

# Quarterly ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

September 2018

## Speed Radar

Please Slow Down! There continues to be an ongoing problem with speed violations on the access road. The access road is adjacent to the community's Golf Course, Ball Diamonds, Camp Ground, and Summer Playground Program. This increases the number of pedestrians and foot traffic and vehicles need to slow down.

**Radar Sign Data** — From August 15, 2018 to August 29, 2018 the total vehicle count was 7,000 vehicles. The number of speed limit violations were 6,205 vehicles and only 795 of the vehicles were respecting the posted speed limit.

**Speed Limit Range** — from August 15th to 29th

- 1,981 vehicles were driving between **50—59 km/hr**
- 2,222 vehicles were driving between **60—69 km/hr**
- 1,667 vehicles were driving between **70—79 km/hr**
- 467 vehicles were driving between **80—89 km/hr**
- 80 vehicles were driving between **90—99 km/hr**
- 24 vehicles were driving between **100—109 km/hr**
- 6 vehicles were driving between **110—119 km/hr**



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## Speed Radar

## BACK TO SCHOOL!

We wish the best of luck to all the students returning for the 2018/2019 school year; and welcome all the new families to our community.



Please remember to obey all traffic signs and school zone signs to ensure a safe community for the children returning to school.

## Back To School

time to  
**UPDATE**



Time to Update your Contact Information

## Customer Contact Information

With so many homes disabling their landline telephones and as the generation is shifting towards more electronic communication, the town is having difficulty being able to communicate with our customers and rate-payers.

We have been working hard to update our customer contact information with little success. Please help us by filling out your contact information and drop it by the town office, mail it to Box 206, email it to [birch-hills.town@sasktel.net](mailto:birch-hills.town@sasktel.net), or call us at 306-749-2232.

If we have up-to-date contacts with an efficient and effective way to communicate, it will be easier to inform people of:

- project updates that effect your area of town.
- localized water advisories
- short notice water shut-offs due to construction, breakage, maintenance
- leak detection reports
- any changes effecting you or your property
- etc.

**Help Us Keep You Updated!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Town Office Statutory Holiday Hours

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

September 3, 2018 for Labour Day  
October 8, 2018 for Thanksgiving Day  
November 12, 2018 for Remembrance Day

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

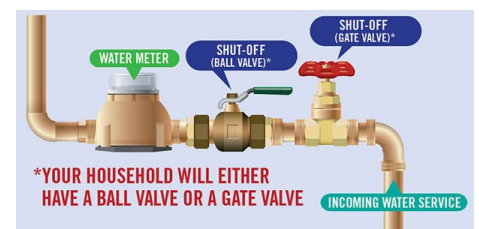


Holiday Hours

## Household Valves

*Every month when you get your water bill exercise the water valves in your house. Under sinks, toilets and especially the main valve coming into the house.*

*Over time these valves will seize up and not work when you need them to.*



**\*YOUR HOUSEHOLD WILL EITHER HAVE A BALL VALVE OR A GATE VALVE**

## 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.



Fall Clean-Up Week — New Composting Regulations

## Fall Clean-Up Week

The Town has declared **October 1st through October 8th** as Fall Clean Up Week.

### ***Are your building or renovating?***

*Please remember that a building permit is required whenever work regulated by The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act and Regulations is to be undertaken. Building permit applications and forms can be obtained at the Town Office or on the town website at [www.birchhills.ca](http://www.birchhills.ca), under forms & permits. All building permits have to adhere to the Town's Zoning By-law and Building Bylaw.*

*Please allow enough time for all proper approvals before you commence with your project. Applications will need to be reviewed and approved at a Regular Meeting of Council then sent on to the Municipal Building Inspector for the plan review before any approvals are granted to the applicant.*

Please have your compostable material bundled and available for pick-up in your back alley where back alley access is available. Loose material will not be picked up.

**Beginning April of 2019, the Town of Birch Hills is switching the compostable yard waste collection program to only accepting compostable paper bags.** However, the Town will accept yard waste in both clear bags and compostable paper bags during this last clean-up to ease this transition. After this fall, plastic bags will not be picked up. When yard waste collection commences next spring, only paper bags will be picked up.

Plastic bags are not compostable and must be removed prior to the composting of the yard waste. By changing to paper bags, we are saving money and moving to a more environmentally responsible practice.

Many other municipalities, including and not limited to Prince Albert and Regina, do not accept lawn, leaf and yard waste in plastic bags. They have found that compostable paper bags stand up well to rainy weather conditions. These cities have reported that residents were satisfied with the paper bags.

We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation during this transition as we strive toward an environmentally friendly community.





Municipal Property Taxes — Current & Arrears

## Municipal Property Tax Update

As of August 31, 2018, the Town of Birch Hills has received 80% of the current years taxes.....this leaves 20 % of 2018 taxes unpaid. Please remember to pay your 2018 taxes by December 31st or else they will be deemed arrears and subject to tax enforcement.

With this being said, there is approximately \$23,000.00 in 2017 taxes that remain outstanding. Reminder letters have been mailed out to property owners that have not yet paid their 2017 property taxes and, in accordance to the *Tax Enforcement Act*, the list of land arrears will be presented to council at their last meeting of council in September.

Tax arrears in the amount of \$51,096.81 from 2015, 2016, and 2017 are currently being enforced under the *Tax enforcement Act*. This includes \$8,661.22 where enforcement was initiated in 2014; \$8,671.63 where enforcement was initiated in 2015; \$10,956.79 where enforcement was initiated in 2016; and \$22,807.17 where enforcement was initiated in 2017.

That leaves a total of tax arrears in the amount of \$74,373.69 within the Town of Birch Hills!!

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. If you haven't done so already, please look into having your property taxes paid promptly.

## Street Sweeping

*We would like to once again thank all those who cooperated and assisted the town by having their vehicles removed from the street during the street sweeping.*

*This has made it much easier for everyone involved in the street sweeping process and has assisted in keeping our community clean. The contractors were extremely thankful and have enjoyed coming to Birch Hills.*

*Thank you for your help and assistance!*

### Street Sweeping

## Paying your Water & Sewer Utility Bill made easy!

You can pay your utility bill by cheque, cash, debit, credit card, preauthorized debit, online bill payment, or E-transfer.

You can also receive your utility bill by email. Email consent forms can be obtained on our website or at the Town Office.

**PREAUTHORIZED DEBITS—** your payments can be withdrawn out of your account on the 20th of each month. Please fill out a PAD agreement if you wish to utilize this method of payment.

**ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS—** through any Credit Union affiliate, CIBC, Scotia Bank, TD Bank

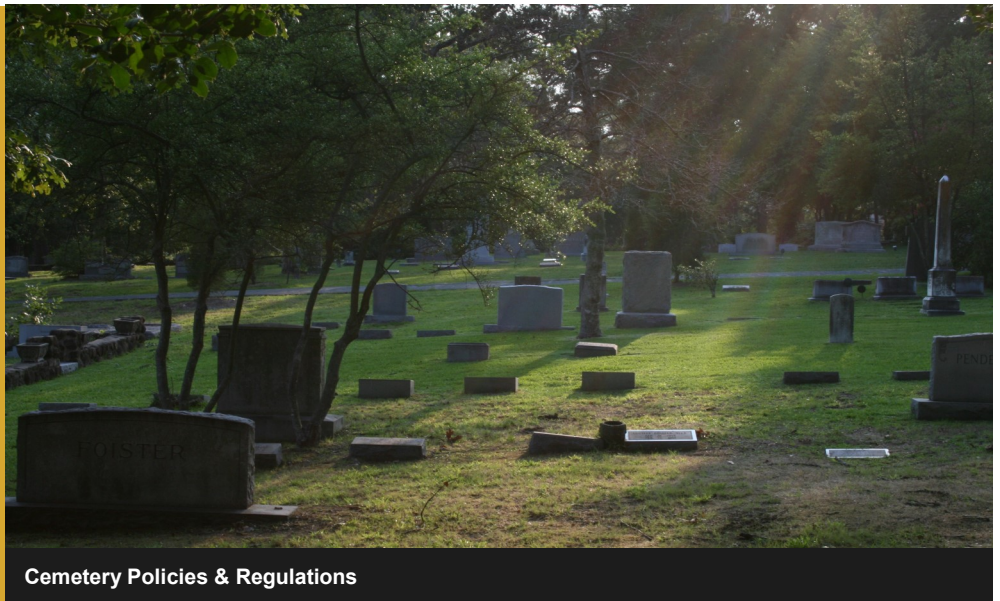
**E-TRANSFER—** sent to [birchhills.town@sasktel.net](mailto:birchhills.town@sasktel.net)

## Town of Birch Hills Barricades

The Town of Birch Hills will often use barricades to block off access to streets. Barricades are used mostly for your benefit to prevent accidental entrance into a hazardous area. We use barricades to temporarily restrict access to certain locations during excavations, road construction, paving, parades, etc. They are set in place so that the public does not come into contact with any type of dangerous or messy situations.

This past summer, the Town found themselves having to utilize barricades quite often. But we also found that they are often ignored. We have had vehicles drive around barricades while streets were being excavated in order to fix water valves, vehicles driving through barricades to cross in front of parades, and vehicles ignoring barricades during paving only to find oil all over their vehicles.....just to name a few.

We would like to remind the community to be mindful of barricades. When a vehicle goes through a barricade it puts the vehicle, as well as the contractors, in danger and it also slows down construction. There is always an alternative route and will only take a couple minutes in our small town..... Please watch for barricades, for your safety and ours!!



## Birch Hills Memorial Cemetery

The Birch Hills Cemetery Board consist of eight (8) board members. These members are appointed by Town Council at the first meeting of council each year. Council strives to keep all the boards current, with active members. If you are interested in letting your name stand as a member of the Cemetery Board, please leave your name with the Town Office.

### Cemetery Policies & Regulations

The Cemetery is open to the public 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Vehicles shall be driven with care and shall be restricted to the driveways. Persons within the Cemetery shall use only the walkways, and no one is permitted to walk upon or across plots.

Flat, pillow or upright monuments are accepted in the Birch Hills Cemetery. All Monuments must be installed on a concrete base which must be at least four (4) inches wider than the widest portion of the Monument and must be of sufficient strength and depth to properly support the Monument. The concrete base must be installed flush with the ground. Ownership of gravestones, grave markers, and monuments belongs to the estate of the deceased person(s).

No shrubs, trees or flowers may be planted in any part of the Cemetery other than those planted by the Cemetery caretakers or authorized representatives.

The Caretakers, or authorized representatives, shall have the authority to have removed from any grave any weeds, grass, funeral designs or floral pieces that have become wilted, or any other articles or things that in his/her opinion are unsightly.

The Town of Birch Hills or Cemetery Board are not responsible for the loss or damage to any flower holder or any portable object placed on any plots.

No person shall erect upon a grave plot any cover, curbs, fences, railing, walls, copings, trellises, hedges, trees, shrubs, or benches without a permit obtained from the Town of Birch Hills.

If any trees, shrubs or the like situated in any plot becomes inconvenient in any way, detrimental to adjacent plots, dangerous, unsightly or objectionable, the Caretaker or authorized representative, shall have the right to have the same removed, but in doing so will leave the area in a safe, proper and neat condition.

Reserved grave lots in the Birch Hills Cemetery are held for ten (10) years after which they will revert to the Town unless the reservation is renewed in writing.

For more information, please view the Birch Hills Memorial Cemetery Bylaw—#9/13. You can obtain a copy from the Town of Birch Hills website or the Town Office.

# Water & Sewer Utility Billing

## Important things to remember

- Utility bills are generated on the first of each month. This bill is for water usage for the previous month.
- Water meters are read monthly. Therefore, all monthly bills are based on actual consumption.
- Penalty of 10% will be added to all outstanding water and sewer accounts at the date of next billing.
- If a Utility account remains outstanding more than 60 days, the Town will disconnect services.
- Upon disconnection for non-payment, the utility service will be reconnected only after all arrears and reconnection fees are paid in full.
- If any accounts remain unpaid for 120 days, the outstanding amount may be added to and thereby form part of the taxes on the land or buildings with respect to which service was provided.

## HOW TO READ YOUR WATER METER



The Water Utility will read your water meter for billing purposes, but **should you wish to monitor your own consumption**, here's how:

- ♦ Shine a flashlight over the flashlight icon (located on the register) to activate the LCD display \*
- ♦ Take a reading at a set time of the day
- ♦ Take a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the same time the next day
- ♦ The difference between the two readings is your daily water consumption

\* Note: when the register display is first activated via a flashlight, all icons will be briefly displayed followed by firmware information. The register display will then toggle (every 4 seconds) displaying the reading and then the flow rate. The flow rate is per minute. When the display indicates "RATE", the flow rate is being displayed.

**Leak Indicator**  
Displays a possible leak

- ♦ **OFF** – indicates no leaks
- ♦ **Flashing** – water usage for more than 50% of time in 24 hour period
- ♦ **Continuous ON** – there is most likely a leak in your home



The LCD figure displays your meter reading in cubic metres. The last 4 digits are decimal points. (e.g. – 26.3987 cubic metres) (decimal will be displayed)

**Flow Indicator**  
Displays direction of water flow

- ♦ **ON** – water in use
- ♦ **OFF** – water not in use
- ♦ **Flashing** – water is running slowly
- ♦ **(–)** – indicates reverse flow
- ♦ **(+)** – indicates forward flow

**Unusual higher consumption (bills)?** Check for leaks....most leaks are unnoticeable. Take a night water meter reading when you are done using water for the day, followed by a morning reading. Meter movement overnight may mean a plumbing issue. Also, check the Leak Indicator on your water meter. Please call your plumber to fix any problems.

One of the most common issues is a leaking toilet. A good test to use is the dye test. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank of your toilet. Do not flush your toilet for at least 30 minutes. Food coloring should not appear in your toilet bowl. If the food coloring does appear, then your toilet is leaking and you should contact a plumber to fix the problem.

Plumbing leaks add up fast!

**Drip**—1 drip per second wastes 32.7 litres daily and 11,937.6 litres yearly

**Dribble**—3 drips per second wastes 98.1 litres daily and 35,813.2 litres yearly

**Drool**—5 drips per second wastes 163.5 litres daily and 59,688.6 litres yearly

**Leaking Toilets**—a running toilet could be wasting more than 750 litres in a day

**Leaking Showerhead**—a showerhead that drops 10 drips per minute wastes more than 1,800 litres per year

## 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](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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