



Your *Village* *Voice*

The Village of Bawlf Newsletter
Volume 7, Issue #1 (January, 2010)

Next Council meeting:

January 21st 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
January 14th to
arrange a time.

Mayor's message by Mayor Jerry Iwanus



Happy New Year to everyone in the Village of Bawlf! It's amazing how quickly both the year and the election cycle go by, with Alberta-wide municipal elections slated to be held again on October 18th, 2010. Village Council has spent a significant amount of time this past fall reviewing its objectives and budget for 2010. Because the Province and the municipalities don't have the same budget year-end, the final versions of the 2010 operating and capital budgets are not yet available but we are able to share the highlights of the decisions that have been made.

Capital projects. We've heard it loud and clear from Village residents that we simply have to begin the process of upgrading our infrastructure, particularly our **roads**. Premier Stelmach and the Government of Alberta have pledged to make capital funding available over the next number of years, although the length of time over which this money is to be distributed remains in question. That having been said, there are some capital items that need attention **now** and Village Council is making the commitment to proceed with these in 2010. These capital investments include:

- a **new Village fire truck**, since the old one is no longer re-certifiable (2010 funding to come from Fire Department reserve and general fire revenues);
- a **complete reconstruction of Macrae Street from Alberta Avenue to Martin Avenue** i.e., replace water & sewer lines and prep sub-grade/base, with paving to follow in subsequent years (2010 funding to come from a combination of Provincial grants, current reserves, and low-interest, flexible repayment debt); and
- an investment in the **Regional Children's Centre** (contribution to be a combination of cash and in-kind work, with funding to come from reserves).

Village Council recognizes that a project such as the reconstruction of Macrae Street is a significant undertaking for a municipality of Bawlf's size but there comes a point at which, as most of us know, remediation cannot be delayed any longer. However, significant infrastructure work in a municipality of **any** size necessitates borrowing and ours is no exception: we cannot both be debt-free **and** replace our aging roads and lines. This is no different in larger centres, who also fund major construction with a combination of grants, reserves, and debt.

Moreover, there is the issue of fairness. There is no reason why current ratepayers should have to pay for major construction solely out of general revenues or reserves when ratepayers from the next 40 or 50 years will be using that infrastructure as well. Spreading the costs out over 25 years or more is both fair **and** prudent and is by far the best way for the Village to address its needs as we head into the second decade of the 21st century. In the February *Village Voice*, I'll discuss operational/small project highlights and 2010 tax policy.

Bawlf School Recycling Drive

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

Date of this month's pick-up: Wednesday, January 27th

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.

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. **Take advantage of this amazing opportunity!***

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By-laws that were given first reading at the December 16th Council meeting: By-law 569-09: A by-law to implement three special (flat) taxes pertaining to fire protection, parks & recreation, and street maintenance. **The Village invites comments on proposed by-laws after first reading.** Copies of this by-law (*as well as a copy of the 2010 interim budget*) are available on the Village website at www.bawlf.com or at the Village Office.

January, 2010 Calendar

Jan 12: High School basketball: Daysland @ Bawlf, 6 PM, Bawlf School gymnasium (girls play first)

Jan 21: Village Council, 7 PM, Village Office

Jan 23: Bawlf Lutheran Church Men's Breakfast, 8:30 AM at the Lutheran Church

Jan 27: School recycling drive (items at the curb by 11:45 AM)

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
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Councillor Gord Blatz
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"If I've heard it once, I've heard it a billion times: every soldier who's been deployed has wished that every single Canadian could spend a week in a place like Afghanistan. If they did...they'd come home far more appreciative of our awesome country, just as soldiers do. They would [then] understand what things are really important, and that sidewalks not being wide enough [for example] don't even rate."

(former Canadian Chief of Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier, in his 2009 book, *A Soldier First*)

Council meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at the Village Office, 7 PM.

Website: www.bawlf.com e-mail: vilbawlf@syban.net ph: 780-373-3797 fax: 780-373-3798

News & Notes

Congratulations to the winners of the Village of Bawlf's annual Christmas Decorating Contest. Judging took place on Sunday, December 20th at 7 PM, with judges including a Village ratepayer, a Camrose County ratepayer, and a member of Bawlf Village Council.

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| 1st prize (\$75): | Francis & Florence Gartner (Sanden Street) |
| 2nd prize (\$50): | Chris Reinhart (Hanson Street) |
| 3rd prize (\$25): | Dean & Naomi Porter (Niblock Street) |

Volunteers from the Camrose Neighbor Aid Center are available to assist residents of Bawlf and area with house and garden chores, money management, emergency transportation (*including medical appointments*) & housing, and meals & shopping. If you are in need of assistance, please call 780-679-3220.

It is the time of year when the bobcat and other equipment are in operation clearing snow in various locations within the village. All residents (whether on foot or in a vehicle) are urged to **STAY BACK** or, better yet, **COMPLETELY AVOID** the area in which the equipment is operating. These are dangerous pieces of machinery. Thank you for your co-operation!

On the topic of snow removal, The Village of Bawlf wishes to recognize **Lyle Burkard** and **Larry Nikiforuk** for always lending a hand with **snow removal in the village**. Both of these community members very often make themselves and their equipment available and Village residents deeply appreciate their efforts. This is yet another example of individuals stepping up of their own accord to make their community a better place to live.

An early reminder that the **Bawlf & District Recreation Association is holding its Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday, February 9th, 7:30 PM, at the Bawlf Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend. Any group requesting funding has to attend the meeting or complete a request form, which is available at the Village Office.

Note that **Bawlf Public Library hours are M-W-F: 11 AM to 5 PM and Thursdays: 3-7 PM.** On the topic of the BPL, Council wishes to thank the Library Board for offering to provide \$1,250 per year over the next 10 years in order to offset some of the costs of renovation at the Bawlf municipal complex (i.e., the former Senior Centre). This type of teamwork is critical to everyone's goal of making our village the best place to live, work, and play that it can be and it is deeply appreciated.

Every Wednesday, starting January 6th until the end of April, the Senior Citizens Society invites area residents of all ages to attend its new weekly community games night at the Seniors' Clubroom in the Bawlf municipal complex. Doors open at 7 PM. Anyone who wants to come socialize while playing pool, shuffleboard, board games, or cards is welcome. *Bring a friend or perhaps make a new one!*

Bawlf Lutheran Church Men's Toonie Breakfast to be held on Saturday, January 23rd. Breakfast to be served from 8:30-9:30, followed by a **presentation by Dr. Dittmar Mundel** entitled: "Acting in prophetic hope: breaking free of the fourfold captivity of rural communities" (expected to be approximately 2 hours in length). This presentation will discuss some of the economic, social, and spiritual forces that have trapped rural communities in patterns of decline.

Amazing things continue to happen at Bawlf School! Under the direction of Mrs. McFadyen, the Grade 8 class recently participated in an **on-line debate** on racism among schools around the world. There were originally 16 schools participating worldwide, from such places as the USA, Qatar, India, Saudi Arabia, and China, with **Bawlf School being the only school from Canada.** In the first round, Bawlf School defeated a team from Nespelem School, located on the Colville Indian Reservation in Washington state. Our students then proceeded to beat Manitou Springs School from Colorado, which put Bawlf School in the semi-finals! Eventually, our students lost in that round against Shorecrest Preparatory School from Florida but **clearly did our village, our province, and our country proud** in the process. *Well done!*