



Municipality of  
**Alexander**  
Belair Property Owners Association  
Message from Mayor Jack Brisco

August 7, 2020

Greetings neighbours. Well its certainly been an interesting year. I hope everyone is staying safe and I am glad that we are all able to enjoy the great weather this summer.

This year got off to a tough start for all of us with the challenges of dealing with Covid. As we see cases of community spread, we should be reminded to keep practicing all of the recommended measures to help ensure the safety of our loved ones and our community. We do not want to have to go back to where we were in April where the province was recommending against travel to the cottage.

The municipality has been working especially hard this year as we all have noticed that folks seem to be spending significantly more time at the cottage than in 'normal' years. The increase in cottage use along with a noticeable increase in visitors to our area has definitely kept municipal staff and council as busy as ever. I am also happy to report that despite the adjustments required by the Covid pandemic, all municipal services and programs have been maintained with very little disruption.

Fire safety is a big issue in our area. Our municipal fire ban was in place for about a month this spring in order to provide time for things to green up and reduce the danger level. I'm happy to say that with the ban lifted residents have been able to enjoy the use of safe and approved fire pits. Please keep in mind that fireworks are never allowed except with written permission from the local fire chief or provincial conservation officer.

The RM has been providing good information on fire safety through our website and facebook feed. The RM is also working with Manitoba Wildfire staff to put up a fire risk danger sign (Smokey the bear) on highway 59 to help keep everyone aware of the danger of wildfire in our community. We hope to have this in place in the fall.

We added another mower and additional staff to the grass cutting program this year and the results have been impressive. We are now able to mow roadsides and ditches more frequently to help keep the community looking great.

Last October's storm did extensive damage to trees in the area. Staff spent approximately 1,500 hours clearing deadfall and damaged trees in and around Belair at a cost of almost \$50,000. There is still lots to be done but the cleanup following that disaster has been remarkable. During the clean up we managed to make some headway on walking trail clearing in the area.

Our drainage program is in full swing this year. Were working on a number of projects including some work on Johnny's Drive and completed a project on Galway Bay. The observation deck at the boat launch is completed and a new picnic shelter was added at the



Harry Craig boat launch. We are considering options for improvements at the Yellow Brick boat launch and we hope to see those completed in 2021.

Our crews have completed the annual gravelling program and dust control application. Council has added additional funding this year for both of these important tasks. Our Christmas lights in and around Belair that were removed by hydro have all been replaced which will help make our Christmas all the more festive.

Bylaw enforcement staff have been especially busy this year. The number of service requests due to increased numbers of residents and visitors have just about doubled. One issue that has been particularly challenging is the increase in complaints about inappropriate ATV use. Please remember that ATV's are not legal to ride on roadways. Bylaw staff are out there providing education and reminding folks about appropriate ATV use, but only RCMP can lay charges. Please contact the local RCMP office with any concerns at 204-367-8728. Council has met with RCMP staff on several occasions and they are working hard to add additional resources to address ATV and other traffic concerns in our area.

Council has provided over \$150,000 this year to local community organizations to support recreation, cultural and community projects. Please remember to make an application for funding for any local projects by the deadline in December – check the RM website this fall for deadlines and application forms.

The RM is completing installation of e-waste centers at the landfills. You will now be able to bring any e-waste to the landfill for safe and environmentally friendly disposal. We are also working on long range plans for making our landfill more efficient.

Finally I am very pleased to let you know that Council is actively involved in a process to establish a multi-use facility in the area. We plan on consulting local residents, including BPOA with a needs assessment to determine what the facility will look like and the specific needs it will address. The plan is to work through a consultation and design phase this winter and continue through a financing plan in 2021. With any luck we could see construction on a much needed and long awaited facility for the area by 2022.

Stay safe everyone. Keep working hard to protect the health of family, friends, loved ones and our community.

Mayor Jack Brisco

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