

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

As part of the Town of Maple Creek's commitment to informing ratepayers of what is happening in the Town of Maple Creek there will be a monthly newsletter in the paper.

The Town of Maple Creek has passed a new Fire Bylaw covering all aspects of fire safety within the town limits. Maltese Fire Inspections of Swift Current has been hired by the Town to provide fire inspections within the Town. To inspect the Bylaw, you can access it on line at our web site.

Please note there will be notices going out to owners regarding pending inspections. Initial inspections are \$260.00 and will be charged to the owners. Also, subsequent inspections are charged at an hourly rate plus mileage.

There will be charges for false alarms:

First (1st) Time – no charge – warning 12 months clear.

Second(2nd) time - \$500.00

Third (3rd) time and each additional - \$500.00 plus 25%.

The Town is proceeding to have a new cell built at the landfill. A major problem that we are facing is all the metal that was buried in the landfill over the years. All that metal has to be removed before a new permit can be issued. As of March 31, 2017, there has been approximately 200,000 lbs. of metal removed from the landfill and recycled.

The Town of Maple Creek in conjunction with the CHDA Inc. will be running the Visitors Reception Centre on Highway 1 this year. The Town has signed a one year lease with Saskatchewan Central Services for the operation. After the first year of operation the Town hopes to secure a longer-term lease of the facility. Sask Tourism is also helping out by installing additional signage promoting Maple Creek and area coming east out of Alberta.

The Town has signed a lease agreement with Dr. Armes Perrett, a dentist, to open a practice in the old Royal Bank Building. Dr. Perrett will be renovating the building and hopes to be open this summer. A most welcome addition!

The assessment notices will be going out on Monday April 10, 2017 with the revised assessment from the new valuation. The valuation is based on 2015 figures compiled by SAMA. There is an explanation sheet in the assessment notices and many answers on the SAMA website.

According to SAMA:

Commercial and Industrial increased by 4.32%

Elevators increased by 0.34%

Multiunit Residential increase by 1.21%

Residential decreased by -5.86%.

Non-Arable, Other Agricultural and Pipelines were at zero.

Please note: **this is only the assessment of your property and does not reflect what your taxes will be.** There is a \$50.00 fee for filing an appeal of your assessment.

At the present time, the council and administration are reviewing the cuts made by the Provincial Budget on March 22, 2017. The Town, to date, has lost 23.7% of the grant monies that would normally be received. There could be more cuts coming as all the departments of the Province have not advised the Town of all programs cut. Council is looking at what projects need to proceed, which can be put on hold and which ones can be eliminated.

Once this has been determined the administration can make proposals to the council for funding required for the Town. At this point the mill rate and mill rate factors can be set.

The Town Garbage truck is finally working again after being down for the better part of two weeks. There was a hydraulic pump failure and Superior Truck from Calgary had trouble getting the parts from Florida for the repair.

The Fire Department is receiving a much-needed upgrade in their personal safety equipment. The Town and the RM of Maple Creek are jointly leasing new equipment from Rocky Mountain Phoenix of Rocky Mountain House, AB. This includes 20 sets of new turnout gear, 8 new SCBA plus 16 tanks, 2 integrated infrared detectors, a compressor refill station and a cascade system for quick fill of tanks.

Spring sports are getting set to kick off. If any teams are going to be using Town diamonds, please speak with Parks and Facility Manager Korey Pinkerton at 306-661-8589. The parks crew will be starting maintenance of the diamonds this week.

As well organizations that want to use Town facilities will be required to sign a Sports field agreement with the Town before the season starts. If your organization does not sign the agreement you will not be allowed to use the Town facilities. Please contact the facilities manager to review and sign the agreement.

Speaking of Spring the annual town cleanup will take place on starting April 22 through to April 29, 2017. The Town employees will be picking up leaves and branches from the alleys. Street sweeping will also be taking place. Watch for posted signs regarding what streets will be done and please ensure your vehicles are not blocking the streets.

The Regional Library system saw an approximate 60% cut in their funding from the Province. At this date, the Town is unaware of what this means for our branch or whether or not there will be an increase in funding requests.

See you next month

Don McLeod - CAO