double queens at **\$159** (reduced from \$189) - Restaurant on site

ECONOMY ROOMS AT GRASSWOODS

Saskatoon Travel Inn, Highway 11 and Grasswoods, **373-6808**

Standard rooms at **\$105** - Complimentary breakfast