



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

March 2017

Birch Hills Curbside Garbage & Recycling Pickup

Due to the issues the town has faced with curbside waste bins being left on the streets, we have adopted a new town bylaw to help us resolve the problem. Thank you to all the residents that remain in compliance with this new bylaw. All residential collectable waste and recyclable material must be placed in the proper cart adjacent to the curb in front of the residence. The owner or occupant of the premises shall:

- Deposit residual waste in the proper carts;
- Keep the cart on the property until after 6:00 pm the day preceding a collection day;
- Place cart out for collection by 7:00 am on the morning of the collection day, and return them to their usual storage place on the day of collection;
- Place the cart with wheels against, or as close as possible to the curb, or in front of snow bank. Carts must not be placed on the sidewalk or snow bank;
- Cart must be placed a minimum of 3 feet from a parked vehicle;
- All waste must be contained inside the cart, with the lid properly closed;
- No person shall place any explosive or highly flammable waste in any receptacle for collection;
- No person shall place for collection a bundle, package or other material beside any cart.

The Town has been issuing warnings on your curbside bin and will now be enforcing the new bylaw with fines. Make sure you adhere to the bylaw and have your curbside bin off municipal property after collection hours. Please visit the Town Website or the Town Office for a copy on the new bylaw or a copy of the most recent pick-up schedule.

The Town Office invites applications for the full-time position of Office Assistant. Please see the Heartbeat or the Town Website for details.

Resumes to be submitted to the Town Office by 4:00 pm on March 22, 2017.

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Tree Trimming

Tree Trimming

The Town of Birch Hills is making an effort to ensure that the trees on all private property are not encroaching onto public areas. All property owners are requested to please check their property to ensure that all trees and shrubs are contained within their property and are not encroaching onto public property, including sidewalks and alleyways. We remain to continue to have issues with trees in these areas.

It is requested that you please trim back the branches of any trees to ensure that they do not overhang onto any municipal or private property including streets, alleyways, sidewalks and neighboring yards. The cut line of your branches should be flush to the property line.

Any trees that interfere with power lines may have to be trimmed by SaskPower. Please contact them at 1-888-757-6937.

PLEASE REMEMBER—Do Not Prune Elm Trees Between April 1 & August 31 Each Year. Elm bark beetles that spread the disease are most active during this time of year. Fresh cuts from pruning can attract the insects and increase the chance of DED infection. This is enforced by the Government of Saskatchewan. For more information about Dutch Elm Disease Control Regulations and safe elm wood disposal, contact 1-800-SASK-ELM (727-5356).

Town of Birch Hills Official Community Planning and Zoning Bylaw

Town Council is in the process of passing the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw. The third and final reading will be at the Regular Meeting of Council on April 12, 2017

Town Office Statutory Holiday Hours

Please take note that the Town Office will be closed on the following days over the Easter Holiday.

Friday, April 14, 2017

Monday, April 17, 2017

Thank you and we wish everyone a very happy Easter.



ELECTRONIC NOTICES

Go Green!!! The Town of Birch Hills now offers email utility and tax notices. If you would rather receive your notices by email, please fill out an email consent form and return it to the Town Office.

An email consent form can be obtained on the Town website or the Town Office. We can also send you one by Email!!!

Street Lights

Our Municipal street lights are owned and maintained by SaskPower. They are considered residential street lighting and the Town pays power based on the number of street lights.

If you notice a street light not working, contact SaskPower at www.saskpower.com and follow the links OR call 1-888-757-6937 OR contact the Town Office.

PREAUTHORIZED DEBITS (PAD)

The Town of Birch Hills now offers per-authorised debits (PAD) for utility and tax payments. Please contact the Town Office if you would like your payments automatically withdrawn out of your account. You will be required to fill out a PAD agreement. We make all withdrawals on the 20th of each month.

We also accept online bill payments through any Credit Union affiliate, CIBC, Scotia Bank and now TD Bank. We are actively looking into offering further bank options, please help by mentioning your interest in adding the Town of Birch Hills as a vendor to your banking institution.



Civic Centre—Birch Hills

Civic Centre Rental Update

The Birch Hills Civic Centre has been facing a few minor issues. We have experienced renters utilizing the building outside of the hours that have been booked, lost or stolen items from the kitchen, food items left behind, improper clean-up, failure to cancel venue, etc.

These few issues and the fact that the Civic Centre has ran a deficit for many years, not even covering utility expenses let alone maintenance and capital expenses, has prompted the Council's research of the rental procedure of the Civic Centre. We reviewed many other community hall rental procedures and rental rates before we made any changes.

The changes are as follows:

- All users must book the Civic Centre through the Town office before any use of the building
- All users must read and sign a rental agreement
- All users must pay the hall damage deposit of \$500 at the time of booking or the Civic Centre will not be open for the event
- All rental times are charged from the time the building is required. This includes bringing supplies, prep time and decorating

Rental Rates

1 Day Rental (till 2:00 am).....	\$450.00 + gst
2 Day Rental (till 2:00 am).....	\$750.00 + gst
extended after 2:00 am	\$100/hr + gst

General Rental Per Hour \$50/hr + gst

Anything over 5 hours is considered a day rental

Council Chamber Rental (per meeting) \$75/ per meeting + gst

Please visit the Town office if you have any question or to review the rental agreement.

REVALUATION 2017



SASKATCHEWAN ASSESSMENT
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Revaluation Year—Tax Assessment

2017 brings another Revaluation of Tax Assessment

The Provincial Government mandates SAMA to conduct periodic revaluations of all Saskatchewan properties every four years to coincide with the change to a new base date. The current revaluation was completed in 2017 using a January 1, 2015 base date.

Every property in the Town of Birch Hills was re-assessed for 2017 and all property owners will receive an Assessment Notice once we have completed the assessment processing.

The Government of Saskatchewan has also announced that percentages of value (POV) have changed. Previously, all residential property was taxed on 70% of the property's assessed value. This has now changed to residential property being taxed on 80% of the property's assessed value. All other property classes that effect the Town of Birch Hills have remained unchanged.

Therefore, your 2017 Assessment Notice will reflect any changes in your assessment due to the revaluation and the change in POV to 80%. Property owners can expect some fluctuations in their tax bills as well.

We hope to have the Assessment Notices out to property owners as soon as we can in March.

For more information regarding your assessment or the 2017 revaluation, please visit SAMA's website at www.sama.sk.ca.

Please contact the Town Office if you have any questions regarding the assessment or taxation process.

Business Licensing

Reminder letters to renew your annual business license have recently been sent out. The Town requires businesses outside of commercial property to register their business in order to regulate businesses, ensure compliance with land use and building regulation, gather land use information and facilitate planning decisions.

This will also help create the business directory on our Town Website.

Pursuant to Bylaw #5/12, conducting a business without a business license results in a \$200.00 fine.

Business License

The Town would like to thank the members of the community for showing many patience and much appreciation during the Town's snow removal. They can't be everywhere at once! We appreciate all the compliments the Town Crew has received.

Local Improvement

Now with the drainage project completed on 5th Street and in the Poplar Subdivision, the Town has been working towards a local improvement of curb gutter and pavement. The areas included in the local improvement are Poplar Drive, Poplar Bay, Poplar Place, Poplar Crescent and Second Street.

The estimated total cost of the local improvement project is \$1,582,037.50. The Town has published the first Notice of Intention in the Melfort Journal on March 7th and council proposes to meet to consider a by-law respecting this matter on April 12th, 2017.

If this Local Improvement area includes your property, please watch for the delivery of an individual notice of intention.

Please feel free to stop by the Town Office if you have any questions regarding the local improvement.



A Pet License is a Ticket Home

Benefits of Licensing your Pet:

- With a license your pet has a higher chance of getting home compared to unlicensed pets
- A license is cost effective, as we will contact you immediately
- A license means your pet will spend less time in the shelter, reducing the stress they may experience
- Licensing your pet shows you are a responsible pet guardian

Municipal Animal Licensing

Pet Licenses

If you live in the Town of Birch Hills, you are required to license your pet(s). Pet Licenses are to be renewed in January of each year. The cost of an annual pet license is \$10.

Pet licensing is an important way for pet owners to maintain the safety and security of their pets. The owners of a dog or cat shall not at any time allow the dog or cat to run at large within the town.

When a dog or cat is found to be running at large, its owner is deemed to have failed or refused to comply with the provisions of the Town's Animal Bylaw.

A person who contravenes any provision of Bylaw #4/12—Town of Birch Hills Animal Bylaw, a Notice of Violation may be served on such person.

Penalties are as follows:

	<u>First</u>	<u>Subsequent</u>
<u>Offence</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Offence</u>
Failure to register	\$20.00	\$40.00
Running at Large	\$25.00	\$50.00
Exceeding limits on any one property	\$25.00	\$50.00
Failure to remove defecation	\$25.00	\$50.00
Nuisance dogs and/or cats	\$25.00	\$50.00
Impoundment	\$75.00	\$150.00
	-plus \$5.00 per day or part thereof	

Website

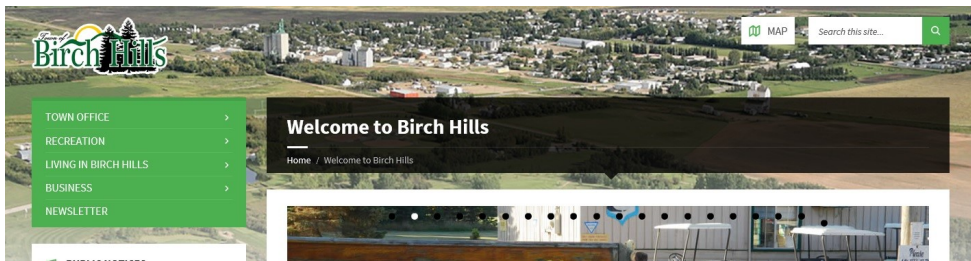
The Town's new website is up and running. Please visit our new website to find out information regarding the Town of Birch Hills.

You can obtain information on Bylaws/Policies, Minutes, Financial Statements, Forms/Permits, Taxes/Assessment, Utilities, and much more.

Please be patient while we work any kinks out that may occur. We welcome any suggestions or feedback of any problems that might show up or ideas to make the new site more user friendly.

Areas of the website will be updated as information is received at the Town office. Please submit any updated information or usable photos that can be used on our website to the Town Office.

Thank You!



The Town Office would like to update their customer contact information. As many homeowners may have discontinued land lines and are utilizing cell phones as their main contact, we do not have up to date information for some of our customers.

This will help the office contact you regarding any localized advisories, short notice water shut offs, leak reports, etc.

We are now able to generate leak reports and have had some difficulties contacting customers to make them aware of the situation.

Please ensure the Town Office has your most up-to-date contact information.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or if you have any questions.

Town of Birch Hills

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Box 206

Birch Hills, SK S0J 0G0

(306) 749-2232

birchhills.town@sasktel.net

Visit us on the web at
www.birchhills.ca

Regular Town Council meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Agenda items should be brought to the attention of the Administrator no later than Friday before the meeting.

Elected Town Council

Mayor Dale Pratt
Councillor Barry Evans
Councillor Sharon Rolfes
Councillor John Herd
Councillor Keith Matheson
Councillor Graham Tweten
Councillor Owen Stubbs