



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

Results of By-Elections:

Since the legislated 2024 summer election of Council, the Resort Village has held two by-elections. These were announced to all residents at the time that nominations were called. These by-elections resulted in appointments by acclamation as only one resident let their name stand for election in both cases.

Acclaimed as Mayor – Shawna Argue

Acclaimed as Councillor – Mike Ganshorn

SAMA Re-evaluation

As you are aware, the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) conducted its four-year property revaluation in 2024. You may have noticed SAMA representatives in the Resort Village last summer, inspecting the exterior of properties. Changes to property taxes based on this evaluation will come into effect in 2025.

Council received a preliminary report on the revaluation of properties for the Resort Village and noticed many, particularly those in the second row, increased significantly. Council has questioned SAMA on these changes and has been told that many of these properties had not been *physically* inspected for revaluation for over twenty years.

The Resort Village will be sending out the assessment notices in the near future. If you require information on changes to your assessment value, or wish to appeal the assessment, please review the SAMA website for more information.

www.sama.sk.ca

Increase to Base Tax for 2025

At its December 8, 2024 meeting, Council passed a motion and Bylaw 105/2024, which increases the annual base tax paid by all residents from \$725 to \$800 per year. This tax is included in your annual tax notice/invoice. The purpose of the base tax is to assist in the recovery of Resort Village operating costs for services that are common to all residents, such as waste management, road maintenance, snow removal, village groundskeeping, etc.

2025 Budget

At its special meeting of Council on February 23, 2025, Council approved the 2025 operating budget. This budget shows an increase in expenses over the 2024 actual financials. This increase is a result of:

- Inflation – costs of maintaining the Resort Village are increasing;

- Salaries – Resort Village employees were given increases to bring them into ranges similar to other municipalities, and to reflect an increase in hours required of them;
- Purchase of Munisoft software – municipality management software that will improve efficiencies in managing finances, generating tax notices, annual audit, and other activities; and
- Planning for some infrastructure improvements (see 2025 Work Plan below).

2025 Work Plan

In addition to the usual Resort Village maintenance, you will see some larger projects being completed:

- Road Repairs – once FlexNetworks has completed their installation construction work, we will be grading and gravelling the road. This work is required to be completed prior to the dust suppression application and installation of the speed bumps. Thus, these projects may be conducted later than normal;
- Boat Launch Repair – additional river rock base will be applied to the boat launch. Council is currently obtaining the necessary permits to do this work along the shoreline from the Water Security Agency;
- Drainage Study – We are considering conducting a drainage study of the Resort Village. The purpose of this study would be to develop a plan to redirect/control runoff throughout the Resort Village to reduce property damage and reduce the risk of land sliding; and
- Tree Trimming – In the fall of 2024, Council asked SaskPower to assess

where trees growing around the power lines in the Resort Village needed trimming. Trimming is necessary to ensure reliability of service and for safety purposes. Earlier this year, a contractor representing SaskPower conducted this assessment throughout the community. While most of the trimming required is around the primary line on the road allowance, some trimming of trees interacting with the secondary (service) lines into properties may also be required. Residents will be contacted to discuss the needs on their property, where appropriate. Some residents have already been contacted. The contractor that conducted the assessment is aware of the Resort Village's desire to maintain our tree canopy as much as possible. Council has been advised that the work is likely to take place in the fall of 2025.

Official Community Plan

Now that there is a full Council again, work on the Official Community Plan (OCP) will continue. Council plans on conducting a final review of the plan with the consultant to ensure that it is complete, meets legislated requirements, and is appropriate for our community. Before the OCP can be adopted, it must be approved by the residents. A Public Meeting will be held to accomplish this once Council is satisfied with the plan. We hope this will be later in 2025 or early 2026.

Four-Year Work Plan

In addition to the physical work completed throughout the community, Council is working on establishing a rolling, four-year work plan. Part of the basis of this plan will

be the OCP. Once approved, the work plan will be posted on the website.

Employment Opportunity - Village Groundskeeper

After 30 years, Barry West has decided it is time to retire as Sunset Cove's seasonal groundskeeper. On behalf of the residents, Council thanks Barry for his years of service and dedication. Partially because of this, Sunset Cove remains one of the best maintained communities on Last Mountain Lake.

Barry's retirement provides an employment opportunity as the Resort Village's seasonal groundskeeper. More information can be found on the village's website.

(<https://rvsunsetcove.ca/wp/>)

Large Waste Bins

Large waste bins will be provided by the Resort Village for the use by residents for spring clean-up beginning May 7, 2025. These will be located at the municipal reserve area in the centre of the Resort Village. They will be there for a period of two weeks, or until full, whichever is sooner.

Residents are reminded that these bins are to be used for larger household items, yard waste, etc. Tree branches are to be cut in 3-foot lengths. Please compact wastes deposited to ensure that all residents have an opportunity to make use of the bins.

General Waste Management

Council asks residents to further assist with the management of wastes in our community.

The following are options for "waste" disposal:

- Blue Bin Recycling – located on the east side of the road at the bottom of the hill and to be used for the same materials that are acceptable by the larger urban curbside recycling programs – please flatten all cardboard and larger plastic items, where possible. Recycling pickup will be increased to twice a month in early May;
- Household Wastes – to be deposited in the garbage bins on the east side of the road at the top of the hill as you enter the Resort Village. Please refer to the sign posted at the area for acceptable wastes; and
- Throughout the season, if you need to dispose of larger items, construction materials, or large volumes of yard wastes, your options are:
 - Haul your wastes to the RM of McKillop Landfill located near Rowan's Ravine. Please refer to the RM's website for hours of operation and location www.rmofmckillop.com or
 - Arrange to have a bin temporarily placed at your property, at the owner's expense.

In the past, items such as mattresses, large volumes of branches, appliances, and construction wastes have been put in the garbage bins. Besides filling the bins, these are examples of items that can cause difficulties in emptying the bins, resulting in

higher disposal costs for the Resort Village. These types of wastes should be hauled to the RM landfill or disposed of in bins rented by the property owner.

Council appreciates the efforts of residents in helping to maintain a tidy community.

Fire Safety

Residents are reminded to do their part to help protect our community from risk of fire. You can do your part by:

- Trimming/removing dead/dry vegetation/trees from your property.
- Enjoying fires in approved containment (refer to Bylaw 100 – 2021 – Fire – Ban – Safety found on the Resort Village of Sunset Cove website); and
- Complying with Fire Bans, when in effect. Notice of Fire Bans is provided by email, posting on the Home Page of the Resort Village of Sunset Cove website, and posting of signs within the Village. The signs are located at the bottom of the hill as you enter the Village and on the public reserve area in the centre of the Village.



Council is purchasing a third, larger sign to be posted on the planter at the top of the hill as you enter the Village. Again, for rules regarding Fire Bans, please refer to Bylaw 100 – 2021 – Fire Ban Safety found on the Resort Village of Sunset Cove website.

Invasive Weeds

As spring approaches and all of our favourite plants start to peak out of their winter beds, please continue to be diligent in the removal of noxious weeds on your properties, particularly “Creeping Bellflower”.



Creeping bellflower's pleasing look is often mistaken for a desirable garden plant but is actually quite invasive and can aggressively invade lawns and gardens.

For more information on Creeping Bellflower and other invasive weed and aquatic species, please refer to the information provided by the Government of

Saskatchewan

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/invasive-species>

Mulch Available

Through the Resort Village's tree trimming activities, a pile of mulch has been deposited at the bottom of the public beach accessway, near the maintenance shed. Please help yourself to this mulch for your landscaping needs.



Update on Internet Fibre Installation

FlexNetworks will soon be in our community to complete the connection to the properties that have signed up for service or opted in for a fibre line installation with no service. To get on the installation list, please reach out to FlexNetworks via email at home@flexnetworks.ca or text/call them at (306) 979-6733 to register your address. The FlexNetworks team is happy to discuss your options and provide detailed information about their services and installation process.

Currently, the estimated installation start date is approximately June 1, 2025, weather dependent.

Contact Us

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Councillor (Deputy Mayor) – Rob Court
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Councillor – Mike Ganshorn
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