

The following is the Councillor's Spring 2020 Ward 1 Newsletter...

Hello Everyone in Ward 1.. and welcome back 2020 to our seasonal residents!

It's going to be a different kind of summer for you as it has been a different kind of time for our permanent residents in the East Beaches. But, as in all things, we learn to adapt and grow and still have a great time. And remember – go to the RMAlexander FaceBook page and RMAlexander.com webpage for information about all the services and events in Alexander.

In that light some of the projects that we had all ready to do have been superseded by projects that require immediate attention, so you may see things done a little differently this year.

Due to COVID-19 we have had to make some changes. Our staff has been very busy often working short-handed trying to get things done to make your stay in our community healthy and safe. Our offices are now open to the public. Our Public Works department is getting to the always needed road maintenance and repairs and clearing and cleaning of ditches. We are holding a lot of our meetings virtually, but the bottom line is that we are still getting things done!

We are Manitoba tough and we will get through this!!

You have had some questions and I would like to answer as many of them as possible:

- 1) **Fire Ban:** It is Alexander Policy to impose a fire ban when the Province does but sometimes our neighbours impose bans and we don't, and that is because on the whole, our conditions are different from our neighbours. We have a very strict by-law with regards to fires and that seems to work well. You must only burn in an approved pit with a screen on top – not in barrels and not in the open. NEVER leave a fire

unattended. If you are concerned about a fire, please report it to the RCMP (204-367-8728) or Prairie Bylaw (204-809-3231) or our offices at 367-6170. If it is an emergency call 911. Disregard of fire safety rules can result in fines up to \$10,000.

Last year we had a tragic fire up in the Traverse Bay area, and we learned that the seeds from the poplar and willow trees can present a fire danger to our homes.. if we get those seeds again this year, it is advised that you water down your yards and any area where these seeds are piling up as it has been shown if they are wet, they won't catch fire.

We can prevent these fires if we act responsibly!

- 2) **Parks and Playgrounds:** We will not be closing our parks and playgrounds down completely, but are advising you use them at your own risk. It is enormously expensive to properly clean everything like play structures, picnic tables, benches etc. 2 or 3 times a day which would be necessary. Social distancing will have to be maintained for your own safety in these areas of course, and at the boat launches as we ask your patience in allowing one boat at a time. But I know you don't want to get sick and ruin your time at the lake, so you will want to take the necessary precautions.
- 3) **Beaches:** enjoy the beaches.. but again, at your own risk and practice social distancing. My personal feeling at this time is that I don't think it would be wise to be going in the water as we have always encouraged the buddy system in the water and social distancing might present a challenge.

Alexander did have plans for voluntarily removing all the zebra mussels from the beach but that may be hampered by 1) lack of volunteers and 2) social distancing and 3) cleaning of equipment, so the beach areas may still have some of those pesky critters on the beaches during this pandemic.

Many of our traditional events may have to be cancelled or considerably altered this summer but the Boards of various associations are working on alternatives. The Beaches have other events like the Dog Walks, Trail Hikes, Soccer Camps , Trail and ATV get-togethers and other activities in and out of

the water. Keep in touch with your various clubs and associations to get all the latest updates.

Council too has had to adapt to this new environment. It was my greatest desire to get started on our campaign to reduce the usage of single use plastics and to hopefully eradicate unnecessary use of them by the end of the year, but sadly this virus has created a need to not only use them, but to increase the use of them. However there are ways you can help:

- Try to cut down on the use of plastic bags provided by the stores.. take your own freshly cleaned bags and pack them yourself.
- Enjoy the take-aways being provided by our local restaurants, but use your own utensils.

If you're taking your food home, you won't need plastic cutlery. If you're taking them to picnic, bring your own utensils. Camping departments in stores, or camping section of On-line shopping have stainless steel personal use cutlery that you can take with you. I got mine on Amazon for \$5.

Our landfills are running out of space and Traverse Bay has maybe 7-10 years left. What will we do after that? The cost of setting up a new landfill is astronomical for a small community. It is my hope that you, like me, will want to make that landfill last as long as possible. So remember; your garbage should **only** go into the landfill if you **can't** recycle it, re-use it, compost it or burn it. And please don't dump aluminum cans and plastics that can be recycled.

As we enter this new cycle of life, we must be ever aware of our actions and the impact it has on our community. So, **be aware**, please **be kind** and please **enjoy your summer at the beach!**

Cheryhl Corrie

Councillor Ward 1



“We work best when we work Together”