



PARCS UPDATE #77 AUGUST 31, 2017

1. COMMUNICATING WITH RATEPAYERS

Sample problems that will be used during the Friday morning workshop:

GARBAGE ABUSES

Resort Village A has arranged for the disposal of their household garbage in large commercial bins which are emptied once a week and the contents hauled away to a regional disposal site 130 km away. The Village Council is faced with abuses of the service such as: residents inserting large empty boxes which, unfolded, take up needless space; residents dumping construction waste such as old shingles, planks, or gyprock into these bins rather than hauling them to the nearby transfer site where they can pay for their removal; residents inserting old TVs and furniture into the bins rather than hauling them to the transfer site. Council needs to elicit the cooperation of residents in the proper disposal of waste materials and explain the purpose of the accompanying bylaws regarding infractions to the rules.

BUILDING BYLAWS

Resort Village B has an Official Community Plan and accompanying zoning bylaw which details the rules for renovating or adding to residences. Every year, the spring newsletter cautions residents to check with the office about the rules and necessary permits for making renovations to their cottage. Yet, all too often, property owners forge ahead with building projects (additions, decks, garages) without obtaining a permit – and are subsequently furious to discover that they have broken the rules regarding set-backs, drainage, maximum size, etc. Council needs to find a way to educate residents as to the pitfalls of proceeding with a construction project without obtaining the necessary prior approvals.

To: Anyone who is still undecided about convention

Yesterday I had the pleasure of sitting down for a meeting with Dr. Lynn Gidluck who will be leading the main session on Friday morning, October 20th.

This is truly going to be a DIFFERENT KIND OF SESSION. Participants will get to roll up their sleeves and learn to do by doing. Our presenter will teach you how to make a plan for communicating with your ratepayer BY HAVING YOU DO ONE.

I was impressed by our speaker's plan for this half-day session. These are skills that are needed by every community leader.

Even if you cannot attend the entire convention - try to make it for Friday. This sounds like GOOD STUFF.

From: Lynne Saas



PONTOON BOATS AND THE SHORELINE

Resort Village C has been receiving an increasing number of complaints from owners of lakefront cottages about pontoon boats pulling onto the shoreline in front of their cottage when the boat owner needs to put into shore for a short period of time. Owners of lakefront property often mistakenly view that piece of the shoreline as their own property. Council realizes that part of the problem is that the village marina does not have sites large enough for these boats, so owners of pontoon boats are using the shoreline rather than going through the cumbersome procedure of temporarily removing the boat from the water in mid-day.



SPENDING OPTIONS FOR SOLVING A DUST PROBLEM

Resort Village D is faced with the problem of complaints about their dusty streets. Dust from heavy traffic blows up onto the cottage owners' patios and onto the beach, reducing the pleasure of being outdoors. Council has investigated the cost of paving the streets (several million) versus oiling the streets (several hundreds of thousands – repeated every other year). Council has also investigated the environmental implications of oiling along with the costs of financing the street changes (both as a once-only payment and as ten equal payments over ten years. Council needs to determine: the extent of the issue for cottage owners, their willingness to pay for a solution, and their preferred solution.



ENVIRONMENTAL ABUSES BY RATEPAYERS

Resort Village E has received reports about ratepayers disregarding village guidelines regarding the natural environment. Residents have been reported to have pruned or removed village trees, cut grass on village common spaces, cleared underbrush among village tree stands, removed vegetation on the environmental reserve along the lakeshore. Council needs to find a way to educate ratepayers about the environmental implications of their actions and to elicit their cooperation in following village policy regarding their natural environment.



When you are working through these sample issues, you will be assigned to a working group with a cross-section of participants from other communities. I think you will enjoy the exchange of ideas and information that will result.

2. HOW PARCS CAN REPRESENT YOU

This special session led by President Garry Dixon will begin by reporting on the significant work done by PARCS over the past two years regarding the threat of aquatic invasive mussels, and will proceed to presenting possible options for new consultation efforts next year and into the future. We will be asking for your input about:

1. Fair representations of cottage community residents on RM Councils (***boundary changes in rural municipalities***),
2. Mandatory ***training for newly elected councils and OH Boards***.
3. ***Fair elections*** for ratepayers in cottage communities - improved options for mail-in ballots and scheduling of elections,
4. ***Defining "lessee voters"*** in resort villages and RMs the same way as these voters are defined in regular villages, towns, cities and RMs.
5. Less restrictive and more universally understood ***criteria for defining the items in OH budgets that do not require RM approval***.

3. HEARING FROM THE SASKATCHEWAN OMBUDSMAN AT OUR CONVENTION

The following is an excerpt from CBC News, Nov.18, 2018:

It's been a year since Saskatchewan's ombudsman was authorized to begin hearing complaints about cities, towns and rural municipalities in the province — and the extra work is keeping Mary McFadyen's office busy. Since November of 2015, the ombudsman received 489 complaints about municipal governments.

That's vaulted those complaints to the third highest category of all complaints received, after corrections and social services.

McFadyen says that surprised her at first, as some people are still not aware of her broadened mandate to hear municipal concerns.

"But then when I thought about it — municipal government, that's the government that clears our roads, collects our garbage, so it is understandable when you think about it," McFadyen told CBC Radio's *Blue Sky*. "These are services that affect you most as a citizen."

"We get lots of complaints where people feel, '***I was treated rudely***. No one listened to me; I didn't have an opportunity to be heard,'" she said. McFadyen's office also hears complaints about alleged ***conflict of interest*** with local politicians.

She says those make up about ***one-third of the total complaints received about municipalities & often take more time to investigate***.



4. GETTING TO KNOW OTHER COTTAGE COMMUNITIES

We think that you will enjoy the informal tone at this year's President's banquet. The meal reflects the theme of a Fall Supper. Dress is casual. We have planned for activities that will get delegates out of their chairs and talking to delegates from other cottage communities. We hope you are able to enjoy a stay in the Hilton Garden Inn with stress-free access to this fun evening.

5. REVISED PROGRAM FOR CONVENTION 2017

THEME – COMMUNICATIONS – SHARING OUR STORIES

FRIDAY, OCT. 20, 2017

- 9:00 am *Registration, Coffee and Nutrition*
- 9:30 am **Welcome and announcements**
- 9:45 to 12:00 **Planning for Effective Communications -
Plenary workshop** (Dr. Lynn Gidluck, Benchmark Public Relations)
- 12:00 to 1:00 pm *LUNCH*
- 1:00 to 2:00 pm **What if communications fail and citizens complain?
The role of the provincial ombudsman** (Office of the Ombudsman)
- 2:00 to 2:45 pm **The Community Newsletter – A tool for effective communication**
- Manitou Matters – Resort Village of Manitou Beach
 - Collingwood Newsletter – OH of Collingwood Estates
- 2:45 to 3:00 pm *NUTRITION BREAK*
- 3:00 to 4:00 pm **Possible topics for PARCS future discussions with government**
1. Fair Representation of cottage owners on RM Councils
 2. Training for newly elected council members
 3. Fair elections for ratepayers in cottage communities
 4. Lessee voters in resort villages – Ron O’Byrne
 5. Better criteria for items in OH budgets that RMs must approve
- 4:00 to 5:00 pm *Break before evening events*
- 5:00 to 6:00 pm *HAPPY HOUR before the PRESIDENT’S BANQUET*
- 6:00 pm *AN OLD FASHIONED FALL SUPPER*
- A scavenger hunt, music, silent auction, and pies for desert*

SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 2017

- 9:00 to noon PARCS BUSINESS, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS
- 12:00 to 1:00 pm *LUNCH*
- 1:00 to 2:00 pm **Part 1 - Panel Presentation: Mergers and annexations**
- 2:00 to 2:30 pm **Part 2 - Ministry of Government Relations: The rules to follow**
- 2:30 to 3:15 pm **When we seek help resolving our disputes -
Role of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board** (Sask Municipal Board)
- 3:15 to 3:30 pm *NUTRITION BREAK*
- 3:30 to 4:30 pm **How to be proactive about planning with our neighbours**
(SARM, Community Planning)

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM (NOTE **REDUCED RATES IN YELLOW)**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cottage community (or association): _____

Contact person, name: _____ Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

CONVENTION (Includes Friday lunch, Friday banquet plus Saturday lunch, all nutrition breaks)

Attending for **both days**

• # attending from **member communities** (voting delegates): _____ x **\$ 225** = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

• # attending from **non-member communities:** _____ x **\$ 325** = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

Attending for **Friday Only (All day, including banquet)**

• # attending from **member communities:** _____ : _____ x **\$ 150** = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

• # attending from **non-member communities:** _____ x **\$ 250** = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

Attending for **Friday Only (Day only, no banquet)**

• # attending from **member communities** _____ : _____ x **\$ 125** = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

• # attending from **non-member communities:** _____ x **\$ 225** = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

Attending for **Saturday only**

• # attending from **member communities** (voting delegates): _____ x **\$ 100** = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

• # attending from **non-member communities:** _____ x **\$ 200** = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

Extra banquet tickets (no spousal packages available): _____ x **\$ 30** = \$ _____

TOTAL FEES

- _____ Fees are enclosed
- _____ Fees will follow by mail
- _____ Fees will be paid at convention

Note – Registrations cancelled after October 1st will be invoiced for full fees.

REGISTER SOON by mail or email to:

Lynne Saas, PARCS, Member Services
Box 52, Elbow, SK, S0H 1J0
Phone – 630-9698
Email – parcs@sasktel.net

Copy this form and fill it in. Email it to parcs@sasktel.net

If you don't have a scanner – you can just send us an email detailing all of the information.

We will confirm your reservation by email – immediately upon receipt of your email reservation.

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY (see next page)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

2017 PARCS Convention will be held on Friday Oct. 20th and Saturday Oct. 21st at the Hilton Garden Inn in Saskatoon, located right downtown on 22nd Street, just 3 blocks off Idylwyld, close to mall shopping. Off-street parking is available (\$10 daily). Rooms are held on a first come, first served basis. Guest rooms contain microwaves, mini fridges, and Keurig coffee machines. ***You must reserve before Sept. 19.***

Rooms are also available across the street from the conference, at the Holiday Inn Downtown and 7 blocks north at the Holiday Inn Express.

This year we have arranged rooms for Thursday night, for those delegates arriving Thursday evening before the convention (registration opens at 9:00 am Friday). We've also held a few rooms for Saturday for delegates wishing to stay for the weekend. When registering be sure to state which day you will be arriving, and state that you are registering as part of the PARCS convention.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS 384-8844

- Seven blocks from Conference Hotel
- 315 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon
- 10 kings with double pull-out couch AND 10 double queens (\$119 each), plus 13%
- For Thurs., Oct. 19 or Fri., Oct. 20 or Sat. Oct, 21
- **Booking Code: PARCS**
- Free outdoor parking
- Must cancel **72 hours** before day of arrival

THE HILTON GARDEN INN 244-2311

- Conference Hotel
- 1st Ave & 22nd St., Saskatoon
- Across from Midtown Plaza
- 20 kings (\$134) AND 20 double queens (\$139) plus 13%
- For Thursday, Oct. 19 or Friday, Oct. 20
- Additional 5 rooms for Saturday, Oct. 21
- **Booking Code: PARCS-6**
- Discounted outdoor parking at \$10 per day
- All rooms have fridge, microwave, Keurig K cup
- Must cancel **24 hours** before day of arrival

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN 986-5000

- One block from Conference Hotel
- 101 Pacific Avenue., Saskatoon
- 1 block from Midtown Plaza
- 20 (total) kings OR double queens (\$159 each) plus 13%
- For Thursday, Oct. 19 or Friday, Oct. 20
- **Booking Code: PARCS**
- Discounted parking at \$7.50 per day in indoor heated parking garage
- Must cancel **48 hours** before day of arrival

SUGGESTION - If you are considering attending convention and wish to stay in the convention hotel - we advise that you reserve NOW to hold a space. You can always cancel if you change your mind about attending.