

Your



Village Voice

The Village of Bawlf Newsletter
Volume 5, Issue #8 (August, 2008)

Mayor's message



The following is Mayor Iwanus's speech at the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Bawlf UFA, held at the UFA site on July 23, 2008

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Ladies and gentlemen, I am thrilled to have been asked to say a few words in honour of Ed and Elaine's 40th anniversary and Greg Yuha's 15th anniversary as agents of the Bawlf UFA today. You know, my family and I spend so much money here in any given year, I thought that, when head office called me, I thought it was to offer us a partnership in the business! Instead, it was to ask me to speak...

However, the reality is that, if you live in Bawlf or any other place not named Calgary or Edmonton, you have to drive to get places, and I don't begrudge the Hecks or the Yuhas a single penny of what we have to spend at the UFA on our transportation needs. The money we spend here goes to support a treasured local business run by two highly-respected Bawlf families, and the truth with local businesses is that we either use 'em or lose 'em. Local businesses are critical components in our rural communities: they provide us with choice, they provide us with convenience and, with the UFA in particular, they provide us with a place to gather and catch up with our neighbours. That makes the UFA a real integral part of many of our lives around here.

But there's more than that in terms of the UFA's role in the community. When's the last time any of you attended a community function or fundraiser in or around Bawlf, where you haven't seen donations of money, items, or time from the Hecks and the Yuhas? This is, of course, largely true for all our businesses in Bawlf, but we're here today to celebrate the fact that the Hecks and the Yuhas have not only been doing business in Bawlf for the past 40 years, but have been giving back and making this community a better place for that whole time as well.

Businesses like the UFA and people like the Hecks and Yuhas are the reason I ever left the city and made rural Alberta my home in the first place and, when we moved here, it didn't take long for us to find out how right we were. When my former wife, Laura, and I moved here in 1995, we took possession of our house several weeks before we moved in so that we could do some cleaning and preparation (and, if you know which house it was and remember what it looked like in the mid-1990s, you'll know that it needed plenty of cleaning and preparation!). Anyway, I was still in Edmonton, but Laura and her friend, Heather, were doing some of that work. The first day, when they turned the water on, they discovered that one of the pipes was broken, which caused a small flood in the basement. They didn't happen to have a mop or a squeegee yet, so Heather decided that the UFA might be her best bet to borrow some items of that sort. Sure enough, Greg was there that day, and cheerfully lent her exactly what was needed. Heather came back to the house, telling Laura how kind *and cute* (!) the fellow at the UFA was...

Since I arrived here 13 years ago, which is less than one-third of the time these folks have been in business, much has changed in Bawlf: the Village is not the same as it was in 1995. There is all sorts of new development, a new hall, many new people, and many old friends who are no longer with us. In many ways, it's a new era. Yet, through all those changes, we've been able to count on the Hecks and the Yuhas to be there when we needed them, not only as businesspeople, but as fellow community members, as neighbours, and as friends. If anyone doubts how much they mean to this community, think back to a few years ago, when we almost lost the UFA. The

number of people who came out to voice their displeasure and show their support for the Hecks and the Yuhas left no doubt about the role that this business and these people play in our lives.

Ed and Elaine, Greg and Jody, congratulations from the Village of Bawlf and all Village residents. You are among the finest of the many reasons why we who live here are proud to call this community our home.

If you want more information about the Bawlf Community Hall or the Bawlf Lions, call Lions president, Bryan Berg, at 780-373-2565 or e-mail him at bnberg@xplornet.com. For hall rental inquiries, call the Village Office at 780-373-3797 or visit the Village website at http://www.bawlf.com/community_hall.

Reminder:

1. That the residents of the Village of Bawlf are restricted to watering their lawns between the hours of 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 a.m.
2. That any resident in violation of Section 1 will:
 - a. receive a warning on the first offence;
 - b. be fined \$25.00 on the second offence;
 - c. be fined \$100.00 on the third offence; and have their water turned off and be fined \$100.00 for the fourth and all subsequent offences.

If you want more information about the Bawlf Branch #232 of the Royal Canadian Legion, call Branch President, John DeMerchant at 780-373-3445 (jrdemerchant@syban.net) or Michele Iwanus at 780-373-2263 (shelmcd@hotmail.com).

By-laws that have been given first reading: No by-laws were given first reading at the July 15th Council meeting. Note that By-law 562/08, a by-law to rescind and replace the Traffic Bylaw (and amendments) and the Non-Highway Vehicle Bylaw is slated for second reading at the August 19th Council meeting (available for public review in early August).

The Village invites comments on proposed by-laws after first reading. Copies of the by-laws are available on the Village's website at www.bawlf.com or at the Village Office.

August 2008 Calendar

August 7th and 14th: Summer in the Park
10 AM to 2 PM. Arts & crafts, games, leadership activities, at the east end park. For information, call 780-672-0141.

August 18th: Regular meeting of Bawlf Village Council at the new Community Hall, 7 PM.

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Do you have an event or announcement that you would like to have included in a future newsletter? Please contact the Village Office at the number or e-mail address below.

Village of Bawlf Council Members

Mayor Jerry Iwanus
(780-373-2263 or jiwanus@bawlf.com)

Deputy Mayor Darrell Szott
(780-373-2517 or dszott@bawlf.com)

Councillor Jody Yuha
(780-373-3806 or jyuha@bawlf.com)

Councillor Reta Porter
(780-373-2448 or rporter@bawlf.com)

Councillor Gord Blatz
(780-373-3733 or gblatz@bawlf.com)

Council meetings are normally held the third Tuesday of every month at the Community Hall at 7 PM.

Website: www.bawlf.com **e-mail:** vilbawlf@syban.net **ph:** 373-3797 **fax:** 373-3798