

Council Comments #33 – Resort Village of Cochin

Summer has finally arrived (or has it?) and we have tons of news and views to share.

Cochin Days

We start with this topic because the Cochin Days Committee continues to need as many volunteers as possible. This stretches from “grunt work” putting up the tent at the tennis courts at 6 PM on Friday, August 9 and taking it down at 10 AM on Sunday, April 11 to providing supervision for the bouncy castle on Saturday afternoon and everything in between.

Please call the Village office and commit to 1 or 2 or 3 or more hours over the weekend of August 9, 10 and 11.

Such a Disappointment

There are those among us who think it is acceptable behavior to be rude and abusive to our maintenance staff and that they have the right to swear and shout at them, including frequent use of the “F bomb”. There is no rational excuse for this type of disgusting behavior. How someone feels it is okay to treat others in this manner – including teenage summer students – is beyond civilized comprehension. Employ the “mother test”. Would my mother be proud of me if she was able to see me now?

What’s Hot and What’s Not

Hot – Those residents who attempted to meet requirements related to garbage as council fumbled its way through creating a policy.

Not – Those who skulk around and dispose of their domestic trash or construction rubbish in the Village’s trash bins found around the park the beaches, boat launch and fish shack locations.

Hot – Those residents who have taken it upon themselves to cut the grass and generally maintain public areas near their property.

Not – Those who bring their garbage from their homes to the Village to be left for our maintenance staff to pick up.

Hot – Those who have signed up to receive copies of this and other Village announcements. Call Amber at the office if you have not yet done so.

Domestic Garbage Pickup

Effective August 1, 2019: All domestic garbage will need to be placed into a securely lidded garbage container which is scavenger and wind proof. This may be a garbage pail or barrel or a wooden or similar box or bin but secured in such a way that it cannot be upset. The garbage will have to be placed in a plastic bag that is tied and the contents do not weigh more than 30 pounds and is placed into the garbage container so that our staff are able to lift it from the container.

We regret to advise that, in an attempt to keep the village refuse free, bylaw infractions will be issued to residents who don’t meet these guidelines.

Our village staff will be returning to front street and back alley pickup.

Speed Bumps vs Stop Signs

Comments expressed at the AGM and an unofficial “straw poll” taken at that time make it clear that there is disagreement concerning the effectiveness of stop signs. Most felt they don’t work. The push to get rid of speed bumps expressed at previous AGMs has done an about face and now most indicated a wish to have them generously distributed throughout the village. Council has already begun to comply. If you think we have missed some place(s), just call our administrators and advise (306-386-2333) and if you do, please be respectful. Combining speed bumps with all stop signs is an available option.

Dogs

In order to comply with the provisions of our Dog Bylaw and avoid receiving a ticket, one must comply with these simple rules:

1. Dogs may not “run loose” at any time of the day or night and any time of the year.
2. Dogs must always be on a leash or tether or confined in a building or yard or dog run from which they cannot get out.
3. Dogs are not permitted on any beach – whether it is a public beach or the area in front of private dwellings.

Please be considerate of others and take such steps as are necessary to prevent your dog from barking or charging the fence around your yard when others walk by your residence. You may be satisfied that your “fluffy” would never hurt anyone but others may not be so sure and become frightened.

When you do take your dog for a walk, please take a supply of “poop bags”, use them as necessary and then deposit them into your own garbage – not that of the closest residence.

We continue to struggle with the issue of stray dogs. Please don’t feed stray dogs, - or cats for that matter.

Costs Associated With the Boat Launches

The costs associated with installing, removing, maintaining and repairing the boat launches and docks, as well as cleaning, pumping and maintaining the port-a-potties and the cost of daily cleaning of the fish filleting shack and disposal of fish guts are totally paid by the Village. In 2019 these costs will be in the neighborhood of \$8,000.

To this point, the Village has never charged a fee for launching a watercraft. These costs have always been paid from the village’s general revenue that means the ratepayers of Cochin pay them. Many who launch watercraft from either location do not have property in the Village and therefore do not pay taxes so launching is truly free for them.

Council is considering devising some method of charging to launch a watercraft and what fee to charge and who should pay. Please drop an email or snail mail to the Village Office and tell us what you think.

cochinadmin@sasktel.net

Resort Village of Cochin
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Cochin, Saskatchewan
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1. Should the Village charge to launch a watercraft?
2. What fee should be charged to non-residents?

3. What fee should be charged to residents?
4. Should an annual pass be available?
 - To residents?
 - To non-residents?
 - At what cost?
 - Should the annual pass be per watercraft or per household?

Cochin Community Players

Those who attended the AGM (for which we thank you) or attended the last CCP's stage production have had the opportunity to view the renovated and revamped Community Hall and been suitably impressed. By the time the entire project is completed, the total cost will have been covered by a donation of all exterior paint by the Battlefords Coop, a significant insurance payout resulting from storm damage last summer, about \$3000 from the Village and \$160,000 plus plus – yes - \$160,000 plus plus – contributed by CCP. In addition, members of CCP contributed innumerable hours of sweat equity.

Community Hall

Council continues to explore options to prevent (or at least impede) the sale of the hall by a future council.

Video Surveillance

Regrettably, unacceptable (and sometimes threatening) behavior by persons coming to the Village Office has moved Council to install video surveillance in the office building. As part of a "use of facilities" lease of the lighthouse with Access Communications, Access will be upgrading our video surveillance equipment located at the lighthouse at no cost to the Village. It will be live streaming to and recorded at the Village Office.

Crime in our Community

The scumbags who perpetrate crimes in our Village are becoming more brazen. Lock your doors when you are away from your cottage or home. If you are going to be spending the afternoon in the back yard, lock the front door. Keep an eye open for suspicious looking people and if you notice something suspicious call the RCMP and let your neighbours know.

Grass Clippings, Leaves, Branches and Trees

The services residents expect are cost driven. Council has identified the cost of weekly grass clippings and leaves pickup and determined that the village's budget can only handle two pickups each year: one after the long weekend in May and one after the labor day weekend. In order to insure that what is in the bags is just leaves and clippings they must be contained in clear plastic bags. All too often some residents co-mingle domestic garbage with the leaves and grass clippings. Between these two dates (May 24 and September 1) residents may take their grass clippings and leaves to the RM transfer site at no cost.

Please keep in mind that whoever delivers bags of leaves and grass clippings to the RM transfer site must empty the contents. Not a big deal when one is dealing with a relatively small number of bags but a very big deal when one is dealing with many hundreds of such bags.

Finally, in view of budget constraints, trees, tree trimmings, branches, bush trimmings, uprooted bushes and the like will not be picked up by the Village but may be delivered by residents to the RM Transfer Site.

The RM Transfer Site is located on the east side of Hwy #4 about 1 km north of the Village. The RM Transfer Site can take many different items such as extra household garbage, furniture etc., see our website, or the office for details.

Hunts Cove Hill – Retaining Wall Repair

Anyone who has driven down Hunt's Cove Crescent road on the south side of the creek will see that a corrugated metal retaining wall was installed many years ago. A great section has remained intact and seems to be serving its purpose.

However, a section has "let go" and is bulging out over the roadway.

To an engineering layperson it appears obvious that any further slumping of the soil in the hill could lead to total failure of that section of the wall. The negative ramifications and potential associated liability is so great that council has determined that the failing section must be fixed.

The village has contracted with Ken and Terry's to do remedial work on the failing portion. This work will be undertaken in September so as to cause the least possible disruption to our residents. It will include installation of screw piles to a depth far below the frost line.

Relationships

We have made a concerted and conscious effort to create a healthy and viable working relationship with the Village of Meota, the RM of Meota, the other two resort villages (Metinota and Aquadeo) and Moosomin and Sauteaux First Nations and are pleased to report that the village now has an admirable working relationship with these communities.

We have had joint planning and action meetings with them dealing with issues and projects we can address together such as roads, emergency services, grant applications, water and waste water, waste management, lake sustainability study, animal control, joint submissions to government and community safety and policing meetings.

Our most recent contact was a meeting of these partners to plan and schedule implementation of a Mutual Aid Agreement that provides for fire and emergency and other protective services around the lakes.

Ball Diamond

We have partnered with Dennis Pirot and the Cochin Days Committee to repair and upgrade the ball diamond and surrounding fence. The cost share formula is: Dennis Pirot – 54%; CDCs – 23%; Village – 23%. Work should be complete prior to Cochin Days.

Irrigation of the Main Beach Lawn

We have determined that the existing water sprinkler lines servicing the main beach lawn are intact and we are exploring the cost of drilling a sand point to provide water and what other costs might be incurred to bring that system back into service. Our hopeful expectation is that we will have the system operational before the end of summer.

Basketball Hoop

We anticipate having a basketball hoop installed on the concrete pad on the main beach by the time Cochin Days rolls around.

Tennis Courts

We have received a \$35,000 quote to resurface the tennis courts. Although we wish to do so, our budget does not allow us to accomplish this in 2019 but we plan to consider including it in our 2020 budget.

Our maintenance staff will be removing trees and trimming bush around the tennis court with the project to be completed before Cochin Days.

Main Beach Public Toilet

The Village staff have completed some “stop gap” remedial work on the toilet and we will put replacement on our “wish list” for the future – sooner rather than later.

Breakwater

This potentially \$500,000 repair job will require cash subsidies and grants from governments, neighboring municipalities and First Nations. We will report from time to time. Another shout out to resident, Rob Wiebe, for his comprehensive report on the state of the breakwater.

Bylaw Enforcement

“**But we never needed a permit before to {do such and such}**” is a common complaint expressed by residents when contacted by the Village about work being undertaken at their property. Well, yes you did. It was just that the

requirement was not enforced. Non-enforcement was rooted in a failure to find the funds to hire a bylaw enforcement officer.

Now that the Village's finances are firmly on a path to financial stability, Council has moved to redraft many of our bylaws and hire a part-time bylaw enforcement officer. If one plans to do building or repairing or landscaping at their property, take a few moments to call Amber at the Village office to see if a development and/or a building permit is required.

'But my neighbor didn't get a permit when he {did such and such}.' may be accurate but it is most likely that he didn't apply for one and/or the Village didn't have any enforcement procedure in place.

If some of your planned work is close to one of the lakes or the creek, be sure to contact Water Security Agency.

SGI - Recreational Vehicles

Go to <https://www.sgi.ca/recreational-vehicles> to read for yourself what is and is not permitted.

Golf Carts

"Each municipality is responsible for submitting their own golf cart bylaw [to SGI].

A golf cart bylaw isn't required if a municipality chooses not to allow golf carts on public roads.

Bylaws will only be approved [by SGI] if specific conditions are met:

Golf carts can be used for transport only to and from a golf course and drivers must access the golf course using the most direct route.

All drivers must carry a minimum of a valid Class 7 driver's licence.

Owners must carry a minimum of \$200,000 in 3rd-party liability insurance.

Golf carts are driven during the day only"

As there is no golf course in the Resort Village of Cochin, Council is not permitted to pass a golf cart bylaw. As there is no bylaw, there is no permission for anyone to drive a golf cart in the Village.

We urge everyone who is considering driving a golf cart in the village or allowing some other person to so drive one owned by him or her to first obtain a legal opinion concerning the risks associated with driving in the Village, allowing someone without a license (whether age 16 or not) to drive their golf cart in the village and/or allowing under age 16 persons to drive their golf cart in the village.

Apart from the provincial statute offence ramifications, there are the potential significant financial ramifications associated with a collision or mishap resulting in personal or property damages.

Is it really worth the risk?

All Terrain Vehicles

“You may only drive an ATV on a public road or street when the road or street is authorized for ATV use by a local bylaw or the Highway Traffic Board.”

The Village has no bylaw authorizing such and the HTB has not granted such authorization.

Therefore, no one is permitted to drive an ATV on a public road or street in the Village.

We repeat the cautions shown above relating to golf carts.

July 16, 2019

Cochin Days

August 9-10-11

Movie in the Park

Kids' Bike Parade with prizes

Boat Parade with

\$1,000 In Prizes

Slow Pitch, Volleyball and

Horseshoe Tournaments