

# A word from the Mayor

January 2014



## **CN Crossing 881**

If you arrive at the RR crossing on highway 881 and the train stops in such a way that the “arms” stay down and the train is not moving, start timing the delay. After five minutes call CN at 1-800-465-9239. If you have the number of the engine it is even more effective. Transport Canada, which regulates train traffic, will receive a copy of your phone call and remind CN of the legislation that governs the blocking of highways. Please feel free to copy this and give it to anyone who might use the crossing at Irma. The crossing number is CN mile 157.99 Wainwright Line.

## **Chlorination of Irma’s Water Supply**

You may have heard that there is to be an increase in the amount of chlorine added to Irma’s water supply. We have been told by Alberta Environment that the issue has to do with the fact that there is a significant level of ammonia in our water supply. No one seems to know where this ammonia comes from. The problem with ammonia is that it acts as a carrier for the CT virus. The added chlorine will destroy any CT virus that may be present. This is a preventative measure that has been mandated by Alberta Environment. Historically this issue arises from the Walker-ton and North Battleford water contamination from a few years back. We were directed to begin the added chlorine by the beginning of 2014. We are not able to meet that deadline because the chlorine pump that we presently use is not large enough to handle the increased amount of chlorine that is required. As soon as the new equipment arrives and is installed we will be in compliance with Alberta Health standards. In the meantime, the water in the Village system is as safe to drink as it has ever been. This is just removing one more possible risk. In order for Irma’s water system to remain self-supporting there will be an increase in the water bill. This increase will cover the cost of the increased amount of chlorine required. The alternative is to subsidize the water system with tax dollars.

## **Medical Services**

Dr. Van Rooyen from the clinic in Viking will have regular office hours in Irma. For now, she will be here one day each month but if the community responds to her service and her patient visits warrant it, she will come more often. The public demand on the Nurse Practitioner is such that she was not able to keep up and as a result has stopped coming to Irma. The service of the nurse practitioner has been replaced by Dr. Van Rooyen. At the moment the plan is to have another doctor begin at the Viking clinic in late spring of 2014.

## **Snow Removal Policy**

Effective immediately, snow removal in the Village of Irma will be as follows:

1. Approaches off Highway 14
2. Access to the Fire Hall
3. Irma School
4. Residential and recreational areas
5. The grader and the backhoe will be used where practical
6. Snow will only be removed outside regular hours when required and determined by the CAO and/or public works staff.

All of this will depend on the availability of equipment, staff, and the amount of snow, and other more pressing tasks, ie. water break, water testing. Please do what you can to make snow removal as efficient as possible. I know of no other village or town in Alberta that has a better snow removal system than Irma. With the co-operation of all we can make this work. Thank you.

## **New Policies**

We now have a Privacy Policy in place along with a Whistleblower Policy. A Sewer Maintenance policy will soon be in place.

## **Snowmobiles and ATV's**

Please be aware of and respect private property. I don't think there will be many complaints if, when you go riding on your RV's, you take the shortest route out of the village. We all know what it means to have a "STREET LEGAL" vehicle. If you are unclear as to what street legal means, a call to the RCMP will provide you with a definitive response.

## **Alberta Transportation**

Your village council met with Alberta Transportation and we can look forward to some changes in the number of approaches off Highway 14 that enter the village. Given the increased traffic on highway 14, there is a need to minimize the risk of traffic accidents. When we know more we will pass on the information.

## **And Finally....**

As your Mayor, I intend to pursue a plan to manipulate the weather in such a way that snow and ice will only accumulate in appropriate places. This would go a long way to keeping our streets clear and dry and our sidewalks free of any ice. If you have any ideas as to how this might be accomplished, please pass your insight onto the Mayor.

Thank you.