



Town of Redcliff

May 2013

Special Points of Interest

Council meetings are normally held the second and fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm.

Committee of the Whole Meetings are held the same days as regular Council meetings starting at 5:30 pm.

Redcliff Aquatic Centre
Scheduled Opening June 1
(weather permitting)
Check www.redcliff.ca for operating hours and events

Public Services Summer Hrs
Mon-Fri: 7:00 am-3:00 pm

Town Hall Hours
Mon-Fri: 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Landfill Hours
Mon-Fri: 8:00 am-5:30 pm
Sat: 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Sun: Closed
(the Landfill is sometimes forced to close due to high winds...call ahead at 403-548-9250 to verify)

Town Hall and Public Services will be closed on May 20, July 1, Aug 5 for Victoria Day, Canada Day, and Civic Holiday

Town Hall and Public Services will also be closed the afternoon of June 21 for a staff appreciation function

Town of Redcliff Council

Mayor

Rob Hazelaar

Councillors

Chere Brown

Cathy Crozier

Dwight Kilpatrick

Ernie Reimer

Eric Solberg

Jim Steinke

Administrative Report

David Wolanski, Municipal Manager

The snow has all but disappeared (we hope), the grass is starting to get a little greener, people are out on the trails and the golf course....spring appears to be upon us. While each season brings with it many outstanding features, this time of year and into the summer truly showcases how beautiful Redcliff is. The past winter didn't really see much in the way of super cold temperatures or precipitation; however, we did experience a significant amount of freeze/thaw days which unfortunately took its toll on some of our roads. Council recently approved repairs to those affected areas without having to raise taxes by utilizing grants, existing paving budgets, and the tax stabilization reserve which is set aside for such unexpected costs.

Even though our Centennial Celebrations are behind us it doesn't mean our celebrations stop. Our annual Redcliff Days and Canada Day celebrations are just around the corner and we, along with so many in our community and region, look forward to these events each year. Join Mayor Rob Hazelaar on June 14 in River Valley Park (6:30 pm registration) for the 8th annual charity "Mayor's Walk" in support of the Lions Club and local community projects.

We are constantly working on initiatives that will increase the amount of information we get out to the public. Over the next few months we will be increasing our online and social media presence. This will enable those that use these sources to receive timely information related to Town of Redcliff news. As always, keep checking www.redcliff.ca and our news section for more information.

Finally, Town Council recently approved the 2012 independent audited financial statements and once again those statements indicate a strong fiscal position and prudent financial controls. I am grateful for a great finance department and other departments who take such great care managing public funds. These statements are available to be viewed on our website or at the Town office.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



Assessment and Taxes

Many Redcliff residents have called in and/or have no doubt been following much of the assessment issues in the City of Medicine Hat. For those that aren't aware, there have been concerns expressed by several members of the business community in Medicine Hat who have seen dramatic changes in their non-residential assessment for 2013, despite most expert analysts indicating we are still in an economic downturn. The Town of Redcliff certainly cannot comment on Medicine Hat; however, we can provide some information related to our own assessment processes.



Assessment in the Province of Alberta is regulated by the Provincial Government and Council's cannot influence assessment within their municipality. This is because they are ultimately the beneficiary once the mill rate is applied to the assessment to constitute taxes. The Town of Redcliff does not have their own assessment staff but has an independent contractor that performs this function. Much has been made of now utilizing a "mass appraisal" method of assessment, something that Redcliff has been using since 1995 when provincial regulations changed. In fact, Redcliff was utilizing this method even prior to the legislated changes.

Our assessor has demonstrated a great commitment to our ratepayers in our Town over the years. When large changes may be forthcoming, they will endeavour to meet with the affected parties in advance of assessment notices being sent to inform, justify, and seek further information. The success of this commitment is seen by the fact that the Town has not had any assessment related appeals go before an appeal board for several years.

The Town of Redcliff sends out their assessment notices with the annual tax notices which should arrive in your mailboxes by the end of May. For anyone that has questions or concerns about their assessment we encourage you to contact the Town office where we will direct you to our assessor. Failing a satisfactory resolution to those questions and concerns, we urge you to examine and follow the guidelines for appealing your assessment that will be detailed in your assessment/tax notice.

Having received the assessments from our consultant, we can report that there are no major fluctuations with properties, other than those where improvements were performed. This information was recently reviewed by Council during 1st reading of our 2013 Tax Rate Bylaw and is available on the Town website by reviewing the April 22 Council package. The following table summarizes the changes in assessment. A few properties were removed in each classification where major improvements were done.

SEGMENT	PARCEL COUNT	ASSESSMENT CHANGE		
		AVERAGE	MAX	MIN
COMMERCIAL	86	0.62%	21.71%	-20.00%
INDUSTRIAL	163	0.93%	14.90%	-15.15%
RESIDENTIAL	2006	-1.30%	34.74%	-21.33%

Final approval of the 2013 Tax Rate Bylaw is expected to take place during the May 13th Council meeting. At the April 22 meeting, Council also approved the final 2013 operating and capital budgets for the Town. The budget (close to \$22 million for operating and \$19 million for capital) does contain a small 1% increase in the Municipal Component of the tax rate which amounts to \$12.67 (municipal rate only) for an average residential ratepayer.

NOTICE



Keep
dogs on
a leash

We would remind citizens that almost all areas within Redcliff are to be enjoyed by pets while on a leash according to Town Bylaws. The exception is within the Off-Leash area. Remember, you must pick up after your pet in ALL areas of Town. Contact our Bylaw Enforcement Officer with any concerns.

(Off Leash Area is located on 3rd Ave. SW – See Community Services Department page on website for exact location)

RV Parking Regulations

Town Council recently asked administration to bring forward research and recommendations related to RV Parking Regulations. NO decisions have yet to be made and the process will include public consultation. Please check the Town website and local papers regularly for information on how you can have your say.





Become Involved in the Local Government Process!

The Town of Redcliff has recently undertaken several initiatives to better engage citizens and allow for greater transparency and participation in the political process. These initiatives include opportunities for residents to receive more information so that they can better understand and potentially question the direction and/or processes that are in place. For example:

- Public Budget Submissions and Meetings: In 2012 the Town initiated public budget submissions for the first time whereby residents could submit ideas for consideration. They also opened up our budget meetings to the public so that the community could see the kinds of information and decisions that went into the budget process.
- Newsletters: provided every 4 months.
- Town Hall Meeting: 2013 will mark the start of an Annual Town Hall meeting. Look for more information in the coming weeks regarding date/time/location. We are expecting this to take place shortly following the public presentation of the Municipal Inspection report so that Council can update citizens on their progress and plans related to potential directives from the Minister and their thoughts on any subjective recommendations.
- Website: Vast improvements in our website provide more detailed information which is updated frequently. Social media platforms will also be introduced in 2013!

Information on Council or Committee Meeting processes, including making presentations to Council, can be found on our website. Staff is also always available to provide help or answer any questions you may have in this regard.

2013 Municipal Election

There is probably no better way that you can become involved in Local Government processes than to run for Council or vote in the municipal election. The election for this year will be held on October 21.

Information will be available later on for those who may wish to run for Council or for those simply wishing to learn more about candidates and the process in general. One of the most significant changes introduced by the Provincial Government is that the terms for a member of Council will now be increased from three years to four.

We encourage anyone who may be interested in running in the election to attend Council Meetings and review agenda packages/minutes.



Town of Redcliff Board Vacancies

Another great way to become involved is to volunteer for one of our Boards/Commissions

Current Openings exist in:

**Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
Family and Community Support Services
Recreation Board
Library Board**

Taxes are due on the last business day of June

**Registration for Swimming Lessons
June 5&6 6:30-8:30 pm
Parkside School**

**Development Permits are required BEFORE
you start work....Contact our Development Officer
for questions on whether you need a permit**

**You can now receive your Redcliff utility bills by email....
Contact the Town office for more details on signing up**



Have a great photo featuring Redcliff? Submit it to the Town and it might make it on the Website or get recognized in the Newsletter. The photo below was taken by Cassie Weiss of the Cypress Courier when Margaret Wooding Students, staff, our Mayor, and Town of Redcliff staff gathered in pink in support of anti-bullying.

Highlighted Projects Scheduled for 2013

Upgrade to Aquatic Centre Pool
Water Treatment Plant construction start
Old Trans Canada Hwy upgrade
Elbow Dr. repairs
Toboggan Hill Storm Outfall Protection
Rec-Tangle Arena netting & heater upgrade
Rolling Mill Park upgrade
Aggie Oakland Mallard Park upgrade
Brandon Primeau Memorial Park upgrade
Waste Management Study
Sanitary System Evaluation Study
Recreation Master Plan
Municipal Emergency Management Plan

For further information on any of these projects contact the Town office and we will direct you to the appropriate department.



Remember to.....



Local Improvements

There has been a lot of discussion over the last few years regarding local improvements in the Town of Redcliff. Basically, citizens have expressed concern that despite its legislative authority to do so, allocating Local Improvements for repairs and maintenance to infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, etc.) is not the best way to proceed. Local Improvements charge the majority of expenses to those benefitting a specific area vs. Town at large. Administration is in the final stages of presenting a detailed plan for implementation but needed more time to review legislative and legal opinions. Council indicated a June deadline for administration to present the plan. This will be a pretty significant departure from current practice and will have implications for all citizens. Look for information on our website and other sources in the coming months.



Build your dream home! The Town of Redcliff still has several lots available for sale in our Eastside development. All lots are currently being offered at 5% off the posted price. Inquire at the office for further details on dimensions, prices, and future plans for the rest of the area.

The Town also has a variety of items remaining, including the History book, from our Centennial celebrations in 2012. All items make a great gift for a friend/relative or a souvenir for yourself!

