

Resort Village of Sunset Cove

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Gerry Argue

GERRY ARGUE LOOKOUT



This lookout is dedicated to Gerald (Gerry) Argue as a reminder of the many contributions he made towards our community. He was instrumental in our resort becoming officially recognized as an organized hamlet (in 1968) and he served as the chairman of the *Organized Hamlet of Sunset Cove* from 1968 to 1983.

Gerry lobbied the provincial government for our community to become a resort village and was eventually successful in 1983 when we officially became known as the *Resort Village of Sunset Cove*. Gerry served as our mayor from 1983 to 2006, and again as a councillor from 2009 to 2016.

1932-2019

“THANK YOU GERRY”

In total, Gerry spent 45 years representing our community and his dedication and contributions, in making Sunset Cove the wonderful place it is, will never be matched or forgotten.



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On July 14th 2020 The Resort Village of Sunset Cove held the official unveiling of the *Gerry Argue Lookout*. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions only a limited number of family and guests could be invited. Special guests in attendance were Minister Lori Carr, Minister of Government Relations and Dr. Gordon Barnhart, President of Municipalities of Saskatchewan (Suma). Thank you to all who attended and assisted in this community project.



Did you know?

- Just sixty years ago, the land where Sunset Cove currently is, was only being used as a cow pasture. We've come a long way since then.
- It is illegal to trench across Mountain Drive or to cut any tree on village property without obtaining written approval from council
- ATV's and dirt bikes are not legal to use upon Mountain Drive and can be seized by the RCMP if you're caught.

A snapshot of our tax rate and financial position

Council works hard ensure to endure we maintain the financial stability of our wonderful resort. Our mill rate is still believed to be the lowest of any community along Last Mountain Lake, as is our overall tax rate, (which includes our base tax and utility levy). Our yearly operating budget for our resort village is normally approximately \$65,000.00 per year, although during 2020, due to some capital projects we undertook, as well as our municipal election expenses, we came in closer to \$75,000.00. Our bank balance is strong and we are continuing towards the building up our utility account, to ensure we have funds available down the road for any significant or unexpected utility expenses. (This is what your yearly \$100.00 utility fee is goes towards).



Rules, Rules and still more Rules

New 2020 Bylaws

During 2020, several residents approached council with concerns over the lack of bylaws our community had to regulate certain aspects such as noisy parties, speeding, large non-contained bonfires, etc. A study of our existing bylaws identified that these activities were not adequately addressed by our existing bylaws.

While council is always cognizant of having Sunset Cove excessively regulated by rules and restrictions, we did feel it was necessary to enact several new bylaws to address these issues and to provide for greater community safety for all residents. Three new bylaws were passed during 2020 and one is currently being drafted up now. The new bylaws are our:

- ◆ The Sewage Utility Bylaw
- ◆ The Noise Bylaw
- ◆ The Fire Ban/Fire Pit Bylaw

Highlights of our New Bylaws

Sewage Lagoon Bylaw

- Only approved septic haulers can be used by our residents. They must carry insurance and be provincially licensed
- RVSC will pay the lagoon tippage fees for our residents (up to a certain dollar amount)
- Restrictions are in place as to what can be deposited into your holding tank
- Design and set-back distances defined

Noise Bylaw

- On weekdays, no excessive noise between 10:00 pm and 07:00 am
- On weekends, no excessive noise between midnight and 08:00 am
- Special occasion permits can be issued by council for special events
- Barking dogs, construction noises, and power tools are now regulated noises

Fire-Ban/Fire-Pit Bylaw

- The RVSC can now impose a fire ban
- All outdoor fires must be contained within the confines of a firepit. (Open bonfires are NOT permitted)
- Firepits are defined under the bylaw
- All fires must be extinguished when wind speeds exceed 50 kph
- Flame height is restricted to 24 inches
- A means of extinguishing the fire must be readily available
- Fires cannot create excessive smoke as to interfere with neighbours
- The firepit must be located a minimum of three metres (10 feet) from any combustible material.
- Large fires are dangerous. Fines start at \$250.00 and progress up to \$1000.00

Garbage Bins

Please remember that our garbage bins at the top of the hill are NOT for oversized items, appliances, construction material, mattresses, etc. Each May and September, the RVSC will bring in two large walk-in bins for the disposal of these larger items, trees, lumber, etc. However, please do not fill these bins higher than the sidewalls, as Loraas will not transport any overfilled bins.

Draft Traffic Bylaw

One of the main responsibilities of any council is providing for the safety of its residents. During 2020, we had a four incidents reported to council where vehicles veered off Mountain Drive and struck an object. Excessive speed was the factor in a couple of these incidents. During 2020, we received numerous complaints of vehicles speeding on our roadway. Therefore, council is in the process of reducing our speed limit within the RVSC. We have many young children and elderly residents within our community who walk along Mountain Drive. We are unapologetic in our desire to keep them safe. We will also be establishing some "no parking" areas where sight lines are reduced or where children gather to play. The new draft bylaw will be posted upon our website shortly. Speeding violations will be a \$200.00 fine, parking violations will be a \$50.00 fine.

Just ten years ago ...





We are proud to show off our “new” recreational facility. The perimeter fencing was repaired and a new hot asphalt surface was applied last fall.

New tennis posts were installed in the fall and the lines will be painted this year. This area can be used for tennis, pickleball and for “shooting hoops”. This is a shared facility, so if others are waiting, please ensure you are considerate of this.

We wish to acknowledge that this project only became a reality because of a generous donation from Rob and Lois Vanderhooff. I know council echoes the sentiments of all our residents when we say a big “THANK YOU” to the Vanderhooffs.



The RVSC has partnered with the fire department from the Town of Strasbourg for our fire fighting requirements. Although they are further away than the Silton fire department, their response times are generally the same or faster and they provide a significantly higher level of fire and rescue abilities than what Silton can. When we dial 911, the Strasbourg

fire will attend. Strasbourg will send a minimum of three trucks and usually 10 -15 firefighters. They are STARS certified and are equipped with breathing apparatuses to enter burning buildings to affect a rescue if required. They are heavy-rescue trained and have hydraulic jacks and jaws-of-life to rescue trapped or pinned individuals.

Their minimum call out fee, even for a false alarm, is \$5,000.00 with an additional charge of \$1,500.00 for every hour after 3 hours. If they need additional resources, they will arrange this. You, as the home owner, will be billed for any agency’s attendance. Therefore it is highly recommended that you have a minimum of \$10,000.00 worth of fire callout insurance attached to your household insurance.

Upcoming Concerns

- There has been an application to the RM of McKillop for a large trailer park to be built between Sundale and Pelican Pointe. It is expected the population of this development to be approximately 1000 people. The RM has not decided upon whether or not to approve this development request yet. Both us and Pelican Pointe have raised several concerns over this proposed development.
- The RM has forwarded a road servicing agreement to all four resort villages within their boundaries with the expectation that we sign it. This is a costly agreement to which we had no input. The resort villages are united on this concern and have challenged the RM regarding the legalities of such an expectation.

Some Good News

- Three vacant properties within Sunset Cove were sold during 2020. One of these properties already has a home under construction with another one of the property owners planning to start his home construction this spring. The RVSC is pleased anytime our tax base is increased and we genuinely look forward to welcoming these new families into our resort. WELCOME!
- SAMA recently supplied our resort village with our new property assessment values. As we did in 2016, we strongly disagreed with their assessments, as many taxable assessments were increased by over 50%, with one increasing by 95.8%. We prepared a package for SAMA which challenged the methodology on how these values were derived. SAMA agreed with our concerns and for the most part, our residents will only see a very modest, if any, increase on their total assessed property values. We must identify that SAMA was very professional to work with during these discussions.

The RVSC will be applying another layer of gravel to the top of the boathouse berm early this summer, once all the lifts are in the water. Your yearly lease fee pays for such improvements.



North Fence line

The land immediately north of Sunset Cove is not our property. This is private property and the owner has respectfully requested that we do not deposit items, debris and garbage onto his property. Please respect his wishes. Thank you.

Odds and Ends:

RESORT VILLAGE OF SUNSET COVE

Mailing Address:

Administrator
Resort Village of
Sunset Cove
PO Box 68
Strasbourg,
Saskatchewan
S0G 4V0

E-mail:

rvsunsetcove@sasktel.net
www.rvsunsetcove.ca

Mayor: - Mr. Derrick Duzcek
D/Mayor: - Mr. Chris Coffey
Councillor: - Mr. Tom Fulcher

- The RM of McKillop has instituted a very restrictive bylaw to govern the use of ATV's and snowmobiles on all lands within their jurisdiction. Violators face a significant fine. FYI <https://rmofmckillop220.com/mrws/filedriver/bylaws/ATV-BYLAWE-293-2015.pdf>
- The RVSC spent \$2,500.00 on tree trimming during 2020.
- We would like to give special thanks once again to Mr Barry West who does such a great job of keeping our resort looking so beautiful each summer. Thanks Barry! ❤️
- Council offset some of our operational costs during 2020 by successfully applying for two provincial grants. We received approximately \$7000.00 from these two grants.
- Council was unhappy with the new dust suppressant we tried last year. However, it was worth trying as it was significantly less expensive than what we had been using.
- In Saskatchewan Beach there is a first aid response team that will be dispatched to any medical emergency in the area. Each year the RVSC makes a donation towards this team of volunteers. They are known as the **North Shore Medical First Responders Group**.
- For the foreseeable future, all RVSC council meeting will be held virtually. They are open to the public and presentations are always welcomed. Please contact us if the date of the next council meeting is not yet posted on our webpage. Thanks.

Please remember it is the law that all electrical devices, especially pumps, that are located in Last Mountain Lake must be protected by a Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) Device. We are looking at the best way to monitor this and may implement an inspection program to ensure that every home owner is in compliance with the electrical code. Please ensure you are. Thank you!

Boat Launch Closure: During the past few years there has been considerable damage done to our boat launch and its adjoining roadway during the spring melt period. This costs our resort village upwards of \$1000.00 each year to repair this damage. We will again be locking our boat launch during the spring melt period to protect the shoreline and our infrastructure. We have confirmed with the appropriate authority our lawful ability to do this. We expect this gate to be locked for approximately 2 weeks each spring. To repair this damage we were required to grade this entire area, resurface the roadway and boat launch with new gravel and rock, and repair our metal grating which got damaged from fishing shacks being dragged over it.

