

# ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

December 2017

## Pet License & Business License 2018 Renewals

Renewals for Pet Licenses and for Business Licenses are now available at the Town Office for 2018!! Please remember if you have a Dog or Cat, they need to be registered at the Town Office — Or if you own a business outside of a commercial premises, you need to obtain a municipal business license from the Town Office.

Over the past year, administration has finalized a more user friendly database for licensing at the Town Office. Reminder letters will be sent out to individuals who have previously obtained licenses in the past. Please accept our apologies and notify the Office if you do not require a license for your pet or if you are no longer operating your business.

### Municipal Licensing

### Speed Radar

The Speed Radar sign remains set up on the access road into the Town of Birch Hills. This has been installed to remind drivers of the newest speed limits in hopes to reduce speed violations.

**September**—12:00 am Fri Sept. 1 to 12:00 am Sat Sept. 30 the total vehicle count was 16,372 vehicles. The number of speed limit violations were 14,147. Only 2,225 vehicles were respecting the posted speed limit. The maximum speed was clocked at 137 km/hr.

**October**—12:00 am Sun Oct. 1 to 12:00 am Tue Oct. 31 the total vehicle count was 16,323 vehicles. The number of speed limit violations were 14,217. Only 2,106 vehicles were respecting the posted speed limit. The maximum speed was clocked at 137 km/hr.

**November**—12:00 am Wed Nov. 1 to 12:00 am Thur Nov 30 the total vehicle count was 15,308 vehicles. The number of speed limit violations were 12,990. Only 2,318 were respecting the posted speed limit. The maximum speed was clocked at 138 km/hr.

Please reduce your speed! We need to make our community safe for everyone.

### Speed Radar

### Birch Hills

*Town Council and Staff  
would like to wish the  
community a  
Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year*

*May this Christmas be  
bright and cheerful and  
may the New Year  
begin on a prosperous  
note!*

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#### Curbside Pickup

## Birch Hills Curbside Garbage & Recycling Pickup

There have been some concerns regarding the Town's Waste Collection Bylaw that was passed in October 2016. Please keep in mind that the following actions were taken to try educate the community with the new laws:

- ⇒ **May 2016**, there was a reminder in the Items of Interest bulletin that all rollout bins are required to be removed the same day as pick-up and that a bylaw is being drafted to enforce the issue.
- ⇒ **September 2016**, there was a similar write-up in the Items of Interest bulletin reminding everyone that all rollout bins need to be removed the same day as pick-up and a bylaw is being drafted.
- ⇒ **December 2016**, there was a large article in the Items of Interest bulletin indicating that a new bylaw was passed. This article outlined the rules and regulations, and informed people that the Town will be issuing warnings and will be enforcing the new bylaw in the new year.
- ⇒ **March 2017**, another large article in the Items of Interest bulletin that was very similar to the last one. This article stated that the Town had been issuing warnings and will now be enforcing with fines.
- ⇒ The Town proceeded to issue warnings, both on bins and verbally. The first fine was issued in **June 2017**.

The Town has been facing many issues and concerns with the curbside bins, such as street maintenance, snow removal, bin vandalism, parking, etc. There are many municipalities who contract their garbage pickup that have similar bylaws. The Town researched many bylaws and referenced municipalities such as Prince Albert, Martensville, Osler, and Carlyle, etc.

Please contact the Town Office if you have any questions or you can view the bylaw on the Town Website.

Thank you to all those who have abided by the Bylaw and continue to remain compliant in the Town's efforts to correct this problem.

## Town Office Statutory Holiday Hours

Please take note that the Town Office will be closed on the following statutory holidays:

December 25, 2017 for Christmas Day

December 26, 2017 for Boxing Day

January 1, 2018 for New Year's Day

February 19, 2018 for Family Day



#### Holiday Hours

### Community

### Christmas Tree

***The Town of Birch Hills would like to thank the Birch Hills Community Church and Saron Lutheran Church for decorating the Town Christmas Tree again this year.***

***The Christmas tree has been a tradition enjoyed by many in the community and the Town greatly appreciates the hard work the Church does to make this annual tree lighting event more enjoyable for all!***

## Town of Birch Hills Council Meetings

Please remember that letters addressing the Mayor and Council need to be submitted to the Town Office by 4:00 pm on the day before the council meeting is scheduled. This way we can make sure items are added to the meeting agenda in a timely fashion.

Even if you are addressing the Mayor and Council in your letter or report, and especially if you are asking for a decision to be made on a particular topic, you need to submit your correspondence to the Town Office so it can be added to the agenda so a motion of council can be made.

## Birch Hills First Responders

*Birch Hills & Area has a very active group of first responders and are always looking for additional members. The role of our first responders is to work with ambulance services to provide emergency care. They ensure the EMS system has been activated, gain safe access to the patient, assess the patient's condition and provide emergency treatment until the ambulance arrives. In rural Saskatchewan, first responders reduce the time that patients wait for initial care in the EMS system. Being a first responder in your community can make a difference in an emergency.*

*If you are interested in volunteering as a first responder, please contact Lyle Evans at 306-930-8074 or visit the Parkland Ambulance website at <https://www.parklandambulance.com/services-and-teams/first-responders>*



MultiUse Facility

## Birch Hills MultiUse Facility

Progress on the MultiUse Facility is underway. The building plans are finalized and we will be proceeding with the start of construction. Tenders for the mechanical and electrical will be closing at the beginning of December.

We continue with our fundraising efforts to reach our goals to complete the project. To date we have received \$122,196.50 in donations to the project. There will be many more fundraisers planned to reach our fundraising goal. Thank you to all those who have graciously donated to the facility already. This project will be funded entirely on support from not only the Town and RM, but surrounding communities including Prince Albert. The MultiUse Committee is very dedicated to completing this project and are working to reach our goals!!

We are hoping to keep the community updated through this process. Watch for advertising that shows our progress and for any upcoming events. We will be placing signs at the service road entrances to Birch Hills showing our progression as we move forward in the project! We will continue to update residents on a regular basis of the development of the project.

Please **Save the Date** on Friday, February 9, 2018 for our next fundraising event. The Multi-Use Committee is in the planning stages of hosting a Valentine's night out with supper, music, live and silent auctions, etc. Please watch for details and ticket sales as the planning comes together.

If you would like to get involved or if you have any questions regarding this very exciting project, please call one of the MultiUse board members or contact the Town Office (306) 749-2232.

### Board Members:

Owen Stubbs (Town Rep), Barry Evans (Town Rep), Graham Tweten (Town Rep), Shirley Ulvild (Museum Rep), Joanne Bzdel (Library Rep), Todd Devenis (Lions Club Rep), Jeff Pratt (Lions Club Rep), Millie Rowluck (Seniors Club Rep), Lorna Gjesdal, Duane Lowe, Tara Gariepy (Sec/Treas)





Poplar Subdivision Local Improvement

## Local Improvement

The final inspection has been completed on the local improvement project and Town Council has signed off on the contract. On November 29th, we received the final assessment schedule from our municipal engineers and the project was almost \$185,000 below the preliminary notice of intentions.

When the Saskatchewan Municipal Board approves the final assessment schedule, the Town will prepare the Special Assessment Roll and pass the required Special Assessment Bylaw.

Once this is completed, individual notice of special assessment will be delivered to each owner and published in the Melfort Journal. The Special Assessment Notice will provide information on the owners' land to be specially assessed, the total cost of the local improvement, the owners cost, and the municipal cost, the times the special assessment roll is open for inspection, and the deadline for any appeals. If you own property within the local improvement area, please watch the mail for your notice.

**Appeals**—Persons subject to special assessment have the right to appeal and must do so within 30 days after the day on which the notice is delivered. A notice of appeal must be in the prescribed form which will be included within the special assessment notice. The appellant must state all grounds on which the appeal is based including:

- A description of any error alleged:
  - in determining or calculating the frontage of lands;
  - in calculating the special assessment; and/or
  - in preparing the special assessment roll or notice of special assessment;
- The grounds for every error alleged;
- In summary form, the material facts on which the appellant relies; and
- The address of the appellant at which documents may be delivered.

## 2017 Property Taxes

Please remember that your 2017 property taxes are due December 31, 2017. Year end reminder letters were sent out to anybody that do not have their 2017 taxes paid.

As of November 30th, 2017, 87% of the current years taxes have been paid, leaving 13% unpaid and soon to be in arrears.

Approximately \$60,300 are in arrears from 2013 to 2016 and are currently being enforced under the *Tax Enforcement Act*.

Thank you to all those who have their property taxes current and up to date. We currently have \$6,807.23 of taxes paid for 2018!!

## 2017 Property Taxes

### Rural Truck Fill — Coin Meter

*Early Saturday morning on November 18, it was discovered that the coin meter at the rural truck fill located at the Water Treatment Plant was broken into and destroyed. Thankfully, there wasn't very much coin in the meter. Unfortunately, we are out the cost of needing to replace the meter and the rural community cannot purchase water until it can be replaced and installed.*

*The Town would like to apologize for the inconveniences this causes our water customers and we thank you for your patience.*

## Snow Removal

Please remember the regulations regarding snow clearing and removal in the Town of Birch Hills.

The regulations prohibit property owners from removing snow accumulated on private property onto any municipal property such as sidewalks, streets, or public areas.

No person shall accumulate snow onto private property other than their own.

Please remember to be neighbourly and ensure your snow removal does not hinder your neighbour's property.

Many municipalities have similar policies and regulations in place. Several municipalities were referenced before the passing of the Town Birch Hills' Snow Removal Bylaw. Some of which were Martensville, Warman, Wadena, Langham, St. Louis, Rosthern, Rosetown, etc.

Please view the bylaw on the Town's website to ensure you remain compliant during snow removal.





HOME OF  
**MARSHALL JOHNSTON**

OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST  
STANLEY CUP CHAMPION  
2 TIME WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BRONZE MEDALIST



NHL PLAYER, COACH, GM, SCOUT  
IIHF HALL OF FAME

**Marshall Johnston—Local Hockey Icon**

## Marshall Johnston

Marshall Johnston has accomplished almost everything that can be accomplished in the world of hockey. Johnston has achieved success as a player, coach and administrator. The native of Birch Hills began playing hockey in the school program in his home community. In 1957, Johnston joined the Prince Albert Mintos of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. In two seasons he averaged better than a point a game and was chosen a league all-star.

Johnston's play with the Mintos earned him an athletic scholarship to the University of Denver. His career at Denver was highlighted by an NCAA championship in the 1960-61 season. Denver also won two conference championships during Johnston's playing career. He was team captain in the 1962-63 season, leading Denver to second place nationally.

From U.S. college, Johnston moved to the Canadian national team and played in two Olympics – 1964 and 1968. He was captain of the latter team that captured a bronze medal. As a member of the national team, Johnston also played at three world championships, earning bronze medals in 1966 and 1967.

Johnston turned professional with the Minnesota North Stars in the spring of 1968 and played in the North Star organization until the end of the 1970-71 season. In 1970-71, Johnston was a first team all-star with the Cleveland Barons of the American Hockey League and was named the league's top defenseman. At the end of that year he was traded to the California Gold Seals and played there until retiring after the 1973-74 season.

Johnston's coaching career began as head coach of the Golden Seals in 1974-75. He then returned to his alma mater, coaching the University of Denver from 1975 through 1981. He was named coach of the year in 1977-78. Johnston also coached internationally, heading Team USA at the world junior championship in 1978 and Team Canada at the world championships in 1978, 1979 and 1982. Team Canada received bronze medals at the 1978 and 1982 championships.

Installed into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1980 along with other Saskatchewan players from the 1968 Olympic Team.

In May 1981, Johnston was named assistant coach and assistant general manager of the Colorado National Hockey League franchise. He took over as interim head coach early in the next season and then when the franchise moved to New Jersey to become the Devils, Johnston returned to an assistant coaching role.

In New Jersey, Johnston moved more into the administrative aspects of the sport, becoming director of player personnel in 1983. He held that role until the end of the 1993 season.

For two seasons, 1993-94 and 1994-95, Johnston was executive director of a four-team scouting combine for the Dallas Stars, Hartford Whalers, Winnipeg Jets and Philadelphia Flyers. After scouting for the New York Islanders during the 1995-96 season, Johnston was appointed director of player personnel for the Ottawa Senators in July 1996. He was named general manager of the Senators in June 1999 and retired from that position in June 2002.

Johnston was inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame in 1998. Day held in his honor and number retired in Birch Hills in August of 2002.

Inducted into the Prince Albert Sports Hall of Fame in 2002.

Prior to joining the Carolina Hurricanes as director of professional scouting in 2005, he spent several years as director of player evaluation for the Chicago Blackhawks.

After a lifetime of hockey, he finally earned his first Stanley Cup title in 2006 with the Hurricanes.

With some miscommunication the Town received, the signs honouring Marshall Johnston were removed. Marshall is still recognized in the skating arena. The Town of Birch Hills is proud to have such a hockey icon from our community who continues to remain dedicated to his home town. We would like to give our most sincere apologies to Marshall Johnston for the misunderstanding and would like to reassure him that new signs will be replaced to honour him within his home community. Please watch for the new 'Home of Marshall Johnston' signs on your way into town.

# Website

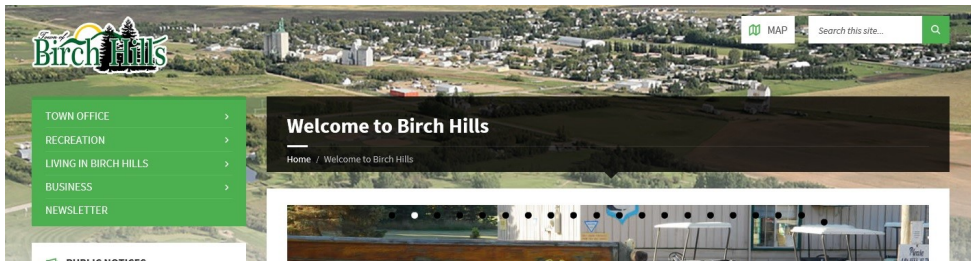
Please visit the Town of Birch Hills Website for additional municipal information.

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

This will continue to be a work in progress. 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. Some information can only be updated if it is submitted.

Thank You!



Please let us know how you would like to receive municipal information. Ensure your contact information is up to date at the Town Office and let us know if you would like to receive information and updates by:

- Personal mail
- Mass mail
- Email
- Newsletter
- Utility notice enclosures
- Etc.

Help us keep you and the community updated!!

## 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](mailto:birchhills.town@sasktel.net)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.birchhills.ca](http://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 the day before the Council 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



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Also, read the blog at :  
[bhwaterplant.wordpress.com](http://bhwaterplant.wordpress.com)