

Town of Fort Smith News

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Volume 18

March 2011

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNICATION

Town Council has made a commitment to communicating with the citizens of Fort Smith and we wish this to be two-way communication. If you have concerns or suggestions, please contact Town Hall at 872-8400 or send us an email at townoffortsmith@fortsmith.ca. Check out our website at www.fortsmith.ca for additional town information.

Upcoming Meeting of Council

- ★ Tues, Mar 15 Town Council Meeting
- ★ Wed, Apr 13 Committee of the Whole
- ★ Tues, Feb 19 Town Council Meeting

All meetings are held in Town Council Chambers at 7:00 pm

Upcoming Standing Committee Meetings

Wednesday, March 16

- ★ Human Resources 9:00 am
- ★ Municipal Services 10:30 am
- ★ Community Services 12:00 noon

Thursday, March 24

- ★ Finance and Audit 8:45 am
- ★ Corporate Services 12:00 noon

All meetings are open to the public

MILL RATE BYLAW

The Mill Rate Bylaw for 2011 will go for third & final reading on March 15. The proposed rates are as follows:

Residential (Developed & Non-Developed)	24.19
Commercial (Developed & Non-Developed)	24.16
Industrial (Developed & Non-Developed)	23.54
Institutional (Developed & Non-Developed)	24.10
Recreational	24.71
Telecommunications	24.09
Country Residential	
(Developed & Non-Developed)	23.99
Country Residential Mixed Use	23.99

Tax notices will be sent out in the next month.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Town continues to update its emergency plan. We will be holding a tabletop exercise with the other agencies in the community to practice the plan on April 28. This exercise allows all agencies to go through their plans to ensure no items have been missed and to ensure coordination between the various agencies. The Department of Municipal Affairs has designed the tabletop exercise.

We encourage all citizens to ensure they have the necessary requirements for their family for 72 hours in case of an emergency. For more information, go to www.getprepared.ca



While there is no imminent danger at this time, we will be more providing information in next month's newsletter on this plan as well as info should an evacuation be required or should communities be evacuated to Fort Smith.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (SAO)

The Mayor and Council would like to welcome Brenda Black as our new Senior Administrative Officer. Brenda hails from Ontario and has been involved in municipal administration for more than 30 years thus bringing a wealth of experience to this position. She holds a Masters in Municipal Administration - York University. The SAO's position is responsible for the overall operation of the municipality and reports directly to Mayor and Council.



She is very impressed with the warmth of the citizens and the wide variety of activities and amenities Fort Smith has to offer. Brenda enjoys outdoor activities such as snowshoeing and snowmobiling as well as reading and knitting.

COUNCIL HONORARIUM

Town Council is in the process of reviewing the honoraria that is paid to Town Councillors. The last time this review was completed was in April 2005. Research is being carried out to determine what other similar jurisdictions are paying Town Councillors.

Council is establishing an ad hoc committee of citizens to assist with this review process. If you are interested in sitting on this committee, please send an expression of interest by mail to the SAO, Brenda Black, at Box 147, or an email to bblack@fortsmith.ca

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

Volunteers are very important to the quality of life we enjoy in Fort Smith. The Town has initiated the Citizen of the Week program to recognize these great volunteers. If you know of an individual or group who you feel should be recognized, please write to the Town or send an email to townoffortsmith@fortsmith.ca

February 13 - 19	Anita Dube
February 20 - 26	Wes Steed
Feb 27 - Mar 5	Arliss Arbeau
March 6 - 12	Wayne and Susan Starling

Wish to Help with Community Events

The Town is creating organizing committees for:

- Canada Day
- Mackenzie Youth Summer Games
- Summer Arts Festival

If you are interested in helping out, contact the Director of Community Services, Tommy Phillips, at 872-4732

WOOD BUFFALO FROLICS

March 10 - 13

Frolics will be starting on Thursday. Check the website and the SRJ for schedule.

Old favourites include: Wood Choppers Ball, Kids events on Friday, Cabana Sucre, Men's Hockey tournament, Princess Pageant, Kids Talent Show, sliding party, pancake breakfasts, Chili Cook-off

Some of the new items include:

- The launch of the new book about the history of Fort Smith "Wooden Boats and Iron Men"
- Opening activities at the new track including snowshoeing
- Meet the Muffaloose - family fun activities
- Muffaloose Madness - includes northern events and Dene games for kids and adults

Also check out the Canadian Student Federation Debates at PWK on Saturday from 10:15 am to 12:30 pm

The Muffaloose Militia will be patrolling so make sure you have your Frolics Pin. These can be purchased at various businesses and at the Rec Centre for \$1.00

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Town Council is looking at all of its bylaws including the Dog Bylaw. No amendments have been put forth at this time.

Community consultation will be requested prior to any changes being made to the Dog Bylaw.

TAX AUCTION

The Town held a tax auction on March 1. There were seven properties with outstanding property taxes over three years as of December 31, 2009. Two properties were sold at auction. The auction was a live auction held in accordance with GNWT legislation.

Another auction will be held in August for the remaining properties plus any properties with outstanding taxes of over three years as of December 31, 2010.