

# Quarterly ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

September 2019

## Community Safety Officer

Special Constable, Larry Smytaniuk has recently started providing Community Safety Officer services to the Town of Birch Hills.

A Community Safety Officer (CSO) is employed by a municipality or First Nation for the purpose of providing high priority/low risk to harm enforcement services. Through their Special Constable appointments, CSOs enforce provincial statutes and may take on additional duties, such as attending property offence scenes for the purpose of receiving information, evaluating and liaising with the police agency of jurisdiction.

With all the success the new Community Safety Officer Program has received, the RM of Buckland reached out to other jurisdictions to see if there was any interest. The RM of Buckland then went through the required approval process to train, hire and equip a Community Safety Officer. The Town has since entered a contracted service agreement with the RM of Buckland for CSO services within the Town of Birch Hills to enforce our Bylaws and other provincial statutes.

You may have already noticed the RM of Buckland, Special Constable enforcement vehicle in Town. And if you haven't already, stop and introduce yourself to Larry. He'd be happy to answer any questions anyone may have.



Community Safety Officer —Enforcement Vehicle

*We wish the best of luck to all the students and teachers returning to the 2019/2020 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.*

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## ATVs and Snowmobiles

Please remember that no person shall operate an all terrain vehicle on any Crown Land or Private Land within the corporate limits of the Town of Birch Hills. However, it is lawful for a resident to operate an all terrain vehicle from their place of residence to the closest point of exit and from the closest point of exit to their place of residence. The route shall be the shortest distance from their place of residence to the exit and from the closest exit to the place of residence of the ATV operator.

With winter fast approaching, please also remember that no person shall drive or operate a snowmobile on private property except with the consent of the owner or occupant of the said property. Absolutely no snowmobiles are allowed on school grounds, nursing home/clinic grounds, park areas, playgrounds, golf course or airport except those engaged in regular maintenance of the grounds or buildings thereon.

Everyone is reminded to adhere to all municipal bylaws, *The Traffic Safety Act*, *The All Terrain Vehicles Act*, and *The Snowmobile Act*.

**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:

September 2, 2019 for Labour Day  
October 14, 2019 for Thanksgiving Day  
November 11, 2019 for Remembrance Day

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



**REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
*Lest We Forget*

Holiday Hours

## 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) (password is not required)

## Town of Birch Hills Municipal Staff

Tara Gariepy,  
Chief Administrative Officer

Nola Nevland  
Office Assistant

Michele Harris  
Office Assistant

Darren Peterson  
Acting Foreman

Rob Meng  
Maintenance Labourer

Brad Douglas  
Maintenance Labourer

Zachary Pitzel  
Recreation Director

Adam Morrison  
Recreation Facilities Manager



Fall Clean-up Week

## Fall Clean-up Week

The Town has declared **October 14 through October 19** as Fall Clean Up Week.

Please have your compostable material bundled and available for pick-up in your back alley where back alley access is available. Also, please keep your compostable paper bags and branches in a manageable size and weight. Loose material or material in plastic bags will not be picked up.

Also, please remember pick-up is weather permitting. If it is raining, your material cannot be picked up and our compost site is not accessible. The Town will continue to pick-up when the weather cooperates.

The transition going from plastic bags to compostable paper bags has went extremely well. We thank everyone for their understanding and patience while the town does their best to deliver this service to the community.



## 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 courtesy 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.





Birch Hills Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

## Provincial Territorial Infrastructure Component—Small Communities Fund (PTIC-SCF)

*“Good Things Come to Those Who Wait”* ....It has been nearly 3 years since the Town applied for the PTIC-SCF grant and 1 year since the Town was part of the official funding announcement on September 11, 2018, where out of hundreds of applicants it was confirmed that the Town of Birch Hills was one out of the 46 communities approved for funding. The Town’s Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project will receive \$3.7 million dollars in funding, with Federal and Provincial funding of \$2.4 million and the Town of Birch Hills contributing \$1.3 million.

After the Town signed the contribution agreement with the Ministry of Government Relations at the beginning of January of this year, they were able to move forward with some aspects of the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project. The project has been broken into two phases. The first phase being the Water Treatment Plant—Distribution Pumping & Electrical Upgrades and the second phase being the Water Treatment Plant—Raw Water & Treatment Upgrades.

The tenders for the Water Treatment Plant—Distribution Pumping & Electrical Upgrades closed mid August. This phase of construction generally consists of the construction of a new floor above the existing pump chamber within the building, interior building modifications, installation of new distribution pumps along with related piping, replacement of the electrical service and main distribution, installation of an automatic standby generator, and removal of existing pumps, piping and electrical system.

Once the Town was certain that the project was going forward, they commissioned a third party consultant to conduct a waterworks cost analysis further to the internal audits that had already been completed. The last Water & Sewer increase was in 2012, where the minimum utility bill was increased from \$65.00 per month to \$75.00 per month. The Waterworks Cost Analysis states that the Town appears to be recouping only a portion of their costs, which would suggest that current water rates are too low. It is recommended that the Town reassess their water rates to determine if further increases are required. Therefore, the Town has been reviewing their Water & Sewer Bylaw and will be looking at an increase in the near future.

Please watch for further updates regarding the progress of the project and information regarding utility billing.

## Municipal Street Lights

### Report Street Light Outages

Did you know that the Town of Birch Hills has 143 Street Lights? Did you know it is a flat rate per street light whether the light is working or not?

These street lights are owned and maintained by SaskPower and are considered residential street lighting.

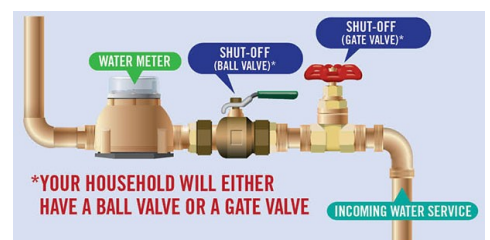
If you notice a street light not working, contact SaskPower at [www.saskpower.com](http://www.saskpower.com) and follow the links OR call 1-888-757-3637 OR contact the Town Office. Your assistance in reporting street light outages helps the Town make sure they are receiving the services that are being paid for.

### Town of Birch Hills Street Lights

## Household Water Valves

*Every month when you get your water bill, exercise the water valves in your house. Under the 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.*



## Town of Birch Hills—Former Waste Site/Transfer Station

On May 30, 2019, the Town of Birch Hills had an environmental inspection at our disposal site. Because the Town is no longer operating as a waste disposal site, there were a few compliance items that needed to be addressed.

With the reorganization of current and new staff, the Town was able to attend to the majority of the non-compliance items. All the recyclable metals, appliances, machinery, culverts, propane tanks, tires, etc. have been removed from the site. All plastic has been removed from the compostable piles and clean wood pile. Household waste and non-clean wood has been removed from the clean wood pile. Internal inspection forms have been implemented.

It was noted in the inspection report that the clean wood pile is unmanageable and too large to burn. The pile has been split into smaller piles and the Town is hoping to have these piles burnt this fall.

Going forward, only compostable material and clean wood is allowed at the site. The transition in going from plastic bags to compostable paper bags has went extremely well and has helped meet the required compliance standards. The Town is very impressed with the cooperation they have received.

Absolutely no construction material is allowed at the site. Only branches and clean, unfinished wood is accepted. All lumber needs to be unpainted, unstained, untreated and free of glue.

If there are questions regarding the regulations, please contact the Office.



Ulmus (Elm) Tree

## Tree Trimming & Sightlines

### Elm Tree Ban Lifted September 1st.

The Town of Birch Hills is making an effort to ensure that the trees on all private property are not encroaching onto public areas. The Town crew was able to get a large majority of trees trimmed this summer.

The Town would like to remind everyone who is adjacent to a public road or right of way, please ensure branches and hedges on your property are properly trimmed so that sidewalks and intersections are clear and visible. Please also trim back any branches to ensure that they do not overhang onto any municipal or private property, including any neighboring yards.

With the Elm Tree pruning ban lifted on September 1st, the Town requests everyone's assistance to trim any overhanging branches before winter approaches. If you require assistance in determining what areas, if any, may need attention, please contact the Town Office.

Trees that encroach onto municipal streets and alleyways also hinder town maintenance and damage equipment. Ensuring your branches are trimmed before winter will assist with the Town's snow removal.

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

Thank you for your attention in ensuring that your property is in compliance. It goes a long way in helping to beautify the community, it shows common courtesy to your neighbours, and it prevents damage to town equipment.

# 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

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