

Town of Saltcoats Information Packet

At this time, the Town of Saltcoats council has postponed the public town hall meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 28th, 2021, for public safety measures in regards to the rising COVID-19 cases.

This meeting will be rescheduled for Spring 2022.

This information packet includes the results of the 2021 community survey, and other remarks.

Please feel free to take one from the Town Office, or you can find a copy on our website as of Wednesday September 29th, 2021.

2021 Survey Results and Remarks

Survey Summary
Public Information Meeting, September 28th, 2021
Presenter: CAO Cindy Larson

Good evening,

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to take part in the survey for 2021.

The information that was provided ensures that Council is on track and lets them know your concerns as well as what is working in regards to the services that they provide to the residents of Saltcoats.

The newsletter is the preferred method of communicating, the quality of life has been good to excellent. Saltcoats has a multitude of volunteers that the community is very proud of. Most residents have spoken with council members and feel it is not necessary to attend the Council meetings nor want to run for council.

The most important concern of the citizens is Financial Stability, following with Infrastructure and Future Planning, the least important being the sale of town property.

Beautiful, lovely, attractive and scenic are the best words describing the Town of Saltcoats.

Hard working, knowledgeable, transparent, committed, fair minded, new, sincere and efficient are some of the words used to describe the Saltcoats Council.

There were a number of great responses to the question on what you feel is the strong in the community and what is moving the community into the future that includes; community spirit, caring & friendliness, some great amenities, updates to infrastructure, family connections, etc.

Some of the most important aspects of the community are peaceful, family oriented, sense of commitment, neat and tidy properties, safe to live and for children, and some would like to see more churches.

Administration/Customer service:

Helpfulness and knowledge of the town staff was rated as good/excellent.

Satisfaction of communications was good, and would like the service to remain the same.

Public Works:

Paving is rated at good and the service to be the same.

Street Sweeping/Dust Control is rated at good and would like the service to remain the same.

Snow Clearing is rated as excellent and to remain the same as well.

Mowing of Public Areas was rated as good and would also like to remain at the same level.

Garbage & Recycling was rated at good and would like it to remain the same also.

Bylaw Enforcements level of service was rated as good and the service level should remain the same.

How the town council should balance the budget was to increase the taxes.

There were many different suggestions on how council can be more transparent that include no complaints, council invites public scrutiny and participation, add concerns and issues to the newsletter, presence needs to be seen, publish all aspects of council meetings financials, wages etc., no reason to think that they are not transparent, we elected them to be honest and vigilant and I believe they are, and more input from people as to the spending of our tax dollar.

Further questions from Council to consider when discussing items resulted in the topics that each member of council will present here tonight.

Bylaw Enforcement

Public Information Meeting September 28th, 2021

Presenter: Mayor Gordon Barnhart

1. Federal and Provincial laws are enforced in town by the RCMP. Total cost per year is \$24,000. This includes speeding and misuse of snowmobiles and quads in town.
2. Laws passed by Council are called municipal bylaws and are enforced by the Bylaw Enforcement officer on contract through the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. Total cost per year is \$2,500. Cost can be kept low due to cost sharing with other surrounding towns.
3. Bylaws cover such things as building code, parking on streets, unsightly yards, and control of cats and dogs. The Bylaw officer comes to town twice per month in the summer and once per month in the winter.
4. Bylaw officer responds to complaints registered with town office and only to offences against town bylaws.

Financial Highlight based on the 2020 Fiscal Year

Public Information Meeting, September 28th, 2021

Presenter: Mayor Gordon Barnhart

REVENUES

Taxes and other unconditional Revenue	736,860	
Fees and Charges	368,449	
Conditional Grants	22,355	
Investment Income and commissions	6,122	
Other revenues	<u>5,272</u>	
Total:		<u>\$1,139,058</u>

EXPENDITURES

General Government Services (tax collection & enforcement, office & operations Council Indemnity, wages)	263,996	
Protective Services (police, fire & bylaw enforcement)	53,384	
Transportation (public works Streets, Grounds, Equipment, wages)	291,939	
Environmental & Public Health (garbage, recycling wages)	116,361	
Planning and Development (cemetery operating and wages)	8433	
Recreation and Culture (Hall, maintenance and supplies, operating, & wages)	144852	
Utilities (lagoon, Water Treatment, operations, & wages)	<u>269,823</u>	
Total:		<u>\$1,148,788</u>

			Balance at Aug. 31, 2021
Shop payments	per month	\$4016	\$555,800.16
Lagoon Debenture	annually	\$27,671.42	\$462,328.58
Water Treatment Plant Debenture	annually	\$75,555.18	\$1,337,916.00
Unpaid Taxes		\$123,104.94	

Paving and Sidewalks

Public Information Meeting September 28th, 2021

Presenter: Mayor Gordon Barnhart

1. Dispel myths about underground piping
2. History of street treatment
 - (A) cold mix without preparation work— High Street
 - (B) experiment on 400 Block Glasgow and CLR
 - (C) Preparation work and 3-inch hot mix
3. Street audit 2017— hot mix and prep work on 400 block Glasgow and CLR— then school and bus route followed by worst streets first up to the best ones—
4. Cost of program— gas tax, base tax and property tax— \$100,000 per year
4. Next 5 years—
5. Value of new plan—
6. Sidewalks—expensive, not used, not cleaned in winter
Critical zone will be maintained.

Water Treatment Plant and Lift Station
Public Information Meeting, September 28th, 2021
Presenter: Councillor Kirby Buchinski

The Water treatment plant has an operating permit issued by Sask Water, we as Town Council and our operators are obligated to keep the water plant operating as per their regulations and guidelines, if we fail to do this, they would place a boil water advisory on the town. Our current water plant has struggled to reach break-point chlorination over the past years, the water has remained safe for use and consumption, but has not been meeting the regulated guidelines. Sask Water has given the town a date of March 31 2022 to upgrade the WTP to solve this issue. The expected start-up date for the new Reverse Osmosis system is mid December of this year.

The General contractor in Hipperson Construction, who was the lowest price in the bidding process out of 9 bidders. Hipperson has been using local sub contractors where possible and had presented the most local content in their proposal.

When our Council term started, the contract was already in place and design had begun, Our Public works committee spent many evenings and hours reviewing drawings and the project scope looking for ways to reduce costs. Without taking away from the effectiveness of the treatment operations, we were able to reduce the project cost y 10s of thousands of dollars.

The biggest question everyone has is why RO? And how expensive is it going to be? Although we do not have all the answers until the system is complete and up and running, we can share what has been provided and researched up until this point. I will explain the process and reasons for the choice of the RO system, and later on in the “utility rate” portion of this meeting we will touch on more of the costs related to this project.

RO was chosen because it provides the best possible drinking water to the town and will be treatable to reach break point chlorination. Council of the past also took other factors into consideration, the main one being the manganese content in our water. Our current manganese is compliant with Sask Waters regulations, but we have been warned these regulations will be changing in the next few years which would push us into a noncompliant area. RO was the most cost-effective system to correct both issues vs installing two separate systems at different points down the road.

RO water does not cause pipes to leak, but over time it will clean pipes causing scale and calcium build ups to become loosened up. Pin hole leaks in copper pipes have the ability to corrode and build up scale or deposits which may over time seal the leak. When people say RO water will create additional water leaks, this is what is being referred to, it may find and expose existing leaks that have been going un-detected.

Communications Committee
Public Information Meeting, September 28th, 2021
Presenter: Councillor Shirley Pearson

As you are aware by now and if you are reading this you know that the Public Information Meeting Planned for Sept 28/21 had to be postponed due to the rise in COVID-19 in our Province.

Council still wanted to get the information out to everyone even though it is in a different forum. If all goes well, we do hope to have a face-to-face Public Information Meeting in Spring of 2022.

The whole issue surrounding how council communicates with the citizens is something all of the current council has identified as being crucial for everyone. Council and the citizens of the Town of Saltcoats.

That is why at the first regular council meeting following the municipal election in November 2020 Council agreed based on concerns raised by the citizens that we need to come up with a better way of communicating. A communications committee was established and drafted a communication strategy policy that all of Council approved.

I could talk for a couple of hours on how the strategies were developed and about the process that is in place for council to communicate to the citizens.

The strategies that have been developed give council the direction we need in order to ensure we are sharing information properly according to the municipal act and freedom of information and privacy act.

I do have a couple of points that I do need to share

- 1) The CAO is the keeper of all Municipal Documents/Information
- 2) All information comes through the Office at some point
- 3) Council sets up the process and certain parameters of how the information is shared

We will continue to share information as we have been doing through the News Letter, Facebook page and the webpage
As these were the three top preferred methods based on the survey results of 2021.

A Communication Strategy Policy has been developed.

You are welcome to get a copy from the office if you like

It is well written and Council is very pleased
It tells us what we can share and how we need to share it
We could give you all sorts of information.

But we have a very big problem with it as there is an extremely huge piece that is missing and that is “YOU”

You have to tell us what information it is that you want?

What is important to you?

You need to stop us on the street

Call us on the phone

Drop into the office

You need to tell us what you would like to know

Then we can actually communicate because Communication is really a two-way street

For this Public Information Meeting package, we took ideas from the 2021 survey and herein provided the topics that we thought you would want to hear about and I hope that we have made a good selection

In the future, please know that your Mayor and Councillors are open to hear your concerns and are all very willing to get the information that you need, to you.

A huge Thank from Council to Helen Jarvis and Jessica Farquharson for their regular columns in the Four Town Journal.

As noted in the survey comments: these columns have resulted in positive “talk about Town” which help bring community together.

Also thank you to Garry Horseman who covers all council meetings.

One item that came from the survey was the suggestion of having some type of a “Welcome” for new comers to the Town. This is something that has been talked about before and it is something that the communications committee will look into organizing with Council’s approval.

Just before closing I invite you to check out our new webpage at <https://townofsaltcoats.ca/> as it has just been redone

Hope you like it.

Personnel Committee

Pubic Information Meeting, September 28th, 2021

Presenter: Councillor Chad Waloschuk

Good afternoon, my name is Chad Waloschuk and I am the Chair of the Personnel Committee. The other councillors that sit on the committee with my self are Counselor Denbrok, Counselor Issel and our Administrator Cindy. A brief explanation of what the personnel Committee is and what we do before I update you on the past years’ activities. The Personnel Committee advise council on matters relating personnel policies, practices, compensation and benefits as well as any employee grievances, performance evaluations or salary adjustments.

I am not sure how many of you attended the previous information meeting held by council a few years ago now but if you did you will notice a lot of new faces up here, mine included, and I want to personally thank you the voters for putting me here and allowing me to help the town any way I can. If you have stopped into the town office over the last year and a bit you will most likely have met our new Chief Administrative Officer Cindy Larson. I say new but she has been with us for almost a year and a half already. And I can guarantee that if you were fortunate enough to stop in and say hello that you were undoubtedly greeted with a smile and warm welcome. Cindy comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge in the municipal sector and a clear love for her job. It was no secret that the town was in desperate need of someone in that role at the time Cindy was hired and she has spent the last year doing a lot of housekeeping and getting things back in order that once were not so. And she does this all while keeping a tight leash on all of us councillors who are always calling and emailing with questions or demands and she handles it in stride and always politely says NO Chad you can't do that. No, Cindy has been a great addition to our town and we are very thankful to have her.

The other person in the office that you may have spoken with was Billie-Joe. Billie-Jo was helping out in the office before she had to go off to college this fall and was a great fit and was a key role in getting our new website up and running so fast. As any business today it is very difficult to find qualified employees and our town was no exception. However, Cindy was able to find someone to fill the Administrative Assistant role quite quickly. Alysha Glessman has just started a couple weeks ago so be sure and say hello the next time you find yourself in the town office. She has a university background in accounting and Cindy is very excited to have her in the office and she has already shown great interest in the position.

Making sure everything looks its best are two key roles within the town. Nancy McIntyre the Cemetery Supervisor and Melissa Nabozniak the town/park Caretaker. Working behind the scenes to ensure all facilities are clean, sanitary, and looking 100% everyday without these two hard working ladies the town, the park, and the cemetery would not be the same. I am sure they do not hear it enough so on behalf of the council and the town I would like to say thank you for everything you do and keep up the great work and I encourage anyone that bumps into them to do the same.

Another recent addition many of you may not be aware of is a temporary Public Works assistant. Unfortunately, Paul Bulmer our Public Works Assistant has had to take some time off. In his absence Hans Bosshart has graciously agreed to fill the role temporarily and seems to be a great fit for the role.

As I mentioned Paul is temporarily off work but I couldn't talk about our town employees without mentioning the two you probably see around town the most, Dennis and Paul or now Hans. Whether it is daily water testing, routine maintenance, late night repairs or early morning snow cleaning, these two guys literally keep our town running. We always encourage people to come out to a council meeting and one of the things you would see if you do is the monthly public works report that lists all of all the tasks done the month prior and if you have ever said to yourself, what do they do all day, and I know you probably have because I did before I knew, I think you would end up asking how do you get all of that done. So next time you see them on the

street, give them a wave, say hi, say thank you because they don't get enough credit for what they do but you will never hear them complain about it and we are lucky to have them.

Fire Service

Public Information Meeting- September 28th,2021

Presenter: Councillor Braden Issel

New Recruits- SVFD has added multiple new recruits in the past year and are currently sitting at 16 members. Our member count has proven beneficial in all the calls we have received by ensuring that even with members unavailable our team is still adequately staffed

Training- Our team is comprised of a well-rounded group of individuals who all bring multiple levels of training to the group. Members are all trained to the latest North American Standards, and we are always looking to further the training of new and existing members as courses become available. Due to the last year of the COVID 19 pandemic most training courses were cancelled or postponed but our members are actively seeking courses as they become available again. During the pandemic, when mandates allowed, SVFD was able to hold their monthly meetings following social distancing and masking guidelines. Continuing to hold our monthly meeting ensured that all equipment was kept in check and all members stayed up to date on the operations side of things. New members were trained on the ins-and outs of the department, fire hall and equipment ensuring that as always, our department was ready to roll when called.

Equipment- SVFD currently has 3 fire fighting units and 1 rescue/mobile command unit. The fire fighting units include 2 pumper trucks and a wild-land truck. The addition of the wild-land truck has proven to be a priceless addition to our fleet. The maneuverability and accessibility of the smaller, four-wheel drive truck has allowed us to be very efficient in fighting grass fires. Previously, members used backpack water packs with hand-pump sprayers to fight grass fires which proved to be very time consuming and slow paced. With the onboard water tank and engine driven pump as well as fire suppression foam capabilities members can now apply larger amounts of water and maneuver to multiple locations quickly to put fires out with much less manual effort than before. With our diverse team we are able to complete minor repairs and up-keep to our equipment and facilities in-house to ensure all equipment is maintained and in proper working order without outsourcing which helps keep costs down and equipment available for use.

Council's Recreation and Culture Committee

Public Information Meeting September 28th, 2021

Presenter: Councillor Shirley Pearson

Council has established a recreation and culture committee

The current Committee is made up of Counsellors Denbrok, Hutchings, Waloschuk and Councillor Pearson who is the chairperson of this committee along with Mayor Barnhart who is ex-officio on this committee.

The responsibilities of this committee is to be liaising with community organizations supporting and identifying opportunities for recreational and cultural programs and events

I am sorry to say that this committee has not met in at least three years but that is soon to change

A meeting of this committee has been set for October 13/21 at which time we will be reviewing the committees' responsibilities. We will develop a plan and we will determine which community members need to be included. So, the main message for this evening is if you are involved in any community group or organization that council needs to include, please lets us know.

Part of liaising with the community groups is an effort to have everyone working together whenever possible so that we can reduce the number of missed opportunities to support events that are going on in our community

Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw
Public Information Meeting September 28th, 2021
Presenter: Councillor Miles Hutchings

In accordance with The Planning and Development Act, the Town of Saltcoats has prepared documents for adoption as the Official Community Plan and Updated Zoning Bylaw of the Town.

Official Community Plan

The purpose of an Official Community Plan (OCP) is to provide a comprehensive policy framework to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development in the Town of Saltcoats. The Official Community Plan provides goals, objectives and policies of the Town relating to future growth and development.

The objectives and policies of this Official Community Plan shall apply within the incorporated area of the Town. The objectives and policies relative to neighboring municipalities shall guide Council in its actions regarding land use. All development shall conform to the objectives and policies contained in the Official Community Plan.

An OCP must incorporate, insofar as is practical, any applicable provincial land use policies and statements of provincial interest.

Vision:

It will be the purpose of the Town of Saltcoats to celebrate and enhance the quality of life we experience within the community, and to practice open and broad-minded management and sound financial planning.

Values:

To preserve and protect the natural environment in the Town and surrounding region including the quality of the water in Anderson Lake.

To maintain and enhance relationships with surrounding communities and other organizations in order to pursue opportunities for the benefit of the region.

To support sustainable growth by implementing policies and regulations that encourage responsible development that minimizes the potential for land use conflicts.

To maintain and improve the quality of the Town's residential environment through responsible residential planning and management that benefits all residents.

To ensure that the development on Anderson Lake is environmentally responsible.

To protect residents and future developments through education and awareness of hazardous lands within the Town including shoreline erosion and flooding.

To enhance the existing economic and recreation base and attract new opportunities that will support and enhance the quality of life in the Town.

To promote efficient development where there are services or where new services and infrastructure can be developed in a fiscally responsible manner.

Goals:

The Town will strive to:

Provide for orderly and economic development of the Town;

Provide for the growth, diversity and viability of the Town through effective land use and development policies and regulations;

Avoid future conflicts between land uses and, where possible, reduce existing land use conflicts;

Provide for the effective control of land use and development within the Town while encouraging residential, recreational and economic growth.

Provide a desirable community that builds up amenities for future generations.

Bring more commerce into the Town and region.

Collaborate with adjacent municipalities and community groups on regional initiatives and to build upon existing regional assets such as the Saltcoats District Regional Park.

Zoning Bylaw

The purpose of this Bylaw is to regulate development and to control the use of land in the Town of Saltcoats in accordance with the Town's Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw.

The intent of the Zoning Bylaw is to provide for the amenity of the area within the Town of Saltcoats and for the health, safety and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Town and area:

To minimize land use conflicts;

To establish minimum standards to maintain the amenity of the Town;

To ensure development is consistent with the physical limitations of the land;

To restrict development that places undue demand on the Town for services; and

To provide for land use and development that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Town.

Lagoon Update

Public Information Meeting, September 28th, 2021

Presenter: Councillor Miles Hutchings

Previously during construction of the new lagoon cell, the contractor and engineer indicated that there was an inadequate clay supply for the base material and recommended adding a liner to the bottom and sides of the lagoon cell. Previous council went with this recommendation and approved the installation of the liner which was completed.

It was discovered after installation that air and liquid had infiltrated between the liner and the soil below.

The engineer recommended installing 4 vent pipes below the liner then going up into the atmosphere to allow the air and liquid to escape. This work has been completed.

There was also an issue with a drain inlet pipe that was too long that was installed between the new cell and existing one. This extra length caused the pipe to float to the surface and was visible.

The solution proposed by the engineer and implemented was to cut off the excessive length and cover a portion of the pipe with material to ensure it stays situated at the bottom of the cell as per the original design.

Discussions with the contractor and engineer resulted in the warranty period being extended and this work was done at no cost to the town.

The lagoon is still being monitored and inspected during drainage to determine if the air and fluid beneath the liner material has been mitigated.

Public Works & Facilities, Equipment, Grounds, OSS Recycling
Public Information Meeting- September 28th,2021
Presenter: Councillor Braden Issel

Stirling Room Rental- Council has revised sterling room rental rates to include \$120/full day and \$60/half day rentals to encourage more use of sterling room

Temporary Public Works Assistant- Town of Saltcoats has hired a temporary public works assistant to fill in for Paul Bulmer while he is off on medical leave.

OSS Recycling- Be aware of items placed in blue recycling bins. Wrongfully placed items result in fines which are required to be paid by taxpayers' money, more fines result in higher recycling costs to capture these fines.

Equipment- All equipment is up to date on service and repairs. Planning and preventative maintenance for the winter months to ensure equipment is ready to go for snow removal will begin in the upcoming weeks with winter around the corner.

Grounds- Council is discussing lowering the cost to purchase the currently vacant town-owned lots. Lowering the sale price is aimed at promoting people moving to our town and building new homes.

Water Meters & Utility Rates
Public Information Meeting September 28th, 2021
Presenter Councillor Kirby Buchinski

The Water treatment plant and lift station upgrade is in conjunction with the lagoon upgrade that was completed during previous councils' term and is being funding by a community infrastructure grant

program which relays 1/3 of the cost to the town. This cost works out to be \$103,000per year and is being paid over a 25-year loan at an interest rate of 2.85% for the entire 25-year term.

To be in compliance for community infrastructure grants, one of the biggest requirements is to have water meters. Before the governments invest in projects of this magnitude, they wany to make sure there is a control method in place and that usage is being billed properly.

The new water plant is expected to have a life expectancy of 50+ years, in saying that, with the goal of paying off this system in 25 years, that will leave 25+ years to start saving for another system of different upgrades for the distribution system. This would leave the future of the town in a much better position as opposed to taking out large loans and paying them off after the work has been complete.

When utility rates are set, it is required by legislation that they be self sustaining. This means the income from utility rates needs to pay for all expenses that occur from these operations. Any

surplus from the utility rate income needs to be put into a reserve for these operations and cannot be spent on other services around town,

For example, if the town aimed to recuperate this money from the utility rates over the next 25 years it would be approximately \$28 per month per account. This may seem like a lot, as it works out to over \$400 per year.

There is currently \$125 allocation in the base tax that is dedicated to the infrastructure of the WTP, this \$125 will come off the base tax and go onto your utility bill, so now we are at an increase just over \$300 per year, preliminary numbers show this could be in the \$25-\$30 per month range.

That is the bad news, however we are still trying to find efficiencies to reduce the monthly costs. There are also many cost savings for residents that will occur. Items you may no longer need such as softener salt, 18L bottles of water and home Ro systems. Once the system is up and running you will no longer need a water softener. The RO water will also increase the life expectancy of your in-home appliances and water heater.

For example:

1 bag of softener salt per month works out to about \$93.00 per year.

Three 18L bottles per month works out to about \$72.00 per year.

You also save the transportation and physical handling of these items.

If you have an in-home Ro system, you will likely be saving 60-100 per year on filters.

If you have a hot water heater tank, which normally last 5-7 years with the current water. The life expectancy will be greatly increased. So instead of spending \$1000 every 7 years to replace it, you might be looking at doing it every 10-12 years instead. This also works out to a savings of approximately \$60 per year.

If you rent a water softener, there should no longer be a need for this, or if you own and maintain one, you will no longer need it.

RO water will also leave little to no scale and calcium build up or staining on, sinks, toilets, faucets, etc.

If you can relate to these examples, you could be looking at a yearly savings of up to \$316.00 per year.

Saltcoats District Regional Park Authority
Public Information Meeting September 28th, 2021
Presenter: Councillor Shirley Pearson

It is my very great pleasure to talk about the Saltcoats district regional park

Just a brief history I thought might be of interest:

the Park authority was established in 1962 with the RM of Saltcoats, the RM of Wallace, the Town of Bredenbury, the Town of Saltcoats as the participating members.
As time passed only the RM of Saltcoats and the Town of Saltcoats are financial supporters of the Saltcoats district regional park.

A constitution was developed.

(Copy is available)

The Authority operates under the Regional Parks Regulations (2015)

The Membership consists of 7 Directors

2 from the RM of Saltcoats

5 from The Town of Saltcoats

Current members appointed and representing the RM of Saltcoats are Robert Morgan and Karen Hovind

Current members appointed and representing the Town of Saltcoats are Steven Farquharson and Jesse Baron from the community, Chad Waloschuk and Shirley Pearson representing town Council, Dennis Hunt town employee and the Town of Saltcoats CAO is the Parks secretary treasurer

Executive: Chair Dennis Hunt, Vice Chair Stephen Ferguson, Second Vice Chair Shirley Pearson.

The Saltcoats District Regional Park receives an annual financial contribution from both the RM of Saltcoats and the Town of Saltcoats in the sum of \$5000.00 from each.

A copy of the financials is available at the Town Office.

Past years highlights:

During the winter the walking trails were very busy

There was cross country skiing, skating on the Lake, snow shoeing

The Vintage Snow mobile races did not happen due to Covid

The summer activities included an antique car show, summer campers coming and going, family get togethers for wedding and funeral, Provincial Ball tournament and League Ball as well as Fireworks on July 1st thanks to the fire department.

The Park Board hired Melissa Nabozniak as the groundskeeper for the 2021 season.

Thank you to Melissa for keeping the grounds looking so well.

Past years projects:

Grounds keeping equipment was replaced

The Welcome sign was replaced

Tree planting during Arbour Day week

Major grounds cleanup and painting was done and because of the great volunteers who helped it was completed prior to the Provincial Ball tournament mid-July at which time many compliments were received from participants of the Tournament.

Thanks goes to the AA under 11 ball team for applying to host the tournament

There has been a number of grants that have been applied for.

To date we received one for \$5,000.00 from Legacy Co-op along with 10 gallons of paint that was used to paint the playground equipment along with some other areas.

We still have two grants that we have not heard from.
The Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF)
The Sask RV Dealers Association Grant

We did not receive any tender applications to operate the Concession for the summer but the Regional Park did run the concession the weekend of the Provincial Ball tournament

Capital Plan for the next 5 years:
Dock repairs/replacement
Deep fryer replacement
Establishing a better water supply
Electrical upgrades for Garstone campground
Electrical upgrade Oliver campground
Improve parking at Oliver campground
upgrade Oliver washrooms/showers
Build a Bike Park

Also, a major undertaking will be with Cleaning up Anderson Lake. Councillor Chad Waloschuk will report on.

Anderson Lake Cleanup
Public Information Meeting, September 28th, 2021
Presenter: Councillor Chad Waloschuk

Ever since we formed council there has been a couple backburner topics that have surfaced from time to time, one of them being Anderson Lake and more specifically the cleaning of the lake. Now you may have noticed over the last while the lake in the summer has been quite green and a bit uninviting for activities like swimming and boating. Anderson Lake, named after a Scottish settler in 1882 believe it or not is one of the towns attractions. And we may take it a bit for granted but we are as they say a “Lake Town”. Now I call this a back burner topic because even though keeping our Lake clean and attractive is important I think we can agree its not the most important topic facing the town at the moment. But that doesn’t mean we haven’t done a bit of research into some of the what’s and why’s to the problem as well as possible remedies and solutions.

To break down any problem you need to know what the problem is in the first place. As many of you or if not all of you have seen in the middle of summer our lake is quite green and can have a bit of an odor let’s say. This is from the algae growth in the lake.

So why do we care you may ask. Every lake or pond has algae why should we get rid of it? Well, your right in a way because any body of water especially a stagnant body of water will grow some form of algae, but combined with high temperatures, excessive nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus. (which we will touch on in a second) algae can grow and spread quite rapidly. This can cause the water to be harmful for human consumption, suffocate other aquatic organisms and eventually kill fish and other aquatic life. Not to mention it just looks and smells really bad.

So, what can we do? Its just nature doing its thing right? In a way yes until you find out that one of the main triggers in excessive algae growth is as mentioned earlier Nitrogen and Phosphorus. Or as we know it better fertilizer. One of the leading causes of the recent rise in algae not just here but globally is the wide spread use of fertilizers. Be it our lawn grass, gardens and mainly farm land everyone uses it. So, it won't change the lake overnight and as much as we would like to say stop using fertilizer, we realize that's not going to happen but as a society we need to realize we are one of the main causes and therefore the main solution. So instead of fertilizing your lawn 3 times a year maybe try only once or try using more organic fertilizers.

So that's a start but what are our other options? Researchers have found multiple different ways to control the growth of algae ranging from Ultrasonic waves under the water, chemical treatments, to constantly mixing the water. But one possible method that the Saltcoats Regional Parks hopes to try is Aeration. The Regional Park has recently applied for a grant that would purchase an aeration machine to treat a 100m x 50m area directly in front of the beach. This would feed oxygen directly into the lake that helps breakdown the decaying vegetation in the area. This is an environmentally friendly technique that creates a healthier ecosystem rejuvenates large bodies of water. There have also been some inquiries into cutting the vegetation down that's in the water along the shore line and weather or not that would help in any way. As I said this is not a topic that's at the top of anyone's list and as of today there has been no money spent or budgeted towards the cleanup of the lake by the town or the park board. The town will continue its research into the topic and monitor the effectiveness of other methods being used including possibly the parks aeration method should they be awarded the grant they applied for.

Thank you Stay Safe!