

Summer Village of Birchcliff

Spring 2024 Newsletter



Hello from Council and Administration and we hope you had an enjoyable winter.

Council would like to provide you with a few updates. This newsletter provides an update on the recently adopted Mill Rate bylaw, funding for projects, approved capital projects for this year, as well as other items.

Mill Rate Bylaw

In April, Council approved the 2024 Municipal Mill Rate of 2.0163 which represents a 5% increase over last year which is in line with budget. Total property assessments for the village increased from \$193,028,240 in 2022 to \$206,840,640 in 2023. The increase in assessment growth was greater than budgeted and will generate an additional \$27,810 in revenue which will go into our financial reserves.

Funding For Projects

In 2016, the province downloaded Family and Community Support Services charges onto municipalities and in 2019, began the transfer of RCMP service costs. Then in 2021, the province announced that it would cut the Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding by 60%.

In 2022, Council communicated that we would increase municipal funded reserves through taxation by \$130,000 over 4 years to make up for the shortfall created by the above to help pay for capital projects including road maintenance and resurfacing and open space plans. In 2024, we are well on our way to our goal and are forecasting \$103,310 in municipal funded reserves.

While prudent operations management and improved capital reserves will be enough to manage normal day to day capital projects such as road resurfacing, routine maintenance and some improvements over the long term, it will not be enough to fund other larger projects. Other improvements including shoreline restoration and the shoring up of financial reserves, addressed by our municipal reserves policy, will require the sale of municipal reserve RA5.

1. Road Resurfacing

In 2023, the Village commissioned a pavement condition and assessment study. In March, Council adopted a 10-year rehabilitation plan, indicating which road sections need rehabilitation as well as recommended treatments. The plan is data driven using a Performance Quality Index to help determine priority. The 10-year forecasted cost is \$1,411,365 and begins with resurfacing the section of Birchcliff Road between Birch Lane and the west Church Camp entrance. This initial work will take place over the fall with a cost estimate of \$447,647.



2. Land Use Bylaw Re-Write and Municipal Development Plan Update

Our current Land Use Bylaw was adopted in 2013 and has served us well over time. However, the bylaw has had several updates since and requires more to reflect the needs of our residents and Village Vision. In December, Council directed Administration to undertake the work required to update our Land Use Bylaw using Municipal Planning Services.

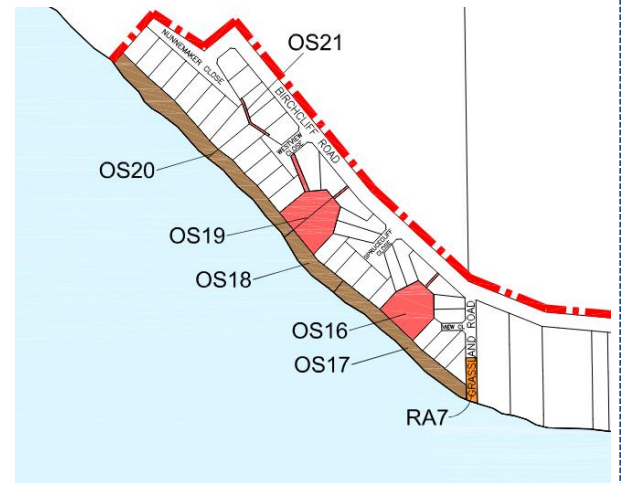
Our Municipal Development Plan contains strategic elements including our Vision, Core Values and Guiding Principles. These strategic elements are used in developing Bylaws, Policy and Priority for our village. Council is looking for your input as we move to update our Vision.

The work will take place throughout 2024 with public consultation. The cost estimate is \$34,000.

To view any of the current Bylaws or Policies you can visit this link:
<http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/bylaws--policies4.html>

3. Shoreline Restoration

In March, Council instructed administration to move forward with work on OS17, OS18, and OS20 and to work with residents who use these reserves to access the lake. This project is predicated on the sale of RA5 for funding.



Annual Information Meeting

This year, the meeting will be held on August 24th between 10 am and 12 noon at the Summer Village offices at #2 Erickson Drive, Sylvan Lake. There will be a few formal updates from council and Q&A from the public.

Communal Yard Waste Bin

Yard waste that is acceptable includes grass clippings, small branches, leaves, pruning/landscaping waste, garden or flower bed waste. The clean-up program will start on May 1 and end on May 31, 2024



Emergency Contact Information

Regional emergency planning has demonstrated that our ability to communicate with residents is the largest key risk that we have at this point. Administration does not have a way to communicate with many of our residents should an emergency occur. You can reduce your risk and the risk to others by registering to receive email updates from the Summer Village at the bottom of the home page at <http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/birchcliff.html>.

Council is committed to protecting our village values and improving community and quality of life while protecting the environment and your investment.

On behalf of Council and Administration enjoy the transition from spring to summer, keep safe and stay healthy.

Roger Dufresne

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Garbage & Recycling
 Recycle Only
 Garbage Only

Birchcliff Garbage & Recycling Schedule 2024

Pickup times may vary, please place your containers out by 7 am to ensure pick up.

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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