



Your *Village* Voice

The Village of Bawlf Newsletter
Volume 6, Issue #11 (November, 2009)

Next Council meeting:

**Wednesday, November 25th at
the Village Office, 7 PM (note
date change for this month
only)**

**The public is welcome to attend
all Council meetings. If you
would like to address Council,
please contact the Village
Office by noon on
November 19th to arrange a
time.**

Mayor's message



On behalf of Council and Administration, I want to thank everyone who took the time to submit **completed surveys** to us in October. We appreciate all the kind words and encouragement, but also take the constructive criticism we received to heart. There are a couple of things we now realise need to be clarified and I hope to do that here.

One is regarding the **hours and role of the Village Manager**. When Ms. Horbasenko was originally hired as the new Village Manager in March, 2008 on a 3-day/week basis, it was Council's intention that this would enable the Village Office to be open five days a week. However, we soon discovered that, in order for her to get the work of a Village Manager done on that extra day, the Village needed to have someone else in the front to receive visitors. Council decided that this was simply too costly and decided that **the office would be open only four days (a mail slot is still forthcoming)**. Since many other municipal offices in the region are not open all five days of the week, we thought that this would serve as a reasonable compromise.

Council also needs ratepayers to know that the tiny old office in which four, and even sometimes five, people had to share workspace was simply insufficient to conduct Village affairs, particularly the Village Manager's job. Simply put: **if we want to attract and retain professionals of Ms. Horbasenko's calibre to lead and guide our Village further into the 21st century, we must provide them with a workspace that allows them to do that**. Personally, I have been to every single municipal office within 100 km of Bawlf and I can tell you that ours is now finally as functional as it needs to be but still very modest and respectful of the ratepayers who foot the bill.

We've also not forgotten that there are many among us who would like to see **more progress on paved roads** in particular, but I'm not sure we all realise the amount of financial commitment that this would involve (in fact, some survey respondents suggested that roads should be paved but that we shouldn't under any circumstances *consider* raising taxes to accomplish any aspect of that!). In terms of infrastructure spending this year, Village Council has had to allocate funds toward **repair of the lagoon, the sewer lift station, and some collapsed sewer pipe**, with the first two items being simply non-optional. Overall, when this Council got elected in October, 2007, we inherited a system that was in dire need of being transformed and we set out to do just that. Thus, our priorities have been about:

- getting the **right people**
- implementing the **right decision-making and operational systems**, and
- providing our people with the **right facilities** in which to work

We are confident that we're doing exactly that and that this will lay the groundwork for the Village to be able to focus on some of the other things that were brought to our attention in the surveys. **Those of you who would like to expand on your thoughts are invited to make an appointment to appear before Council**. As always, we welcome your input and appreciate everyone's concern about continually making our Village a better place to live.

The Grey Cup is coming to Bawlf! The recent Municipal Sustainability meetings in Bawlf have already begun to bear fruit, primarily in the formation of a committee that has been christened the **Bawlf Community Builders**. Among the projects that the BCB Committee is already undertaking is a **Community Grey Cup Party and Games Day** to be held on **Sunday, November 29th** at the Bawlf Community Centre. Doors open at 2 PM. Bring a snack to share; cash bar hosted by the Bawlf Fire Department. *Watch your mailbox and the Village website for further details.* If you're interested in serving on the BCB Committee, contact Michele Iwanus at 780-373-2263.

Bawlf School Recycling Drive

(paid recyclables only -- now including plastic milk jugs!)

Date of this month's pick-up: Wednesday, November 25th

Items to be at the curb in front of your house by 11:45 AM. Area **rural residents** who wish to participate can bring their items to the door of the bus storage shed north of the school.

Questions? Call Bawlf School at 780-373-3784

Next municipal election is **October 18, 2010, with nomination papers needing to be filed by mid-September, 2010.** If you have a vision for the Village and want input in seeing that vision implemented, consider throwing your hat into the race. A multi-candidate election among people of differing views is a healthy state of affairs in any municipality. For further information, call the Village Office at 780-373-3797.

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Notes from the Bawlf & District Lions Club and the Bawlf & District Recreation Association

- Bawlf and District Lions Club will be holding their **annual Beef Supper on Sunday November 22** at the Community Centre, 4-7 PM. Price is \$12 for adults, \$7 for ages 6-12, with 5 and under free. Tickets at the door. All proceeds go to the Community Centre Mortgage.
- The Bawlf Recreation Association **thanks Ankerton Gas Co-op for donating the trenching to install underground power for the pitching machine at the village's ball diamonds.** Thanks also to the Bawlf Lions and other volunteers who installed new chain link fence on the main diamond backstop. The second diamond will have new fencing installed next year.
- At the recent Bawlf Junior/Senior High Academic Awards, the **Bawlf and District Lions Club \$500 Scholarship was awarded to Kerri Herder.** This scholarship is based upon scholastic effort and community involvement. **Congratulations Kerri!**
- The Bawlf & District Recreation Association Dale Bratrud Memorial \$500 Scholarship was awarded to Kelly Williams. **Congratulations Kelly!**

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A great big thank you to Brandon Szott and Samuel Johnson for their work over the past two years in changing the message on the Village entrance sign. Both these boys worked very hard to help the Village of Bawlf keep its residents "in the know". Well done!

One of the other very positive aspects of the Village's October survey (as well as of the recent Municipal Sustainability meetings) was the series of suggestions regarding **beautification and recreational/cultural opportunities** in Bawlf. Some of these have started to be discussed by the **Bawlf Community Builders Committee** noted above and residents will be kept posted as this evolves. One of the questions on the survey asked: "What type of general interest classes would you like to see in Bawlf?" and the most popular answer was, far and away, classes to do with **computers**. Thanks to an innovative pilot project supervised by Mr. Watson at Bawlf School, help is here!

Need computer help?? Good news!!!

Adult students wanted: *If you would like to upgrade your computer skills or even learn how to turn on a computer, we have the class for you! Our Grade 8 CTS class will be available every Friday morning from 9-10 AM to teach you all about **basic computer skills and programs**. You will be given hands-on, one-on-one instruction. If you are interested or would like more information, call Mr. Jody Watson at Bawlf School, 780-373-3784. See you there!*

Regional Children's Centre Update

Watch this space for a forthcoming announcement. **Questions?** Contact Tammy Albers at 780-373-2421 or Christine Ginther at 780-672-8262.

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No by-laws were given first reading at the October 21st Council meeting.

November, 2009 Calendar

- Nov 4:** Bawlf Public Library "Rhymes" program, at the Library, 2:30 PM
- Nov 5:** Bawlf Playschool Society pancake supper & silent/live auction at the Community Centre, 5-8 PM
- Nov 11:** Remembrance Day service, Bawlf Community Centre, 10:30 AM
- Nov 11:** Bawlf Public Library "Rhymes" program, at the Library, 2:30 PM
- Nov 18:** Bawlf Public Library "Rhymes" program, at the Library, 2:30 PM
- Nov 22:** Lions fall beef supper, Community Centre, 4-7 PM.
- Nov 25:** School recycling drive: items to the curb by 11:45 AM
- Nov 25:** Village Council, 7 PM
- Nov 29:** Community Grey Cup party & Games Day, Community Centre, 2 PM

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)

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We, giving all, gained all
Neither lament us, nor praise
Only in all things recall
It is Fear, not Death, that slays

Rudyard Kipling

Lest We Forget

	Municipality	Tax rate	Your 2009 taxes would be...
If your 2009 assessment is \$150,000:	In the Village of Ryley	14.47	\$2,171
	In the Village of Rosalind	10.28	\$1,542
	In the Town of Daysland	8.65	\$1,298
	In the Village of Holden	13.02	\$1,953
	In the Town of Killam	11.85	\$1,778
	In the Village of Heisler	17.07	\$2,560
	In Bawlf (excl. garbage)	8.45	\$1,268

Congratulations to Calvin Elless, who has been named to the newly-created full-time position of the Village of Bawlf’s Director of Public Works. Calvin has been seasonally employed with the Village since spring of this year and has shown himself to be a hard-working and dedicated public servant. We expect that the evolution of this position from “as needed” to full-time will significantly increase the level of public works service that the Village is able to provide.


For a copy of the **Village’s “Service Levels” plan**, please contact the Village Office at 780-373-3797 or vilbawlf@syban.net. It is also posted on the Village website at www.bawlf.com.

We wish Cal the very best as he undertakes his new career. Former Director of Public Works, Rod Blatz, is retiring from the position but has agreed to stay on as both water operator and to complete Cal’s training process. **Village Council and Administration want to thank Rod for his many years of hard work and dedication to the Village’s well-being. Job well done, Rod!**

The newly renovated Seniors’ Clubroom is now open!

Join us for a game of pool, shuffleboard, table games and/or coffee and conversation

Everyone is welcome to drop in **Mondays 9 a.m. – Noon**
#203 Hanson Street, Bawlf



Congratulations to all the award winners at the Bawlf Junior/Senior High Academic Awards Night held on October 16th. The winners of the Village of Bawlf Grade 12 scholarships for citizenship, as chosen by Bawlf School staff, were **Cory Yuha** and **Karli Zeniuk**. Criteria for the awards include leading by example, participating in School or community service, promoting citizenship within the School or community, showing a positive attitude in interactions with those both inside and outside the School, and possessing strength of character and the courage to do what is “right”. **Congratulations to Cory and Karli and also to Councillor Jody Yuha, who was honoured with a “School-Community Volunteer Appreciation” award.**

Scenes from the Grand Opening of the new Village Office/Library/Seniors’ Clubroom



front office



Library



Seniors’ Clubroom