

## **Council Comments #32 - Resort Village of Cochin**

### **Village Foreman**

The person the Village hired in the summer of 2018 to be our village foreman quit - with one day's notice - early in the New Year. This left the Village in quite a bind and scrambling to cover snow clearing, garbage pickup and general equipment maintenance.

The Village advertised for a new foreman and, as good fortune would have it, one of the applicants is a mechanic with extensive experiences in that regard and experience in operating equipment the same as or similar to equipment owned by the village.

Our new Village foreman is James Fisher of Meota. He has been on the job for over a month and has already provided a good review of existing equipment as well as suggestions for greater operating efficiencies. He has saved the village money by determining that a previously diagnosed problem with the big lawn mower that was going to require replacement of the mower was corrected by a relatively minor fix. This means that the mower will be fine for another year at least. It is noteworthy that James made himself available during the period when the Village had no foreman on staff to fill in for such a person.

James is the husband of the Village's Assistant Administrator - Jennifer Fisher. Apart from the facts that it is contrary to human rights legislation to not hire someone because a family relationship exists between the applicant and an existing employee and it is contrary to common decency, members of council are certain that James is the person who best fills the Village's needs. The "chain of command" has him reporting to the Village Administrator, Amber Loeppky, who reports to council.

Welcome aboard James.

### **Waste Management**

The Village has partnered with the R.M. of Meota so as to allow the Village and its residents access to the R.M.'s transfer site on the east side of Hwy. #4 just north of Cochin. Both the Village and each of its residents are now able to deliver household waste, recyclables, leaves, grass clippings, trees, bushes, branches, tree and bush trimmings and other refuse to the transfer station. The transfer station's summer hours are Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10 am to 4 pm. The costs associated with delivery to the transfer station will be for the resident delivering material. The fee schedule and list of permissible items to be delivered may be found on the Village's web site (cochin.ca) and at the Village office.

Subject to that which follows, the only materials that will be picked up by the Village are household waste contained in clear, black or coloured plastic bags and not weighing more than 30 pounds. Village employees will not clean up household waste that has been scattered around by the wind, dogs, cats or birds if such waste has not been adequately secured in a garbage stand.

Twice a year (following the May and September long weekends) the Village will pick up bagged leaves and grass clippings provided that they are contained in clear plastic bags. A shout out to those residents who have already raked their leaves and grass clippings and placed them into clear plastic bags and placed them out for pickup.

Staffing and budget restrictions dictate that the Village will not, at any time, pick up trees, bushes, branches, bush and tree trimmings, furniture, lumber or building materials (new or used), furniture, appliances or other household contents. It is the responsibility of the resident to deliver such items to the transfer station. The one exception is that if any of these types of material are left outside a residence for more than a week, the Village will pick up such items but the resident will be charged \$300 for each such item.

The Village asks that plastic garbage bags containing household garbage be placed into a windproof and animal proof garbage stand with a lid so as to reduce the risk of the contents being scattered around. Ideally, plastic bags containing household garbage will be placed in garbage

cans/receptacles with those cans secured in a windproof and animal proof garbage stand with a lid. The Village's research shows that the most economical garbage stand on the market may be found at Home Hardware (\$160 plus tax).

Household garbage will be picked up every Monday unless it is a statutory holiday in which case household garbage will be picked up on the next following Tuesday. All household waste must be placed for Village pickup by 8 am.

The landfill owned by the Village (on the west side of Hwy. #4 north of Cochin) is now closed to the public. Residents may only use the R.M.'s. transfer site.

The Village staff will only be picking up household waste and the grass clippings and leaves from the front street. They will no longer be picking up from back alleys/lanes. This will ease the process of picking up garbage – both in the summer and the winter.

### **Cochin Days**

Cochin Days will be held on Friday, August 9, Saturday, August 10 and Sunday, August 11. The independent Cochin Days Committee is desperately looking for volunteers to assist. If you have an hour or two or three, please telephone the office (306-386-2333) and make your commitment to help.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Swimming lessons will be offered on the main beach in Cochin this summer. Please contact the Village office to learn about the details: when, ages, cost, class sizes.

### **Joint Meetings of Area Councils**

Various members of council (sometimes all) have attended planning meetings of area councils relating to issues affecting all areas around the lakes including fire services, policing, potable water supply, lake management and stewardship, oil development and joint waste management including lagoon matters.

### **Building and Development**

Residents are reminded that no building renovation, demolition or construction may proceed unless the resident has first obtained a development permit and, where necessary, a building permit. This requirement extends to yard work including tree and bush removal or addition, construction or removal of fences or retaining walls and soil addition, removal or redistribution.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM of the Resort Village of Cochin will take place on Sunday, June 23, 2019 commencing at 10:00 am in the Village Hall.

### **Fishing Shacks**

Our grader broke down and the cost to repair was too much to contemplate. To plow trails for fishing shacks would require hiring a contractor. This, combined with the potential liability issues, lead to a decision by council that the Village will no longer undertake to plow such trails.

For those who are not themselves when they are hungry, please have a Snickers before you stop by the Village Office.

May 6, 2019