



TOWN OF ITUNA
July 2016 Newsletter



Council Meetings - Lately, we are receiving communications, applications for building permits, and other correspondence that residents would like to have included on the agenda for the Regular Town of Ituna Council Meetings. As per Bylaw No.5 – 2016, Council Procedures Bylaw, Section C/Council Meeting Procedures/Agendas states:

- 1.6 All administrative reports, communication from the public, requests, or any other material intended for inclusion in a council agenda must be received by the administrator no later than Thursday noon prior to meeting date.

This timeframe ensures that your information will be included in this month’s meeting and not held to the next month. The Town of Ituna Regular Council Meetings are schedule for the third Tuesday of each month.

Property Tax – The 2016 tax notices have been mailed. An increase of \$100.00 on the Base Tax was approved by Town Council. In the last two years, the Town of Ituna has incurred large expenses with the well failing, purchasing water from Melville, digging a new well, and upgrading the water treatment. Generators are being added this year to ensure the water/sewer systems are operational even if there is a power outage. The cost for all of this is approximately \$1,000,000.00. This does not include regular operating/maintenance costs that occur during the year. We are now in a much better position than most communities with the upgrades that have been completed.

SAMA (Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency) – This is the agency that assesses your property. Property taxes are calculated by applying municipal and school mill rates against the taxable assessment of your property. By definition, a mill is a one-thousandth part. For calculating taxes, one mill represents \$1.00 of taxes for every \$1,000.00 of taxable assessment.

Example:

$$\text{Taxable Assessment} \times \frac{\text{Municipal Mill Rate}}{1000} = \text{Municipal Taxes}$$

$$\text{Taxable Assessment} \times \frac{\text{School Division Mill Rate}}{1000} = \text{School Division Taxes}$$

The province sets the school mill rate and it has had the same mill rate for school tax at 5.08 for a number of years. The Town of Ituna mill rate increased in 2014 by 1 mill to 10 mills. Previous to this it was set at 9 mills for a number of years. This information is intended to help understand that the Town of Ituna has not raised the taxes by large numbers. If your property has been assessed higher, the taxes applied will be as per the taxable assessment. The Town of Ituna Council or Town Administration does not assess property for tax assessment. This is the responsibility and duty of SAMA. In 2016/2017 SAMA will be re-evaluating all property in Saskatchewan. The last evaluation was in 2012/2013.

(over)

Community Volunteer Pancake Breakfast – Tuesday, July 26th, 2016

from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. at the Fire Hall

This volunteer breakfast is for everyone in our community (Town & RM's) who volunteers whether for an organization, for your church, to help a neighbor, an act of kindness to someone.

Please join the Town of Ituna and Ituna Economic Development for a time of fellowship and best of all Pancakes & Ham. Transit is available.

We hope to see you there!

Paper Depot – The Blue Bins will be moving from the current location on the east side of the Paper Depot Building to the **West Side of the building**. This will make it much easier for the paper depot staff to transport the paper into the building.

Dogs and Cats – It has been brought to our attention from a number of residents that pet owners are allowing their animals to defecate on other's people property. If you have pet and you take them for walks or let them go into your neighbor's yard, please pick up their droppings.

Reminder, if you do not have a pet license yet, be sure to purchase one from the Town Administration Office.

After numerous phone calls and emails, Town Administration has been advised by **CN Rail that the Main Street Crossing** will be repaired soon. We all agree, it is long overdue!

New Park Benches are appearing in town. The cement benches are donated by Thomas & Kerri Kentz from Alberta. Kerri is the daughter of Brad & Helen Hillier. Four of the six benches are in place, 2 at Avena Gardens and two at the Cenotaph. Two will be placed at the Ituna Community Orchard in the near future. In the last few weeks, we have seen various people sitting on these and enjoying the scenery and fellowship. A huge **"Thank You"** to Thomas & Kerri for their generous contribution to the Ituna Community.

Two years ago, Communities in Bloom commissioned a local artist to design and construct the two new park benches that are now in Cross Roads Park. **Arlene Sopel** is the talented artist who designed and constructed these benches. Another wonderful addition to CrossRoads Park displaying our heritage. Thank you Arlene!

Communities in Bloom National Judges will be in Ituna, July 25, 26, 27th, 2016.

Geri Kreway
Administrator

