



Your *Village* *Voice*

The Village of Bawlf Newsletter
Volume 6, Issue #12 (December, 2009)

**Next Council
meeting:**

**December 16th at the
Village Office, 7 PM**

The public is welcome
to attend all Council
meetings. If you
would like to address
Council, please contact
the Village Office by

**noon on
December 10th to
arrange a time.**

Mayor's message



The unsung heroes in most municipalities are the volunteer firefighters. In many municipalities, the firefighters are paid a small stipend but, in others, the positions are purely volunteer. Even in those places where these men and women are paid a nominal amount, the proceeds couldn't even begin to cover the time and personal expense (e.g., travel to and from fires, time away from work in many cases, and clothing) that these men and women contribute to their communities.

And yet, they are often taken for granted. We just assume that they will continue to do what it takes to be fully qualified to save lives and property, and that's exactly what they do, with few questions asked. However, it's high time that they were recognized for the contributions they quietly make to the quality of our lives. We're lucky here in Bawlf that we've had very few incidents over the past number of years in which our firefighters' services have been required, but we shouldn't for a minute think that they aren't busy as a result. The reason for this is because they also respond to incidents in the County, including motor vehicle accidents. To the end of September, 2009, the Bawlf Fire Department has responded to ***no less than 18 calls, involving both fires and motor vehicle accidents***. In other words, these people are critical to the safety and security of not only our village, but of our entire region and they need to be appreciated for that.

The Fire Department is a part of Village Administration (the Fire Chief reports to the Village Manager), so it's incumbent upon Village Council to ensure that the Fire Department has everything it needs to do its job properly and that its members are made to feel like the critical parts of this community that they most certainly are. To that end, Council has authorized the purchase of a new certifiable pumper truck and will be looking at options over the next couple of years in terms of an expanded and properly-sized fire hall. In addition, Council will be reviewing firefighters' remuneration so that it reflects current practice elsewhere in the area.

Also, as citizens, we need to recognize that firefighters are a type of fraternity that enjoys spending time together because it builds the bonds that are necessary to do their jobs in the best way possible. Within this context, we need to understand that the Village Fire Hall is also a place where firefighters and their invited guests are free to gather and socialize in the same way that members of every other fire department in North America do.

Next time you see one of Bawlf's volunteer firefighters, thank him or her for taking time away from family on evenings and weekends to serve this community in a way the rest of us cannot. We are indeed fortunate that there are so many among us who don't hesitate to answer the call when the bell rings.

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No by-laws were given first reading at the November 25th Village Council meeting.

Bawlf School Recycling Drive

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

Date of this month's pick-up: Wednesday, December 16th

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

A reminder that Bawlf has a recycling depot located immediately to the west of the fire hall (the old Village Office). We accept plastic, cans, and glass (although, regrettably, not newspaper or cardboard at this point). Please rinse your items before dropping them off and note that this service is for Village residents only.

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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!***

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Unwrap the Surprise at the Bawlf Library Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 13th between 1-3 PM at the Bawlf Community Centre. Door prizes, games, snacks and a special visit from Santa Claus! Kids, get your tickets for your chance to win amazing door prizes. Must be in attendance to win. Bawlf School and Rosalind School will be provided with tickets directly - the general public can pick them up at our library. **The tickets are free for everyone.**

December, 2009 Calendar

- Dec 2:** Bawlf School Christmas concert, 7 PM Bawlf School gymnasium
- Dec 6:** Bawlf High School turkey supper, 4-6:30 PM, Rosalind Hall
- Dec 13:** Bawlf Library Children's Christmas party, 1-3 PM, Community Centre
- Dec 16:** School recycling drive (items at the curb by 11:45 AM)
- Dec 16:** Village Council, 7 PM
- Dec 20:** Village Christmas decorating contest; judging at 7 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 juha@bawlf.com)

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

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

"Toleration of differences is the measure of civilization."

former Governor General Vincent Massey (1972)

News & Notes

The Village of Bawlf's annual **Christmas Decorating Contest** will be held again this year. Judging to take place on Sunday, December 20th at 7 PM. Judges will include a Village ratepayer, a Camrose County ratepayer, and a member of Bawlf Village Council. First prize - \$75; 2nd prize - \$50; third prize - \$25. Good luck to everyone!

Did you know that Councillor Porter provides every newcomer to the Village with a welcome package? If you (or someone you know) have moved to Bawlf within the past two years and have not received such a package, please contact Councillor Porter at 780-373-2448 or e-mail her at rporter@bawlf.com.

The Village Office mail drop has been installed. Thank you for your patience! Please use this for bill payments or leaving correspondence. For security reasons, please do not leave cash in the drop box.

Thanks to the **Bawlf Community Builders** committee for organizing and hosting the 1st annual **Games Day and Grey Cup Party** on Sunday, November 29th. A special thanks to the **Bawlf Fire Department** for helping serve refreshments and an even bigger thanks to **Rod Blatz, John DeMerchant, Karen Robbins**, and everyone else who assisted in installing satellite TV at the Community Centre in time for the big game. For those of you who don't know, the **Bawlf Community Builders** were struck as a result of the Municipal Sustainability meetings held throughout 2009. Look for many other events and undertakings from this group of dedicated volunteers. For further information about the committee or if you're willing to assist either regularly or on a project-by-project basis, call Michele at 780-373-2263.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in, and attended the joint Bawlf-Daysland **Remembrance Day service** this year. It was Bawlf's turn to host and it was pleasing to see all the chairs in the Community Centre filled this year. Actually, attendance at this function has been high the past number of years, likely due to the fact that numerous of our best and brightest have lost their lives overseas. In other words, it all seems to hit even closer to home than it perhaps did 10 years ago. A highlight of this year's service was a short presentation by Lt.Col. (Ret.) Ray Hook, who currently has a daughter and son-in-law serving in Afghanistan. It was a pleasure to have Ray and his wife, Elaine, join us in Bawlf.

The **Bawlf Curling Club** is again on hiatus for the 2009-10 season. If anyone is interested in taking on the job of reviving the Club, please call Mayor Iwanus at 780-373-2263. Anyone who wants to curl this year is encouraged to contact Gord Pennycook of the Daysland Curling Club (780-678-0130).

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We on Village Council consider it a privilege to have served the residents of Village of Bawlf in 2009 and we look forward to continuing our work in strengthening and enhancing this community in the new year. On behalf of all members of Village Council, Administration, and our families, we want to wish each and every one of you a joyous and meaningful Christmas and a safe, prosperous, and happy New Year.