

BITTERN LAKE VILLAGE VIBE

“What’s New and upcoming in your Village”

(August, 2011)

Welcome aboard and we appreciate you!!!

The Bittern Lake Community Association Board is:

President: Kevin Berkenbosch

Vice President: Dora Grettum

Secretary: Dale Debnam

Members at Large: Marilyn Dease, Sheldon Koczka, Ervin Steinwandt, Sandra French, Angela Lorente, Lesa Debnam, Robyn and Jarred Booth, and Ken Feth.

**Bookings for the hall will now be available through
the Village of Bittern Lake Administration Office.**

We would like to thank and appreciate any and all past Community Association Members for all their contributions! Thank you!



The following is an article printed in the July 14, 2011 Camrose Canadian, written by Vince Burke:
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Bittern Lake takes a step in the right direction

Kudos has to be given to the people of Bittern Lake.

This past week the Village met its citizens about the community hall and what can be done to make the centre more viable.

It took a little more than an hour but the community came together to set a new course for the fledgling facility, as a board of directors was formed and agreements about how the centre will be operated were reached.

Kevin Berkenbosh volunteered to be president; Dora Grettum was elected vice-president while Dale Debnam stepped up to be secretary. Treasury duties will be administered by the Village, and deputy-mayor Earl “Charlie” Debnam will be the association-Village liaison.

The Village owns the hall, and will book-keep and schedule the hall for events, but the board will be in control of fundraising and organizing committees and events.

It is a step in the right direction to avoid the eventual demise of another centrepiece of rural life.

Bittern Lake is not unlike many rural communities throughout Alberta and even Canada. You can go into any hall from the Elks to the Knights of Columbus or, like in Bittern Lake, a community hall and feel like you are walking into the past.

There are often pictures in glass cases of past events, boards of directors and ceremonies celebrated years ago.

It’s because at one time, these places were the hub of activity for rural centres. It was where everyone gathered for bake sales, weddings, dances and a host of community events.

Sure those things are still being organized and being put on but the volunteer base that used to thrive in the “old days” has dwindled over time.

It’s not just the halls that suffer as there are fewer people to care for their upkeep; the groups that lend their name to these centres also suffer.

Everywhere you look membership is down in just about every group that used to be robust with volunteers.

Service groups, churches and schools used to be where people would socialize, meet their neighbour and build a community.

Now many people don’t even know their next door neighbour, but they have 500 “friends” on Facebook.

Young people are over burdened with a non-stop workaholic lifestyle, after work it’s a race to get the kids to the next activity and they feel they don’t have the time to take on a service group portfolio.

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But these groups used to be where everyone would race to, because it was a family affair.

So, kudos to Bittern Lake for becoming reengaged in the community. It may have been a tough first step to restore some history to the village but it was a first step more of us should be willing to take.

-editor@camrosecanadian.com

Thank you to the Camrose Canadian for allowing us to reprint their article.

General Information:

Village Hall Update:

Tax Notices: Village of Bittern Lake Tax notices have been mailed out on May 25, 2011. If you have not received your tax notice, please contact the Village office.

Due Date for Tax Payment: September 28, 2011. In order to avoid penalties, please arrange to pay your taxes in full prior to **September 28, 2011.**

Assessment Appeal Deadline: July 25, 2011 is the deadline to appeal your Property Assessment amount. If you have questions, please feel free to call the Village office or the Assessor at 1 - 888 - 419 – 2128. Contact the Village office if you require more information regarding an assessment complaint. Assessment complaint forms can be found on the Village website.

Tax Agreements: Tax agreements are available to arrange for monthly payments of next year's taxes. Please call the office if you are interested in more information.

Grade 12 Scholarships: The Village has an annual scholarship that is available to any students graduating from Grade 12. Please call the office for more information.

Seniors Education Tax Breaks: Information can be obtained from the Village office.

Council News:

- **Pump house Update:** Tender packages will be available for pick up on July 26, 2011; from the Village office. The closing on the Tenders will be August 18, 2011.
- **Next Council meeting scheduled Monday, August 8, 2011, 7:00 pm Village office.**
- *Please submit your agenda items by the Thursday prior to the council meeting.*

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Check us out at our website www.villageofbitternlake.ca.

*If you have any questions please feel free to call or stop by the office.
(780) 672 – 7373*

Our office hours 9:00am – 4:00pm, Monday – Friday.