

Quarterly ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

June 2019

Field Scabious (*Knautia Arvensis*)

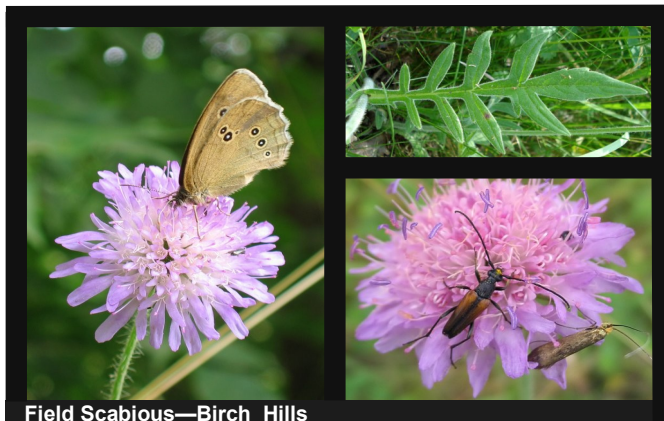
Aka Blue Buttons, Gypsy Rose, Pincushion Scabious

Field Scabious is a highly invasive perennial plant native to Europe and is found on the "prohibited" list of weeds in Saskatchewan. Once established, Field Scabious is very difficult to eradicate requiring persistent and diligent control work. Each plant produces thousands of seeds that can remain viable in the soil for many years.

As you may know, Field Scabious has been found growing in and around Birch Hills. It is found in only two other locations in Saskatchewan.

The Town of Birch Hills has been partnering with the R.M. of Birch Hills, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Highways & Infrastructure, and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities to help eradicate this weed. Barry Swanson, Professional Agrologist of Prince Albert has been appointed as Weed Inspector and has done an amazing job throughout the eradication activities.

We would like to remind everyone of this invasive plant problem that we are facing and that the Birch Hills Cemetery will not be mowing the grass at the Cemetery due to the noxious weed. The weed located at the Cemetery needs a chance to bud in order for spot spraying. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding.



Field Scabious—Birch Hills

Dog Owners

As spring has come and gone and summer fast approaching, the Town Crew and many business owners have found an abundance of dog feces.

If you are walking your dog and your dog defecates on any public or private property, you **MUST** remove the defecation immediately.

Failure to do so could result in a fine under Bylaw #04/12.



The cooperation the Town received during the street sweeping was very much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who assisted by having their vehicles removed from the street while Virtue Street Sweepers were out.

The contractors were thankful for the cooperation and have complimented the town again this year

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Compostable Paper Bags

Only Compostable Yard Waste Paper Bags and Securely Tied Bundles will be accepted for yard waste collection.

The transition of switching from plastic bags to compostable paper bags has went extremely well.

The Town would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and for making this transition easier for everyone.

Compostable Yard Waste Pick Up Days are the 1st Wednesday of each month. This will continue until weather permits.

A few general rules

- Only compostable paper bags will be picked up, absolutely no plastic bags.
- Tree branches & shrubs need to be bundled into manageable bundles. If it is too heavy and awkward for you, it is too heavy and awkward for the Town crew.
- Absolutely no construction material
- Loose material will not be picked up
- Collection days are the first Wednesday of each month with the weather permitting. If it is raining the pickup crew will be out the next available day.
- Compostable material will be picked up in the back alley where back alley is available.

Thank you for everyone's cooperation!!

Town Office Statutory Holiday Hours

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

July 1, 2019 for Canada Day

August 5, 2019 for the Civic Holiday

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

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As spring approaches and the weather gets warmer, we would like to remind everyone to watch for the increased number of pedestrians and children at play.

The Town office has received some complaints about speeding. Please adhere to all speed limit signs. This includes the access road, Ward Road, and Alex Dunn Road (golf course road).

Help us keep our community safe for everyone.

Back Yard 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 fires in windy, dry 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.



Building Permits — Approval Process

Building Permits — APPROVAL

Please ensure you have approval from the municipality and the Building Official before you start construction.

Please remember that a building permit is required whenever work regulated by *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*. Is being done.

Building permit applications need to be reviewed and approved at a Regular Meeting of Council then sent to our municipal Building Official for the required plan review before any approvals are granted to the applicant. The Town will forward all applicable approvals, with the building permit fee invoice to the applicant as soon as they are received in the office.

Construction is prohibited to start until the applicant receives all required approvals from Town Council and the Municipal Building Official.

Any person who contravenes any of these provisions is liable to the penalties provided in Section 22 of *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*. Council is also looking to implement a penalty/fine structure for different types of building permits. Therefore, please have all your approvals before you start your construction.

GO GREEN! Receive your invoice by email



The Town sends out approximately 450 utility notices each month and we currently have approximately 60 customers signed up to receive their invoice by email.

Receiving your invoice by email will ensure you receive your invoice in a timely fashion. Currently, our local mail has to travel to Saskatoon before it is sorted and delivered to your post office box.

Sending our invoices by email saves the town time, paper, envelopes and postage.

Registering Concerns

Please remember common curtesy when registering concerns with the Town of Birch Hills. The Town policy is intended to set out the generally accepted procedures for residents when reporting concerns or filing complaints with Council or Staff. All concerns/complaints must be clearly identified and must fall within the ability of the Town of Birch Hills to deal with under the current Provincial Legislation. Any action requested or taken must be clear and transparent by the complainant. Anonymous concerns/complaints will not be given considerations.



2019 Property Assessments

Municipal Taxation

The Town of Birch Hills sent out the assessment notices on April 5 2019 and the assessment roll was open for inspection until May 6, 2019.

On May 8, 2019 , 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: 10.1 mills

Minimum Tax: Land—\$ 425.00 Impr.—\$1,025.00

Commercial Mill Rate Factor: 2.1

Your tax notice was sent to you on May 16, 2019!!! And the Town has already received 17% of the current years taxes. Please remember, there is a 5% discount on any amount of municipal taxes paid before **June 30th**.

Tax Arrears

The total amount of unpaid municipal & school taxes from 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 is **\$116,600.33**. These arrears are currently being enforced under the *Tax Enforcement Act*. This enforcement includes \$9,950.89 that was initiated in 2014; \$2,358.83 that was initiated in 2015; \$11,716.59 that was initiated in 2016; \$33,422.06 that was initiated in 2017; \$25,009.58 that was initiated in 2018; and \$34,142.38 that will be enforced in the fall of 2019.

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.

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

Water & Sewer Utility Bill Payments

HAY TENDER

The Town invites tenders for hay on Town Property.

The areas to be hayed:

- *The Town Reservoir*
- *Land between the Airport and Town Waste Site*
- *Town Snow Dump—area North side of Ward Road*

*We would like to receive the tenders in a **cost per bale** tender price.*

If you would be interested in tendering, please submit your per bale tender to the Town Office by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

Council Meeting Minutes

Section 117(1)(d) of The Municipalities Act states “Any person is entitled at any time during regular business hours to inspect and obtain copies of the minutes of the council after they have been approved by the council.”

Therefore, please feel free to stop by the office between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm to view the approved minutes of council. Please note the office is closed from 12—1 pm for lunch.

The minutes of council are also posted on the Town of Birch Hills website. Please remember that this is an extra service that the town provides that is not legislated by law. The minutes will be posted as soon as time permits. Normally, this can be done in a timely fashion after they have been approved but on occasion, things arise that will prohibit staff from being able to post them immediately.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Minutes will be posted to the website as soon as time permits. But remember, they are available to view at anytime during office hours.



Protect Your Elm Trees

Do Not Prune Elm Trees Between April 1 & August 31 Each Year

To reduce the risk of Dutch elm disease (DED), pruning of elm trees will once again be prohibited throughout Saskatchewan from April 1 to August 31.

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 a DED infection.

Proper elm tree pruning outside the annual ban period helps keep trees healthy and better able to resist all diseases, including DED. Removing dead and dying elm wood through pruning also helps reduce places for beetles to breed, and curbs their populations. Throughout the year, including during the ban period, DED-infected elms should be removed promptly.

Provincial regulations require commercial pruners of elm trees to complete a recognized training program or be under the supervision of someone who has. Improper pruning techniques can spread many tree diseases, including DED.

Because of the risk of spreading DED, transporting or storing elm firewood is illegal. Elm wood must be disposed of promptly, using the method and locations chosen by each municipality.

For more information about Dutch Elm Disease Control Regulations and safe elm wood disposal, contact 1-800-SASK-ELM (727-5356).

Multi-Use Fundraiser

The Multi-Use Facility is moving along quite nicely. We hope most people have had the chance to stop by and have a look at the progress so far.

There have been so many people who have donated, organized individual fundraisers, volunteered at fundraisers and the construction site — this progress wouldn't be progressing as well as it is without all of you! Thank You!

One of our bigger fundraisers is **THE RACE TO 100**. If you would like to be recognized within the new building as one of "The 100", please consider donating in our latest donation program.

Without the help of the community, this project wouldn't be possible.
Thank you for your support!



THE RACE TO 100



As part of our fundraising efforts, and a final drive to complete the project, we have implemented a donation program.

We are asking **100 people** from Birch Hills and surrounding communities to donate **\$1000** each.

The Race To 100 will include an option of 4 payments of \$250.00 if that is something contributors would like to do. This can be an easier way for contributors to be able to help.

The option allows installments quarterly on June 1, 2019, September 1, 2019, December 1, 2019 & March 1, 2019

There will be an area set aside in the facility recognizing **The 100** for their contribution to the project.

Donation Forms to contribute to **The 100** can be found at the Town Office, Town Website, or a Multiuse Committee Member.

Contact Us

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

Town of Birch Hills

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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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Also, read the blog at :
bhwaterplant.wordpress.com