

Hello Everyone!

Glorious summer has finally come and we find ourselves in an unusual circumstance. I miss the conversations with you all and the gatherings at Charlie Wall Park. I can't remember a time when we have not been able to hold our Annual Fun Day so enjoyed by all the members of our Community, but hopefully this will just be a blip and things will get back on track soon.


Meanwhile Council has been having its meetings both in-person and virtually. There was a lot of conversation about the fire bans, signs, zoning bylaw, policing and a community building at 59 and 11. We will be having discussion regarding our goals set out in our Strategic Plan – what have we accomplished and what are we still needing to do?

We have had conversations with the RCMP and Prairie ByLaw Enforcement (PBLE) regarding policing in our area and requested both agencies to ensure there is more visibility in the community to:

- ward off the rash of burglaries
- control the illegal use of ATVs in the area
- patrol on some nights and enforce our bylaws regarding late night gatherings on the beaches and in the community, especially where there is abnormal noise and illegal fires.

Our fire ban is off now and fires in approved pits with a screen on top is permitted, but fireworks and paper lanterns are not. If your organization would like to hold a fireworks display, they must first get permission from the RM (204-367-6170). Further to fire bans, Council has entered into an agreement with Natural Resources to have a Fire Risk Sign posted on the Highway leading into the beaches area... probably at 304 & 59. Our Public Works Department will keep it current.

Council has had several discussions regarding a municipal community building to be placed at Highway 59 and 11. As many of you know, this has long been a goal of mine from my first term on Council, and has also been a goal of our Mayor, Jack Brisco. We have contracted a company to do a needs and usage assessment study which they are in the process of accomplishing. We have a basic design for the building which can be added to in the future. I have initiated a dialog with cottage owners associations to solicit your input. This will be a building for meetings, for events, for emergencies and all the needs of the community winter and summer, much like the multi-purpose buildings we see in other municipalities. Our community is growing and we need to meet the needs that come with growth.

Speaking of designs, the RM of Alexander has a new logo  ('X' marks the spot!) and you will hopefully be seeing it on some of our signs going in and out of the municipality. The logo was designed to celebrate our 75th Anniversary but most of those plans have gone on hold thanks to the coronavirus pandemic. News of the resumption of some of these events can be found on our website: www.rmalexander.com

The COVID-19 bug has put the damper on many of our plans for this year. Not only have we had to cancel so many of our events, we have regretfully had to put our plans for the voluntary *abandonment* of single use plastics on hold. Stores in many places are requesting that you do NOT bring your own bags to take home groceries etc so those pesky plastic bags are piling up again (please re-use them). You can, however still use your own cutlery and water bottles for any take-out foods. Until we know where we are with this virus, I would ask that you try in any small way you can to re-use and recycle to help keep our landfills from filling up too fast. Thank you.

And if you have any comments or helpful suggestions about any of the above please don't hesitate to contact me: corrie@rmalexander.com or 431-260-0019 (and that is NOT long distance – 431 is a new Manitoba area code). You can also contact me at 204-756-6319 or jkcourrie@mts.net

It's always great to hear from you.. have a great summer!
Cheryl