

Elbow Village Office News

June 2020

Mayor's Message – The Village of Elbow would like to welcome back our seasonal residents, summer vacationers and wish all who reside and visit our Village a safe and healthy season. The Covid 19 situation has brought about some challenges for the Village, so Summer in Elbow is going to be a bit different this year. We are happy to see that most of our businesses are opening and welcome the new ones. As you all know in order for them to open they have guidelines they have to put in place. These guidelines are for the safety of all people in our Community as well as your own safety, please make sure you follow the guidelines. Practice social distancing, good hand hygiene, stay home and isolate if you are not feeling well and get tested. Our playgrounds and parks are open for everyone's enjoyment but please be aware you are using at your own risk – recommend using hand sanitizer before and after.

There are a lot of people who visit Elbow increasing our foot traffic and have little ones running around. We ask that you watch your speed when driving around and slow down. Our top speed in the town is 40km. We hope everyone stays safe and have a great time in our Village.

We are sorry but do to COVID we had to cancel all our July 1st celebrations.

Colleen Hoppenreys, Mayor

Village Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 12 noon, and 1 – 5 p.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
on Tuesdays and Fridays

We are always available by phone or email during office hours. The drop slot on the ramp side of the building can be used if you need to drop something off.

Payments can be made online (through PCCU or etransfer), dropped in the drop slot on the ramp side of the building, or by regular mail.

We encourage everyone to stay up to date with all things COVID-19 related through the Government of Saskatchewan website: www.saskatchewan.ca

April – June Council Meeting Highlights: (Council Meeting minutes are posted on the Village website)

- April, May, and June Council meetings were held electronically over Zoom due to the COVID-19 situation and government restrictions
- Federal Gas Tax Infrastructure Investment Plans were submitted for the following projects: Elbow Rink roof repairs, pubworks software, and main lift station retrofit, to a total of \$102,510
- Through April & May Council met to discuss the 2020 Operating and Capital Budget, adopting the budget on May 20th with no changes to the mill rate/base tax (since 2018)
- Council has dealt with changing COVID-19 restrictions in regards to the Civic Centre, Rink, Fitness Centre, playgrounds, and Tuft's Bay
- Reid Babiarz and Brad Desjardine were hired for the Village summer maintenance positions
- Council authorized Tremco Roofing to fix problem areas on the rink roof, up to \$12,500
- Council passed a Fire Protection Services bylaw with agreements to provide fire protection to the Resort Village of Mistusinne, Douglas Provincial Park, and portions of the RM's of Loreburn, Maple Bush, Huron, and Willner
- Council passed a bylaw changing tax incentives and penalty rates/dates. Tax arrears will now be charged a 1.5% per month penalty. For 2020, the early payment tax discount of 5% has been extended two months and will now be available until October 31st, and then in November the discount will be 2.5%
- The Village will contribute \$25,000 towards a water line, fire hydrant, and sewer force main along Pfeffer Avenue in the Industrial Subdivision
- Council is working on having a new directional sign for the end of main street (Saskatchewan Street), and new highway signs designed
- Under the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program, Council is making application for some work at the Sarah's Cove Lift Station, the Industrial Subdivision water/sewer line project, and a new office computer, to a total of \$48,436

Pet Owners – please take note!

The Village Office has been getting LOTS of complaints regarding dogs and cats in the Village. Please be a responsible pet owner.

- Cat owners – not everyone appreciates your cat in their yard and flowerbeds, on their doorsteps/deck, and wanting in their house. Please take measures to keep your cat from roaming.
- Dog owners – please be aware that the Village of Elbow does have a dog bylaw. It is your responsibility to ensure that when your dog is off your property that it is on a leash, and that you pick up after your dog.

Things NOT to put down your sewer: Being aware of what can and cannot be flushed down your drain and toilet will not only help maintain and protect your in-home plumbing, saving you the cost of unnecessary plumbing services. It also helps prevent costly repairs to the Village sewer system and lift stations.

- **Grease, fats and oils** – the trifecta of plumbing woes! They act as a binder for all sorts of materials and create thick, sticky globs that can coat pipes and cause blockages in your line, as well as the Village sewer main causing backups into basements! When it comes to bacon grease, meat fat, and other substances like these, please let them cool and then scrape into your garbage. We have had two separate instances recently – one in a sewer main causing sewer backup into a basement, and one in a sewage lift station.
- **Coffee grounds** – most people assume that coffee grounds are small enough that they won't stick around in your pipes, but that's not the case. In fact, plumbers often say that coffee grounds are one of the most likely sources of a clog in your kitchen pipes. Consider composting them, or throw them in your garbage.
- **Garburator Waste** – garburators are great . . . but ONLY if you use a LOT of water to flush the sludge down the sewer line. The Village has had nothing but trouble with people using garburator's, and we don't recommend them at all.
- **Paper products** – such as disposable wipes, paper towels, napkins and tissues should be thrown in the garbage; not the toilet. Even disposable wipes labelled as "flushable" should be thrown in the garbage as they do not sufficiently break down in wastewater and can cause serious plumbing issues.

Motorhomes & RV Trailers – the Village has a bylaw regulating the use of motorhomes and trailers. The owner of a HOUSE may permit the use of a motorhome or trailer on their property for overnight accommodation of guests provided it is NOT for commercial use (rent), and does NOT exceed a period of 7 days. If you have an empty lot with NO house, you CANNOT use a motorhome or trailer on that lot. There are provisions to obtain permission from Council to use a motorhome or trailer while you are ACTIVELY constructing a home on the property, for a period not exceeding 1 year. As with any bylaw, if you have questions, please give the Village Office a call.

Campfires - it is now the season for campfires, and we'd like to remind everyone that there are regulations in place setting minimum standards for outdoor fire pits. The burning of rubbish (garbage), treated/painted/stained wood, garden refuse or leaves is PROHIBITED. No material or fuel other than seasoned wood, manufactured fire logs, propane, or natural gas may be burned in a fire pit, indoor wood burner, chiminea or portable fireplace. Open air fires must be supervised so as to prevent their spread and be adequately ventilated to ensure proper combustion and to prevent an unreasonable accumulation of smoke. Fires must be attended to at all times with a water source available. Thank you for also being considerate of your neighbours as you enjoy your campfire.

Building Permits – Why do we have to apply for a Building Permit? The answer to this question is covered under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*, Section 4 states: "4(1) Subject to the other provisions of this section, each local authority shall administer and enforce this Act, the regulations and order and decisions of the appeal board pursuant to sections 12 & 18." "Appropriate local authority" means the local authority that has jurisdiction over the geographical area in which a building is or is to be situated. If you are building in the Village of Elbow, the Village of Elbow is the local authority.

Section 7(1) states that: "the owner of each building in Saskatchewan shall ensure that the building is designed, constructed, erected, placed, altered, repaired, renovated, demolished, relocated, removed, used or occupied in accordance with the building standards."

Section 14 allows the local authority to make bylaws with respect to the regulations. These bylaws must be approved by the "Minister" so the bylaws are strictly enforced by the province in how they are written. The permit supplied by the local authority does not authorize any person to construct a building that does not comply with the provision of any other Act or law.

Please contact the Village Office and make application BEFORE beginning any construction or renovation project!

Urgent Messages – the fastest way to get urgent messages out to our community is through social media. The Village of Elbow has a Facebook page; if you haven't "liked" it yet, please do! We also post emergencies, such as drinking water advisories, through the SaskAlert system; so download that app if you don't already have it on your phone. For those of you that see these messages, consider reaching out to your family/neighbours who maybe won't see them. We do recognize that not everyone in our community is on Facebook so we would like to collect a list of phone numbers and/or email addresses from you. With so many without landlines we often don't have the numbers we need, and people change their email addresses without letting us know. Please call Claudia at 306-854-2277 or email her elbow2@sasktel.net to make sure we have your up-to-date information on file. As you can imagine, making 300+ phone calls to alert people would take a very long time; utilizing social media and SaskAlert gets the message out to the community so much faster!