

PARCS UPDATE #7 – MARCH, 2010

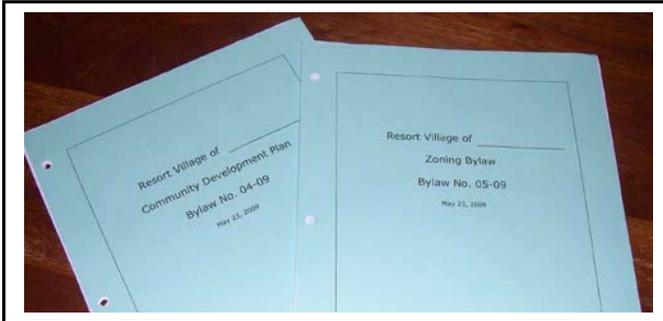
1. BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND . . .

After hearing the keynote speaker¹ at our 2009 fall convention, members were quick to request that PARCS sponsor more learning opportunities where members could consider their role in protecting the natural environment in and around their communities. Hence we invite you to attend our Spring Workshop. Your registration fee of \$60 includes lunch and *three great workshops*:

Saskatchewan Spring Reflection
Our Lakes & our Natural Environment
Saturday, March 27th
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Manitou Springs Hotel and Spa, Watrous

1) Community Planning with One Eye on the Environment

Resort villages and cottage subdivisions are currently faced with the demands of new construction and cottage upgrades. The challenge of managing environmentally sensitive lands, protecting source water and meeting legislated demands for sustainable land use means that environmental considerations need to be in the forefront of resort village community planning. This session is presented by Joe Jozsa, a Community Planner with an in-depth environmental background.



2) Protecting our Lake for our Kids and our Grandkids

The Friends of Good Spirit Lake Association will describe their work and their plans to achieve their mandate "to understand and protect the water resources within their watershed".

3) Establishing and Working with an Environmental Committee

The RM of Lakeland will tell how they set up an Environmental Advisory Committee to help ensure that their Council decisions were congruent with the community members' desire to preserve and enhance the natural environment of their resort communities.

2. EXTENDED REGISTRATION DEADLINE . . .

We have extended the registration deadline to **MONDAY, MARCH 14th**. *Register by email* (saas@sasktel.net), *by fax* (854-4412) or *by phone* (854-4658) – and bring your cheque to the workshop.

However, after March 18th, no refunds will be made for cancellations and no-show registrants will be invoiced. See page 3 for more information about accommodations.

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY.

¹ Although Leslie Tuchek was unable to be part of this spring workshop, we are hopeful that we will be able to include her name on the program for our 2010 fall convention.

3. IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTIONS . . .

1) "How will resort communities be affected by the new legislation proposing 4-year terms for elected officials?"

Rural Municipalities will NOT be affected by the new legislation. Resort village councils will first be affected at their 2012 elections, when their mayor and council members will be elected for a 4-year term, serving from 2012 to 2016.

2) "Our resort village has been unsuccessful in receiving any of the infrastructure grants for which we have applied. What is the current status of these grants?"

There are two kinds of grants available for infrastructure investment:

- **Per capita grants** that are based on the number of permanent residents in your community (as per the most recent census). Examples include the annual *Municipal Operating Grant* and the *Federal Gas Tax Grant* for energy efficiencies. These grants are typically small for resort villages because of the small number of permanent residents in resort communities.
- **Program based grants** are not per capita based and require applications aimed at particular targets. For example, the resort villages of Thode and Shield each qualified for a \$500,000 MRIF grant for their water system, the resort villages of Pelican Pointe and Sunset Cove received small grants for road improvements and the resort villages of Aquadeo, Katepwa and Thode received grants for community center upgrades.

The *Building Canada Future Grants* and *Rinc grants* were economic stimulus grants that allocated dollars for infrastructure and were not limited to per capita allocations.

Unfortunately, a disproportionately much smaller percentage of these grants were allocated to resort communities as compared to the percentage allocations for regular villages and towns. A program advisor at Municipal Affairs has confirmed that ***all of these infrastructure dollars have now been allocated.*** To learn more about grant programs, go to www.municipal.gov.sk.ca and click on programs and services.

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3) "We have not received the January mail-out from PARCS. What should we do?"

We are still trying to update our mailing list. A few of our mail-outs to members and to non-members were returned to us. They have been re-addressed and our on their way.

Please, if you did not receive our January mail-out, email us with your correct name and phone number. We need your help to keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

WE'RE BACK ON LINE

This is our first newsletter of 2010.

After emailing out six newsletters from July 09 to December 09, we took a break to send out, via snail mail, invoices to current members and invitations to non-members.

Now we're back with our email Parcs Updates. We hope to include the following as regular features:

- "In answer to your questions" - Email your questions and we'll try to find the answers.
- "Profile of a Lake" - Last August we profiled one of the largest lakes in our province. Our next newsletter will profile one of our smallest lakes. If you would like us to profile your lake, just email us. (saas@sasktel.net)

4) "How does PARCS assess membership fees for organized hamlets and rural municipalities?"

For *organized hamlets*, like resort villages, membership fees are based on the number of occupied sites.

Rural municipalities choose from the following two membership options:

- As an **associate membership** (\$100), the RM is entitled to attend convention at member rates but delegates are not eligible to vote on resolutions.
- As an **active member**, the RM enjoys all the benefits of full membership and fees are based on occupied cottage sites EXCLUDING SITES IN ORGANIZED HAMLETS.

We have mailed out the 2010 invoices to current members and invitations to join PARCS to current non-members. The PARCS Board of Directors is committed to equity by standardizing the membership fee structure across the province.

PARCS MEMBERSHIP FEES

___	\$50 for 1-30 cottages (2 voting delegates)
___	\$125 for 31-49 cottages (3 voting delegates)
___	\$195 for 50-149 cottages (4 voting delegates)
___	\$265 for 150-249 cottages (5 voting delegates)
___	\$385 for 250-499 cottages (6 voting delegates)
___	\$550 for 500+ cottages (7 voting delegates)

5) "Can a rural municipality include their organized hamlets as part of the municipality's membership fee?"

No. Membership fees for Organized Hamlets are assessed separately. The rural municipality's membership fee covers its unorganized hamlets and other unorganized cottage subdivisions within its boundaries.

6) "We are planning to attend the Spring Reflections Workshop in Watrous on March 27th. Will there be any evening sessions if we plan to stay overnight?"

We are not planning evening workshops. You may choose to *drive out in the morning* and join us for the workshop starting at 10:00 a.m. Remember, lunch is provided as part of your registration.

Or you may choose to *plan a weekend retreat*. Some of us will be gathering at the spa on Friday evening. If you choose to reserve a room, call one of these numbers:

- Manitou Springs Hotel, **946-2233**, rooms start at \$99 (*tell them you're with PARCS*)
- Harmony House, **946-2707**
- Lakeside, **946-3456**, double \$79
- Manitou Nu Inn, **936-3350**, lakefront, approx. \$90
- Serene View B&B, **946-3821**
- Salty Surf Inn, **946-2110**, LHK room, \$71
- Manitou Retreat, **946-3634**
- Brown's Motor Inn, **946-2863**, 1 and 2 bedroom units, \$75 - \$95

7) "We have residents in our resort community who are very attuned to the need to protect the natural environment around our community. Could they attend the March 27th workshop?"

Absolutely. Please pass on the invitation for them to register by phone or fax. We've already had one registration from a community environmental group. Learning together builds a foundation of trust between community and elected officials.

8) “Our resort village is having trouble recruiting a qualified administrator. What is the administrator mentorship program and how might it help our recruitment?”

Since the requirements for having a qualified administrator only apply to communities with 100 or more permanent residents, many resort villages can use this technicality to avoid hiring unqualified personnel for their office. However, municipal advisors² are quick to point out that because the population of resort communities typically expands exponentially in the summer and because many resort communities are facing the challenges of rapid expansion, resort villages should make every effort to secure the services of a qualified administrator.

Resort Villages are urban municipalities. Urban administrators are certified by the Board of Examiners of UMASS (Urban Municipal Administrators Society of Saskatchewan). While there are numerous equivalencies to the following rules, generally, the administrator seeking standard certification must have both of:

- The Local Government Administration course from the University of Regina, &
- One year (1500 hours) of “on-the-job training in a municipal office with an administrator who holds a certificate”³.

The agreement between SUMA and UMASS does, however, make provisions for **conditional certification** for a person working as an administrator who is:

- Enrolled and taking courses in the Local Government Administration course, &
- Working under the supervision (mentorship) of a qualified administrator for a predetermined period of time for a period of two years⁴.

UMASS President, Michelle Schmidt⁵, points out the mentorship arrangement works only if the candidate is actually employed as the administrator of the resort village (not as the clerk). She also points out that the employer of the beginner administrator must also pay for the hours of the mentor.

With the rapid growth in some resort villages and the increasing complexity of administration in those resort villages, resort village councils may want to consider the conditional certification/mentorship alternative in recruiting for their village administrator.

Congratulations:

To the **Resort Village of Thode** - the first cottage community to pay their 2009 membership fees.

To the **RM of Lakeland** who, to date, have registered the greatest number of participants for the March 27th workshop.

² Phone conversation with Bonny Bjordalen, municipal advisor.

³ [www.umass.ca/Board of Examiners](http://www.umass.ca/Board_of_Examiners)

⁴ In resort communities where offices are typically not open full time, the council can apply for extensions to the 2-year provision.

⁵ Michelle is the administrator at the Town of Kerrobert (834-2361).