

BITTERN LAKE VILLAGE VIBE

“What’s New and upcoming in your Village”

(March 1, 2011)

Hey, what happened to the Fireworks?

Due to cold temperatures and wind chill the Family Day Fireworks had to be rescheduled.

If you have a good idea for an event that we could host and include the fireworks, please share your idea with your council or village office staff.



General Information:

Welcome to the Neighbourhood – We have had some new residents move in on Birkett Street, Percy Street, Martin Avenue and James Street. Welcome to the neighbourhood, if you have any questions, please feel free to stop by or call the office. Our office hours are 9:00 – 4:00, Monday – Friday, we are open over lunch.

Staffing – We anticipate Sarah’s return from her Maternity leave in May. I’m sure she will have pictures to share. At the same time we wish Jill many positive opportunities for her future.

Development Questions – Planning to build a garage? Installing a deck, maybe an addition to your house? Changes to property that change the “footprint” of the property require a Development Permit. Applications can be found online on the village website; www.villageofbitternlake.ca

We would be happy to assist you with any of your questions regarding improvements to your property.

Property for sale, or House for Sale – Frequently the village office has visitors stop by inquiring about property for sale, either vacant lots or existing houses. If you are a property owner that has a house or a vacant lot for sale, keep the office informed so we can assist.

Property Assessment Values – The assessor will be providing the office with reports of property values. If you wish to review your property’s assessed value prior to receiving your tax notice, please feel free to stop by. Taxes often can be a mystery; consequently we appreciate the opportunity to shed some light on the subject.

Suggestions, Questions, or just got a really good idea? – With the ongoing intent to improve life in the village we would like to encourage feedback and questions. This can be accomplished either by putting your question/idea on paper and putting it in the village drop box, or by having a cup of coffee with any of your local council members.

Questions will be responded to either directly, (if you disclose who you are) or in the newsletter, if you choose to remain anonymous. Discussions with council members, information will be forwarded to the meeting agenda if that is your preference.

In the past we have received great ideas, such as: the village used to be only open four days a week. The suggestion was to stagger the staffing so the village could remain open for five days for the same cost. Brilliant, eh? I would like to thank the resident that came up with the idea, thank you.

Your input is valuable as we strive to reduce taxes and improve function of the village.

Feedback on what information you feel is valuable to receive in this newsletter as well, is important to us in our goals to improve service and education.

Business of the Month - If you are a local business, requiring advertisement, or you simply would like to inform your neighbours about your services, please contact the Village office. That way we can feature your business next month.

Council News:

- **Community Hall Update** – Council is working hard to generate an agreement with the organization that will be beneficial to both involved. The village will be proceeding with the furnace replacement shortly.
 - **Disaster Preparedness:** Village Council has been working on the Disaster Preparedness Plan and requires information regarding personal needs if there ever needed to be an evacuation. In order to collect this information; council and administration will be proceeding with a “Door to door” Campaign. This will consist of a simple questionnaire and will also be an opportunity for you to obtain your copy of the Municipal Sustainability Plan.
 - **Regional Emergency Planning** - The Village is participating in a Camrose County wide study that will assist the area in determining Emergency planning requirements. This is a valuable study, especially with the village being located between the railway tracks and a major highway.
 - **To Business License or Not?** - We have received several requests to implement a business license bylaw. If you have input or feedback, please forward your opinion to your local Councillor or call/stop by the office. A major benefit to having a bylaw is business promotion; this creates the awareness of the local businesses for promotion purposes, and also quoting/bidding opportunities with regard to village buildings and equipment, as well as within the County.

All the villages within the County of Camrose network regularly and often access each other for ideas, support, business and technical support. This provides an additional opportunity for local business promotion to other municipalities.
 - **Municipal Sustainability Planning:** Last year the Village held several community engagement sessions to obtain information from you to assist council in determining the direction you would like the village to focus on. This report will be circulated; council would like to generate awareness and feedback on the document.
 - **Pump house Update:** Final designs have been approved; consequently the advertising/procurement process should be started within the month.
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- **Next Council meeting scheduled Tuesday, March 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.