**Resort Village of Cochin**

**Council Comments: 2021-1**

**February 16, 2021**

**Ice Damage**

Those property owners and tenants, who have sustained damage to their lake shore property from the ice movement and intend on undertaking repairs, should first be in contact with the Water Security Agency and the Village to ascertain whether permits are required.

Resort Village of Cochin: 306 386 2333 or cochinadmin@sasktel.net

Water Security Agency- John Salamon: 306 933 7653 or john.salamon@wsask.ca

**Jackfish Lake Water Level**

In response to questions posed by the Village on behalf of its residents, Kevin Jones, Chair of the *Jackfish Lake Watershed Authority,* responded as follows:

﻿Good day
Actually the lake level is only .07 of an inch higher than our 5 year average , every year from freeze up to spring thaw ground water raises the lake level by an average of 6”.

The gates were opened on April 24th under ice conditions.
On May 28th 2020 we had a report that one of the two gates were partially closed , which we can attribute to tampering.
That evening the gate was reopened to full capacity and all vegetation was cleared from the catwalk.
On August 5th there was a complaint that the water was not flowing. An inspection was done and the water was indeed flowing but at a slower rate than normal for the lakes elevation ,upon further investigation we found that there weren’t any obstructions downstream to the river.
SWA was notified and they did their own investigation and estimated that the flow rate was at 35-40% of normal due to aquatic vegetation and algae in the turtle river.
Further inquiry was made to SWA and our only option was to let the vegetation die naturally as the river is inhabited by fish so a permit to mechanically or chemically kill the weeds was not in our favour this late in the year.

The lake reached the licensed level on October 16th and the gates were closed on the 20th, assisted by steam because of ice obstruction.

**The lake level this past fall can Be attributed by many factors including the previous winters snow pack, inflow ,** precipitation and previously mentioned aquatic vegetation and algae growth downstream.
Let me know if you need any further explanation.
Kindest Regards
Kevin

**Lighthouse**

Many will have noticed that the beacon normally shining from the lighthouse has not been seen for about four or so months. Explanation: the bulb burned out. Solution: install a new bulb. Process: Amber ordered the bulb (along with a spare) as soon as the problem was identified. Hiccup: the supplier has taken three months to deliver the replacement bulb. Resolution: the bulb will be installed this week.

**Cochin Library**

The Cochin Library has been located in the village office building for more years than most of us are aware. Its collection has not been updated for many years – if at all. Prior to Covid – 19, volunteers had “operated’ the library: not the easiest of tasks and quite time consuming. With the arrival of Covid – 19, provincial restrictions and volunteer exhaustion, the Village had no choice but to suspend operations.

The usage history of the library has been that some/a few residents of the Village and environs were faithful users. As best as can be determined, some/a few persons used the facilities from time-to-time, but the overwhelming majority of these populations never took advantage of the service.

With the relaxation of restrictions on the use of libraries anticipated sometime, Council is now debating the future of the library: lifting the suspension, extending the suspension or closing the library. Conclusions so far reached are: (1) At least initially, Covid – 19 deep cleaning will have to be undertaken on a regular (daily?) basis and this is not something that the Village is prepared to impose on its employees because of the cost and increased work load; (2) In addition to initial deep cleaning on a frequent basis, the day may come when “normal and regular” cleaning may be sufficient (but don’t hold your breath). Council will not impose this duty on its employees; (3) Whenever the library is open, there will be a need to keep the facility neat and books properly re-shelved. Again, this is for the attention of volunteers; (4) It will not be possible to maintain a viable library facility without volunteers committed to take on all of the responsibilities relative thereto including those set out above. (5) Even before Covid – 19, our administrative and office staff were frequently being interrupted in their work duties by persons seeking help related to the library and the computer which was then provided in the library and Council cannot allow this to repeat itself. (6) Whatever decision Council arrives at, it will not reinstall a publicly accessible computer in any Village facilities.

The sum and substance of this is that if Council does not receive commitments by persons willing to volunteer and take on all of the duties of operating the library, the greatest likelihood is that the library will be closed, and its collection sold. Council expects to make a decision at its April 13, 2021 meeting. Interested ratepayers and seasonal tenants of the Village may submit volunteer offers, questions, comments and advice on or before April 5, 2021.

Amber will be checking with the Lakeland Regional Library to ascertain if and how permanent and seasonal residents may acquire library cards which will enable cardholders to access the regional and provincial collections. We will pass on that information once received.

**2021 Census**

2021 is the next year of Canada’s decennial census and all persons are encouraged to willingly participate in the process whether Cochin is the location of their permanent residence or it is located somewhere else.

**Happy Thought**

Most golf courses will open in 2½ months or so.