

# Mayor for a Day Essay

By Evan Bellingham



The local government is responsible for looking after the needs of the people and the community. A local government helps look after some of the people's needs. They can look after things like parks, sidewalks, recycling depots, roads, street signs, water systems, sewer systems, garbage collection, fire department, and ambulance services. The Village of Bawlf provides services like a volunteer fire department, water and sewer system, parks and camping, curling rink, ice rink, library, community hall, and garbage collection. Other services available in Bawlf are a post office, school, senior centre, recreation association.

Local governments are made up of people who are hired by the council and people of the community who are elected by the tax payers. In the Village of Bawlf council consists of Mayor Jerry Iwanus, Deputy Mayor Darrell Szott, Councillors Jody Yuha, Reta Porter and Gord Blatz. They meet every third Wednesday at the Community Hall.

The citizens discuss their needs and issues with council. Council discusses these issues and ways to meet the needs of the community. The discussions can result in bylaws being passed and making sure the bylaws are followed. Taxes are collected to pay for services and project that the town is responsible for.

The mayor makes these decisions by discussing it with the councillors. First the issue is presented, then a motion is made, someone seconds the motion. There is discussion again about the motion and then there is a vote taken. The majority of the votes in favour consider the motion as passed.

Bawlf has many bylaws, some pertaining to Land Use, Master Rates, Mil Rate, Licensing and Control of Dogs, Nuisance/Unsightly and Untidy Premises and Watering Restrictions. I think the Watering Restrictions Bylaw is good because people should not be watering their lawns during the heat of the day when the water just evaporates. This bylaw also helps to maintain the water supply for the village at a good level. The one thing I think should be changed in this bylaw is the permitted hours of watering. I feel the times should be from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. and 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. so that water is not wasted and people don't forget to shut their water hoses off.

Local government looks after local problems and issues. Without local government it would be harder to find someone to discuss your problems and find a solution to these concerns.

Becoming more involved in the community, attending council meetings and volunteering for boards and committees benefits everyone in the community. I would like to be Mayor for a Day because I could attend a Council Meeting and learn how the Village of Bawlf operates, the responsibilities of Council and how they arrive at their decisions.