



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

June 2018

Municipal Taxation

The Town of Birch Hills sent out the assessment notices on March 23, 2018 and the assessment roll was open for inspection until April 23, 2018.

On April 11, 2018, Town Council passed the Budget and set the Municipal Mill Rate. The following Mill Rate, Minimum Tax and Mill Rate Factors were set:

Municipal Mill Rate: 9.6 mills

Minimum Tax: Land—\$ 425.00

Impr.—\$1,025.00

Commercial Mill Rate Factor: 2.1

Please watch for your tax notice in the mail!!!! And remember, there is a 5% discount on any amount of municipal taxes paid before June 30th.

The municipal tax incentives that are in place for the Town of Birch Hills are as follows: Any portion of your municipal tax levy that is paid before June 30th will receive a 5% discount. The month of July does not have an incentive and the amounts are the levied amount. Starting in August, there are penalties on unpaid current taxes; that being, August—1%, September—2%, October—3%, November—4%, and December—5%.

Taxation is one of the Town's main revenue sources and we thank all those who keep their property taxes current. This helps council to determine funding for infrastructure, services, programs, etc. now and for the future.

Thank you to all those who co-operated by having their vehicles removed from the street during the street sweeping.

The sweeping contractors were thankful for the cooperation. They did such a superb job!

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Assessment & Taxation

FIRE PITS

An Open-air Fire Pit Permit is required in the Town of Birch Hills. You can obtain your Fire Pit Permit at the Town Office for a one time cost of \$5.00. Please remember to keep your fire well supervised and to not set open-air fires in windy conditions.

There shall be no burning of rubbish; garden refuse; manure; livestock or animal carcasses; or any material which when burned will generate black smoke or offensive odour.

Backyard Fire Pits

Nuisance Property



Abatement of Nuisance Property

Nuisance Property -- Unsightly Yard & Buildings --

Over the past couple years, the Town has been working with Bylaw Enforcement to clean up some of the unsightly properties in the Town of Birch Hills. The Bylaw Enforcement Officer has been working to educate individuals of the Town's Nuisance Abatement Bylaw, Properties Amenities Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw. The Town is also in the process of enforcement with some properties within the community.

There are many properties that contravene the requirements of our municipal by-laws. And due to numerous complaints and comments, we will be starting by strongly enforcing these three bylaws with notice of violations. Please review these bylaws to ensure your yard and buildings meet the requirements set out. You can obtain a copy of these bylaws at the Town office or on the Town Website. Bylaw enforcement will start with overgrown yards, dilapidated buildings & structures and junked vehicles. Therefore, please ensure you are conforming to the municipal bylaws to avoid a visit from the municipal bylaw enforcement officer.

Bylaw #05/05—Nuisance Abatement Bylaw

Bylaw #10/17—Property Amenities Bylaw

The purpose of these two bylaws are to identify what constitutes a nuisance and provide for the abatement of nuisances, including property or things that adversely affect:

- The safety, health and welfare of people in the neighbourhood;
- People's use and enjoyment of their property; or
- The amenity of a neighbourhood.

Please review the bylaws by obtaining a copy from the Town Office or the Town of Birch Hills Website.

Town Office Statutory Holiday Hours

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

July 2, 2018 for Canada Day

August 6, 2018 for the Civic Holiday

Regular office hours are 9 am to 4 pm.
Monday through Friday.



Holiday Hours

Field Scabious

Birch Hills Cemetery

The Birch Hills Cemetery will not be mowing the grass at the Cemetery due to the noxious weed, Field Scabious.

The weed located at the cemetery needs a chance to bud in order for spot spraying.

The Town and RM of Birch Hills, along with the provincial weed inspector, have been working to eradicate this weed for a couple of years.

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.



Recreation Director & Recreation Office

New Recreation Director

The Town has hired a new Recreation Director!! Jessica Kernohan grew up in Moose Jaw, SK. Her passion for sport and recreation began when she was training to become a lifeguard at a young age. Once she was certified, Jessica obtained a position with the City of Moose Jaw as a lifeguard. She soon realized she had a passion for education and took every course available to her within aquatics. The extra training helped her obtain management positions within the Parks and Recreation Department. Jessica then chose to further her education in the recreation field and attended Sask. Polytech to complete her Diploma in Recreation and Tourism Management while working for the City of Saskatoon in Recreation and Leisure. Jessica didn't stop there! She then attended the University of Regina to obtain both a Degree in Sport and Recreation Management AND a Diploma in Business Management. What great accomplishments!!

Jessica and her husband and 1 year old son currently reside in Crutwell, SK. Her and her family plan to relocate to Birch Hills in the near future.

The Recreation Office is located on Bellamy Avenue (Main Street). Jessica is there most days, but the office is open on Tuesday and Thursdays for regular office hours.

The Town would like to thank Nola Nevland and Kelsey Clayton for going over and above their duties in the Recreation Office during the interim without a Recreation Director. We would also like to thank the many management boards and volunteers that also assisted in recreation duties during this time.

Kelsey Clayton will continue to work with the Recreation Department. She will assist Jessica two days a week at the Recreation Office doing data entry and minor bookkeeping duties.

We thank everyone for their continued patience during this transition while Jessica settles into her new role as Recreation Director.

Please help us welcome Jessica to Birch Hills. Stop by the Recreation Office to say "hello" and to give her a big Birch Hills Welcome!

SAFE DRIVING

Just a friendly but concerned request to those who may find themselves driving a little fast on our newly paved streets: be aware that our children are drawn to those same streets so please slow down.

And to the parents of children who love to play on our streets: please discuss with your children the fact that streets are a dangerous place to play, but if they insist on playing there, to be aware of and respect the traffic and move well out of the way as vehicles approach and pass by.

In this regard, Birch Hills has signs on order, which will be put in place upon receipt.

Thank You!



Cats



Nuisance of Cats

The Town of Birch Hills' Municipal Staff have not been trapping cats and will not be doing so as our Animal Control Bylaw #04/12 allows for alternative measures for dealing with the nuisance of cats.

Town residents may be issued an animal trap upon execution of an agreement and a deposit fee of \$25.00, and such person shall abide by the terms of the trap permit agreement. Terms of the agreement are as follows:

- To pay a refundable deposit of \$25.00
- To place the trap only on his or her property which is within the Town of Birch Hills
- To personally check the trap each hour while the trap is set
- In the event a cat is trapped, to contact the Animal Control Officer or the town office. A captured cat should be left in the trap and placed in a shed, garage, basement or other place that is warm, dry and secure with a blanket placed over the trap to pacify the animal. Do not attempt to remove an unfamiliar cat from the trap – this will be done by the Animal Control Officer. If the undersigned cannot comply with this condition, the trapped cat must be freed unharmed.
- To ensure that no harm comes to any trapped cat while in their possession including exposure to inclement weather.
- Traps are not to be used when the temperature falls below 0 degrees Celsius or rises above 25 degrees Celsius.
- An animal control officer may enter the property of the undersigned to ensure the trap is being used properly.
- To advise the animal control officer or pound keeper of the ownership of any cat trapped.
- To be responsible for the trap, including the cost of repair or replacement of damaged, lost or stolen. The trap is to be returned in a good and clean condition.
- Traps must not be set by town residents on statutory holidays or on week-ends as the office is closed.
- The trap is to be returned to the town office two days after issuance.

Even though this provision is allowed, the Town of Birch Hills last rented out an animal trap on August 8, 2017.

The Town will not be held liable for residents who utilize their own animal traps.

There continues to be a growing problem with cats running at large. The Town office has received many complaints about stray cats.

Please keep in mind all the provisions of the Town's Animal Control Bylaw #04/12

- Every owner of a cat within the town needs to be registered with the town office.
- The registration year is from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December each year.
- The cost of registration each year is \$10.00.
- Owners of a cat shall not at any time allow the cat to run at large within the town.
- Where a cat is found to be running at large, the owner or occupant of that property on which the cat is running at large may make a written complaint to the bylaw enforcement officer through the town office.
- Penalties and First Offences are as follows:
 - Failure to Register Cat - \$20.00
 - Running at Large - \$25.00
 - Exceeding limits on any one property - \$25.00 for each animal exceeding limit
 - Failure to remove defecation - \$25.00
 - Nuisance of cats - \$25.00

Larger penalties occur for subsequent offences.

Town Mischief

There seems to be a bit of mischief around the community as we have received reports of various vandalism.

Please remember to report any issues to the RCMP. If they are not aware of a problem, they won't police the problem. Also, the more issues that are reported, they may potentially police the area more frequently.

Also, parents please remember there is a Town Curfew Bylaw for minors. Please be mindful for where your children are late at night.

Vandalism

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 their animals 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 to comply with the provision of Bylaw #4/12

Dutch Elm Disease Survey

Due to the fact that our community is close to the leading edge of the disease spread in East Central part of the province, The Town of Birch Hills will be contracting an organization to conduct a comprehensive survey of our Dutch Elm Trees.

We are hoping to complete the full street by street and alley by alley Dutch Elm disease survey during the month of July.

The survey will give us the locations and information of any diseased trees. This will assist in the preservation of our community's urban forest and limit the spread of this destructive disease.

**Please Remember:
Do Not Prune Elm Trees
Between
April 1 & August 31
Each Year.**

Fresh cuts from pruning can attract the insects and increase the chance of Dutch Elm Disease infection. This is enforced by the Government of Saskatchewan. For more information and Dutch Elm Disease Control Regulations and safe elm wood disposal, contact 1-800-SASK-ELM (727-5356).



Multiuse Update!

Although there are no changes to the outside of the building as of yet, we have been progressing nicely on the interior portion of the project!

The electrical and mechanical contracts have been awarded and work has begun! The mechanical room walls and electrical service are currently being installed. Trenching for the new water lines and other plumbing items are also underway.

Once the "groundwork" items are completed, then the framing of the partition walls will begin. In a short period of time we hope to have roughed in plumbing and electrical installed in the walls, so we can get the drywall up!

It is our goal that once this is completed, we will hold an open house, so everyone can see the progress and the layout of the finished project.

We have several fundraising events upcoming so please mark them on your calendars and come out and support this very important project!

Multiuse

NEW TOWN SIGN

The Town of Birch Hills is having a contest!

FIRST PRIZE — **\$200.00**
1st Runnerup — **\$100.00**
2nd Runnerup — **\$ 50.00**

We have all seen and admired the signs that towns and cities are putting up to announce and promote themselves. Some are truly amazing.....real works of art!

Well, Birch Hills' existing sign along the highway is due for a major upgrade and we would like your ideas, contributions, drawings and/or designs. You can incorporate existing town themes or come up with something brand new. Your ideas can use rocks, wood, lights, vinyl, brick, or anything else you can think of. The shape is up to you but your design will need to lend itself to a size large enough to be easily read by passing traffic.

This contest is open to people of all ages and walks of life. Put on your thinking caps. We can hardly wait to see what you come up with. This will be an exciting project for all of us!

Please present your ideas by June 30, 2018 to one of the following:

- 1) Drop off at Birch Hills Town Office, 126 McCallum Avenue
- 2) Mail to Town of Birch Hills, Box 206, Birch Hills, SK, S0J 0G0
- 3) Email to birchhills.town@sasktel.net

NOTE: upon receipt, submissions become the sole property of the Town of Birch Hills.



Website

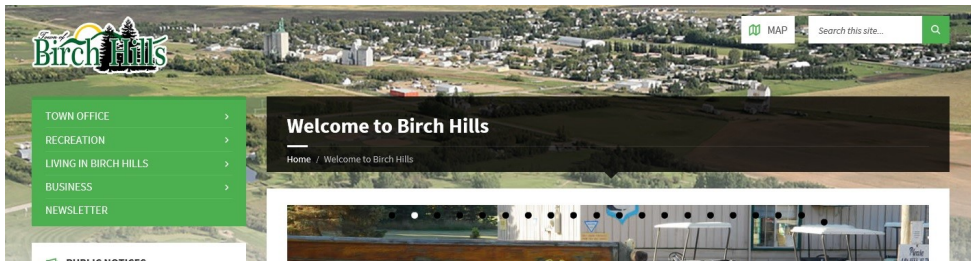
Please visit the Town of Birch Hills Website for additional municipal information.

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

126 McCallum Avenue

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 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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