

Summer Village of Birchcliff

Winter 2024 Newsletter



Greetings from Council and Administration.

We are committed to protecting our village values, improving community and quality of life while protecting the environment and your investment. This newsletter provides an update on the following:

1. 2024 municipal budget highlights
2. 2024 utility bill
3. Reminder on ice huts
4. Fires on the ice
5. Local stories
6. Garbage & recycling schedule

2024 Municipal Budget and 3 Year Operating Plan

Overview

Council approved the 2024 budget and 3-year operating plan in December. At the time of preparing the budget, operating expenses were in line with forecasted values providing a solid run rate going into 2024.

There were three key items used to inform this year's budget;

- 1) 2.5% residential assessment growth rate for new and redevelopments.
- 2) 2023 annual Consumer Price Index increase was 3.55%.
- 3) Direction to increase municipal taxes by 5% in 2024 to help increase capital reserves.

As mentioned in previous communications, there are two long term trends affecting the way in which we fund capital projects. In 2016, the province downloaded Family and Community Support Services charges onto municipalities and in 2019 began the transfer of RCMP service costs. In 2021, the province announced that it would cut Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding by 60%. The cumulative effect from the above (2019 to 2024) will result in an estimated \$500,000 loss in available reserves for use on capital projects for our village. This budget seeks to mitigate the impact aforementioned by increasing self funded reserves to \$75,000 per year.

The 2024 municipal Mill Rate is budgeted to increase 5% to 2.0163 from 1.9205. This increase on a million-dollar property is \$96.05 annually from \$1,921 to \$2,017. (Need a history on mill rate increases)

Historical Municipal Tax Rates

	2019	2020	chg	2021	chg	2022	chg	2023	chg	2024	chg
Mill Rate	1.8778	1.877	-0.04%	1.8949	0.95%	1.9205	1.35%	1.9205	0.00%	2.0165	5.00%
per million	\$ 1,878	\$ 1,877	-\$ 1	\$ 1,895	\$ 18	\$ 1,921	\$ 26	\$ 1,921	\$ -	\$ 2,017	\$ 96

Operating expenses for 2024 are up 6.7% and include the following highlights:

Council

-\$2,100

Administration

\$54,969 includes an additional \$19,100 for municipal reserves. New IT service contracts reducing cyber risk. One time correction for additional payroll inclusions.

Protective Services

\$5,257 includes addition of Bylaw Officer.

Public works

-\$22,888 includes reduction in wastewater and a 20% increase for solid waste contracted service fees.

2024 Utility Bill

The waste water transmission rate has been harmonized across the eight member communities. Council has remained firm on passing through all cost reductions. The new rate will reduce your annual waste water bill by approximately \$155.

The rate for garbage pickups this year will be \$135.05 per resident, which is an increase of \$18.30 over last years bill. This is due to an increase in landfill costs.

Last year you were charged for a full year of recycling. Due to the delay in recycling bins, Birchcliff only started receiving a recycling service in September. To make up for this, you will not be charged for 8 months this year and the total recycling bill will be \$15.60.

Ice Huts

To protect the health of Alberta's waterbodies, encourage stewardship, and promote conservation, anglers using ice shelters (huts) are now required to label their shelter if they are leaving it on the ice for longer than 24 hours. Label it in a contrasting color with text 2.5 cm or taller with the following information:

- Your Wildlife Identification Number (WIN), or
- Your name and telephone number

Fires on the Ice

In light of the success we had with ice hut identification and removal, the municipalities around the lake are advocating for the use of fire pits rather than having fires directly on the ice. This measure would not only enhance safety but also contribute to preserving the pristine condition of our lake.

Community Pier Removal

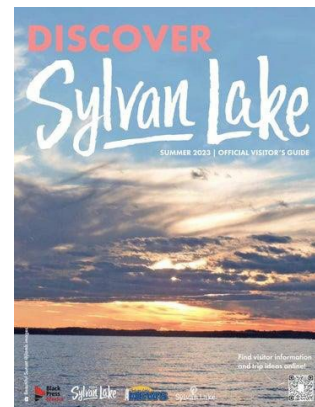
Last fall Lakeview Contracting was awarded the contract to remove the community docks from the lake. Under the supervision of Lakeview Contracting, the 12 - 14-year-old players from the Sylvan Lake Lions bantam football team worked hard to remove and stack all of the dock sections. Lakeview then donated the majority of the payment to the team. A big thank you to the Lions and Lakeview Contracting, and congratulations on a great season!



Birchcliff Sunsets

Last spring, Birchcliff resident Jamie Lamb entered and won a photo contest for the 40th anniversary edition cover of Discover Sylvan Lake Magazine.

Congratulations Jamie!



On behalf of Council and Administration, enjoy the rest of the winter keep safe and stay healthy.

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Garbage & Recycling

Recycle Only

Garbage Only

Birchcliff Garbage & Recycling Schedule 2024

Pickup times may vary, please place your container out by 7 am to ensure pickup.

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February						
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31						

April						
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28	29	30				

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June						
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30						

July						
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August						
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September						
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29	30					

October						
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27	28	29	30	31		

November						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				