

“Whatz” Up for Winter & Spring 2021

The RM Council would like to share with you some of the exciting changes that have been going on this past winter/spring:

1. Web Site Update. The RM website under the 4 Calling Lakes Region is past its usefulness and we wanted a fresh new look. View the RM's new website: rmnorthquappelle.ca
We hope you like the new look as much as we do; Thank you for your patience while we progress through the changes and updates.
2. New Email Addresses for Administration and Council
RM Office ***** office@rm187.com
Lee Carlson***** reeve@rm187.com
Ron Palmer***** division2@rm187.com
Nik Whalen***** division3@rm187.com
Gord Peagam*** division4@rm187.com
Don Nasheim*** division5@rm187.com
Garnet Spanier* division6@rm187.com
Council has also moved to paperless meetings and are now using chrome tablets.
3. New “Complaints Policy”- internal office procedure documentation. For lack of a better word **RIC**, Requests, Inquiries, Complaints, these may be general in nature. How does it work? Call 306.332.5202, or email office@rm187.com with your inquiry, we set a RIC number, & keep track of all the steps and any correspondence provided for each specific RIC, including keeping you informed of the progress and the completion; we don't want your request to fall through the cracks.
4. Bringing on a **Development Officer** for the RM. This is a two-year contract position. Did you know that in 2020 the office processed 46 development permits including 11 variance applications, 34 building permits, 6 demolition permits, 1 move permit, 5 subdivision applications, and 1 Zoning Bylaw amendment. Thus far (April 15, 2021) the RM Office has already received 12 Development Permits, 8 variance applications, 13 building permits, 4 demolition permits, 2 move permits, 3 subdivision applications, and 2 Zoning Bylaw amendments. Looks like another busy year for the RM.
5. We say **Thank you and farewell** to **Cliff Stewart**- casual grader operator, & **Glyn Jones** - seasonal mower operator. Their expertise in the job will be greatly missed. Council is pursuing the hiring of a seasonal maintenance operator.
6. **Fake News** – This seems to be **a trend in social media** these days. Any thing from American and Canadian Politics, Health Related Stories, and even Local Authorities. Some Social Media Platforms now have fact checkers to help stop the spread of fake news. If you read or hear about an item or story that that may sound not quite accurate or a little off the wall, **remember to check your source**, not all news on social media is factual.
7. **Administration- Dawn Lugrin & Gwen Lowe** are both **dual certified** in their profession. Holding a class “C” certificate in the Rural Municipal Administrators Association and a Standard certificate in the Urban Municipal Administrators Association. **Deanna Bender** is enrolled in the Local Government Admin Program at the University of Regina. **Dawn Lugrin** is pursuing her Rural Class “A” certification.

LEGAL BEAGLE

Legal Services 2021– Gerrard Rath Johnson LLP retained for a one-year contract. Due to numerous code of ethics allegations, Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (LA FOIP) requests, personnel and harassment concerns, and other confidential issues, the RM required legal assistance from SARM Lawyers on numerous occasions in 2020, and some outstanding issues for 2021. Having access to our own lawyer is quicker than being in the queue for a SARM Lawyer who may not be able to get back to us for several weeks. During the summer of 2020, the RM received **36 Code of Ethics allegations** against Council, some Pasqua Lake Hamlet Board members (OHPL) and RM staff. This was something entirely new to the RM, and by following our Code of Ethics Bylaw, consulting with SARM Lawyers, and Municipal Advisors, Council hired an Investigator to facilitate the process and investigate the allegations. The conclusion showed the vast **majority unfounded**. The cost to the RM was about **\$19,800.00**, including, Investigation, SARM lawyers, and council indemnity to prepare for, and attend interviews with the investigator. The cost for the Investigator was \$17,112.00. Through the late fall and early winter of 2020, the RM received an additional 35-plus Code of Ethics allegations against some Council, RM staff, & some OHPL Board members. Following the Code of Ethics Bylaw, Council investigated these in closed sessions. The results of the internal investigations were that the allegations were **unfounded**, or not applicable to the Bylaw. The **unfounded** allegations may have been frivolous, perhaps some were not made in good faith, or they did not fall under the authority of the Code of Ethics Bylaw. This caused unnecessary time spent by municipal council, RM staff, & board members that may have been spent on other matters. These unfounded allegations add on excess stress to all concerned, and are a direct cost to the taxpayers of the municipality.

The RM Council takes all allegations seriously; they must be investigated.

It is apparent Council upholds the standards and values expected of them.

LOCAL AUTHORITY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PROTECTION AND PRIVACY ACT REQUEST (LA FOIP)

This Act relates to local authorities including Rural Municipalities. Its purpose is to allow access to records under the control of the local authority, and established rules for protection of privacy. In 2020, the RM office received such a request made under the LA FOIP Act. This request took in excess of 90 hours of administrative time and is still with the Privacy Office undergoing review. A local authority, upon receipt of an application for information and payment of the \$20.00 fee, set by the Province, must start the investigation. Under LA FOIP, the RM has 30 calendar days to complete the request, and, in some circumstances, can request a 30-calendar day extension. Our Administrator is required to research and find documentation through paper files, emails, and other records or requests to individuals who might have the requested records, then obtain copies of all those records, decide if documentation is releasable under the Act, provide written contact to any third-party individuals or companies that are named in the documents and request their approval for release. Once that is completed, the records have to be compiled, detailing what information/record is released, redacted or withheld, and noted under what specific section of legislation that action occurred. Once that is completed, a letter along with releasable records and log are sent to the Requestor. That party then has the right to request that the Information Privacy Officer open a formal review if they are not satisfied with the response from the local authority. Should the Privacy Office open a formal review, the local authority is contacted, asked to provide a submission in 14 days, and the information is reviewed by the Privacy Office. That review could result in a mediation process and/or a formal public report.

Provincial Education Mill Rate Comparison

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>
Agriculture	1.43	Agriculture	1.36
Residential	4.12	Residential	4.46
Commercial	6.27	Commercial	6.75
Resource	9.68	Resource	9.79

On-line Banking & e-transfers

The RM offers ratepayers the option of paying your taxes through

On-line banking with the following banks:

- BMO
- CIBC
- CONEXUS
- CREDIT UNION – Teacher’s, Affinity
- SCOTIABANK

The RM office accepts e-transfers

office@rm187.com

We do not offer debit or credit card payment

North Qu'Appelle Group Pipeline Association

subscribers are able to pay directly through on-line banking & e-transfers! nqwater@sasktel.net

Other Subdivisions in The RM include: in: **Division 2** – Ross Park, Villa Maria, Sweet Grass Ridge, LaRocque Estates, Qu'Appelle Estates, Kinsley Place. **Division 3**- Bartlett Place, Qu'Appelle Place, Well Road, Erickson Heights, Qu'Appelle Park, R Place. **Division 4**- Evans Upcott, Lebret Addition, Jasmin on Echo. **Division 6**- Groome's Vista, Lakes End

Resort Village of Pasqua Lake Planning Committee

In 2020 the RM Council received a petition signed by ratepayers of the Organized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake (OHPL) to proceed with plans to step away from the RM and become a Resort Village. If you would like more information about this plan, kindly contact the Planning Committee or your OHPL Board.

bedellarry@gmail.com

Taylor & Lakeview Beach

Organized Hamlet of Taylor Beach in Division 2

Hamlet Board Members

Brian Holowatuk-Chair
Dwayne Heimlick
Laurie Low

The Board wishes to thank their volunteers for service to the community. Greatly Appreciated.

Pasqua Lake

Organized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake - Division 5

Hamlet Board Members

Larry Bedel-Chair
Tom Mullin
Vacant
Don Nasheim – Liaison & Division 5 Councillor

Resort Village of Pasqua Lake Planning Committee

Members:
Stan Powell, Frank Darke, Carla Taylor, Jim Holmes, Larry Bedel, Tom Mullin, Sherry Dukart

TICK SEASON ARRIVES

Tick species become active this time of the year, once the snow has melted, and warm weather abounds. I usually anticipate the little critters with the arrival of the crocus. Ticks become very active in May and June and usually taper off in July. The majority of ticks in our area are the American Dog Tick which do not carry Lyme disease; we are seeing more of the blacklegged tick (Deer Tick) in the valley which can carry Lyme disease, although not every deer tick carries it. There are many sites on the world wide web if anyone is looking for information on ticks in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Wishing you a safe and healthy summer.