

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

RM of West Interlake Newsletter

The Birth of Municipal Matters

The RM of West Interlake Council decided at their December 22, 2020 Council Meeting to produce a quarterly newsletter that will be delivered to all mailboxes in Ashern, Eriksdale, Oakview, and Vogar as well as placed on the Municipal Website and Facebook Page. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep ratepayers informed of the happenings within the Municipality.

The newsletter will be open for community groups, ratepayers, and businesses to post writeups and advertise upcoming events. For more information or to submit an ad or article, please contact CAO Courtney Roehl at cao@rmofwestinterlake.com or call 204-768-2641.



From L to R. Dradon Day, Merle Day, Curtis Day, Raymond Dowsett and Danny Day
Photo Credit: Shawn Cote

Eriksdale Fire Department

4 Generations of volunteer fire fighters and 100 years of service

Mr. Raymond Dowsett started with the Eriksdale Volunteer Fire Department in 1957 and retired with 60 years of service. We were not the sleek department we are now, he fought fire with a tank on a 4 wheel wagon, graduated to a converted fuel truck, and in 1996, a brand new Freightliner Pumper. During Ray's time with the Eriksdale Fire Department his Grandsons joined. Danny Day in 1991, Curtis Day in 1996 and their Father Merle Day (Ray's son-in-law) joined in 2011, and more recently his Great Grandson Dradon Day in 2020. Dradon's father, Danny was relocated for his job to Thompson where he joined Thompson Fire Department. Danny has since moved south and is now a member of Stonewall Fire Department.



Municipal By Election

The RM of West Interlake will be holding a by election in March for two positions; one LUD of Ashern member, and one RM of West Interlake Council Member for Ward 3.

For more information or to submit your application to run for either position, please contact Senior Electoral Officer, Myrna Little at 204-941-0156.



Message from Reeve Jonasson

Reflection of 2020

Written by
Reeve, Arnthor Jonasson

Civic Addressing

The Latest Update



The Year in Review

What Happened in 2020?

Read about what the RM of West Interlake has completed in 2020 and what projects are continuing on to 2021.

Arnthor Jonasson, Reeve

Message from Reeve Jonasson

Reflection of 2020

Looking back at 2020 I don't think anyone could have imagined what was to come. It has been a challenging year to say the least.

Old ways of meeting have gone out the window with conference calls and Zoom becoming common practice. Our staff has had to adapt to how daily business is carried out. Businesses within our communities have had difficulties operating under ever changing COVID-19 restrictions. Residents have had to adapt to restrictions in gatherings and recreational activities which in turn has created hardships for community groups.

With challenge comes change and we have many positives going forward.

Council has marked the halfway point of our term. We are working toward unification within our operations. Transportation and General Governance have led the way. Economic Development is showing signs of coming together. Waste disposal and Recycling remains a challenge but we will keep working at it.

I want to give a big shout out to our staff. They deliver a high level of service to our residents and are instrumental in keeping this big machine running. They exhibit a great sense of teamwork which is essential to our success going forward.

We need to remember that our businesses are currently struggling. Try

to shop local if possible and share it around. Order take out from the restaurants and use the curbside delivery. What our communities look like after the pandemic will be influenced by our actions now. Amazon doesn't need your help.

The same is true for our community organizations. Although they are unable to offer their regular activities many still have fixed costs. Donations would be greatly appreciated I'm sure. We want to make sure they are still around when life returns to normalcy.

From my family to yours, I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a new and better 2021!

Welcome back!

Clayton Gibson returns to Economic Development Officer Position

After spending just over two years on Council, Clayton Gibson has made the decision to move back to his current position as Economic Development Officer. Clayton will be working closely with EDO Diane Bottrell while she prepares to hand over the torch and finally retire after trying to for over a year!

We are very fortunate to have two people so passionate about economic development in our communities. It has been a pleasure working with Diane over the past few years, and we wish her the best of luck in her retirement. We are also very excited to have Clayton back on board and can't wait to see the new ideas

he brings to the table. Clayton stated, "Looking forward to helping the communities" when asked about his return to the EDO position.

"Looking forward to helping the communities" - Clayton Gibson, EDO for the RM of West Interlake

In the near future, Clayton has plans to reach out to community groups and organizations to reintroduce himself and find out what their futures look like.

Civic Addressing

The latest update

In the 2020 budget, Council for the RM of West Interlake set aside money to purchase and install Civic Addressing signs throughout the municipality.

Datalink was retained to produce the Civic Addressing Atlas that would outline the numbering system. Once that step was complete, the signs and posts were ordered. Unfortunately, due to COVID, there was a delay in getting the civic addressing signs themselves therefore public works staff installed the posts before the ground froze.

Public Works staff have been working diligently to now get all the civic addressing signs up.

Please note, that when calling in an emergency, it is important to know your entire civic address. Ex) 32242 Road 3264.



RM of West Interlake - Council and Staff

Reeve - Arnthor Jonasson
ajonasson@rmofwestinterlake.com

Deputy Reeve - John Bezemer
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Councillor - Lyle Finney
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Councillor - Randy Helgason
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Councillor - Paul Murphy
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Councillor - Penny-Anne Wainwright
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LUD of Ashern - Trevor Emilson
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LUD of Ashern - Stefan Jonasson
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Chief Administrative Officer - Courtney Roehl
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Chief Financial Officer - Davina Mason
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Public Works Manager - Scott Cameron
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Administrative Clerk - Jodi Thorkelsson
info@rmofwestinterlake.com

Financial Clerk - Dolly Lindell
admineriksdale@rmofwestinterlake.com

Economic Development Officer - Diane Bottrell
edo@rmofwestinterlake.com

Economic Development Officer - Clayton Gibson
gibson@rmofwestinterlake.com

Public Works Foreman - Mike Zutz
pwf@rmofwestinterlake.com

Public Works Utility Foreman - Les Ratte
pwuf@rmofwestinterlake.com

Public Works Supervisor - Frans Welgemoed
pws@rmofwestinterlake.com

Public Works Ashern WDG - Dan LaBrash
pwwgd@rmofwestinterlake.com

Public Works Oakview Transfer Station - Carolyn Sigurdson

Public Works Casual WDG - Hazen Thorkelsson

Public Works Seasonal - Leslie Saunders
pwseasonal@rmofwestinterlake.com

Public Works Grader Operator - Cam Godfrey
gradereriksdale@rmofwestinterlake.com

Public Works Grader Operator - Art Malcolm
graderashern@rmofwestinterlake.com

Public Works Casual Grader Operator - Tom Clement

Ashern Fire Chief - Ken Falk

Eriksdale Fire Chief - Craig Pottinger

Ashern Waste Disposal Ground Hours

Summer Hours (May 1 - September 30 yearly)

MONDAY 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
TUESDAY CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon & 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
THURSDAY 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
SATURDAY CLOSED
SUNDAY 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Winter Hours (October 1 - April 30 yearly)

MONDAY 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
TUESDAY CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
THURSDAY 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
SATURDAY CLOSED
SUNDAY 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Coldwell Eriksdale Waste Disposal Ground Hours

MONDAY CLOSED
TUESDAY 11:00am - 5:00pm
WEDNESDAY 11:00am - 5:00pm
THURSDAY 11:00am - 5:00pm
FRIDAY 11:00am - 5:00pm
SATURDAY 9:00am - 3:00pm
SUNDAY CLOSED
Waste Disposal Grounds Telephone: 204-739-2808.

Oakview Waste Transfer Site Hours

MONDAY 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
TUESDAY CLOSED
WEDNESDAY CLOSED
THURSDAY 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
FRIDAY CLOSED
SATURDAY 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
SUNDAY 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Emergency Alert System

How to Sign Up



The RM of West Interlake has launched its new emergency alert system through Telmatik. This system allows us to send out emergency

notifications through text, email, and voice call.

Residents can sign up by calling the Ashern Municipal Office at 204-768-2641 or the Eriksdale Municipal Office at 204-739-2666.

Please note, a test emergency alert will be sent out in early February.

Time to Renew your Dog License

Animal Control By-Law Number 21-2020 requires all persons who own a dog that is over the age of six (6) months to obtain and renew annually, a license to keep the dog. To register your dog with the Municipality and receive the license tag, please contact either municipal office.



Ashern Municipal Office
38 Main Street
Ashern, MB, R0C 0E0
Phone (204) 768-2641
Fax (204) 768-2301

Eriksdale Municipal Office
10 Main Street
Eriksdale, MB, R0C 0W0
Phone (204) 739-2666
Fax (204) 739-2073



Can you guess where this picture was taken?

The Year in Review - What Happened in 2020?



Written by: Courtney Roehl, CAO

The RM of West Interlake has had a very positive year despite the COVID 19 Pandemic.

In February the RM welcomed Full Time Public Works Manager, Scott Cameron to the team, and held a by-election which brought Councillor Randy Helgason to the Council table.

In March, the municipality was awarded \$85,000.00 from the Flood Preparedness Grant through the Province of Manitoba. This money was used to purchase a sandbagging machine, a new steamer and trailer, water transfer pumps, road closure barriers and signs, and to assist in developing an Emergency Plan to assess risk, vulnerability, and hazards within the municipality. March also brought the COVID-19 outbreak that affected many across the municipality. In response to the outbreak, Council withheld interest charges on any outstanding utility and property tax bills.

In May the RM held its Financial Plan Public Hearing which was passed soon after. In the budget this year, Council for the RM of West Interlake budgeted to install new street lighting in Eriksdale and at Lake Manitoba Narrows, install civic addressing throughout the municipality, upgrade sidewalks in Ashern and Eriksdale, and build a new fire hall in Ashern. The LUD of Ashern also budgeted to purchase a salt/sand spreader, and to build a pavilion in Railway Park. This year was also the first year that the municipality offered a discount for taxes that were paid early by its ratepayers.

In June, the process to install the Civic Addressing signs was started with the municipality retaining Datalink to prepare the Addressing Atlas. June also saw the municipality hiring another LUD Seasonal Staff member as well as 4 summer students to assist in the Municipality.

In July, the municipality brought on another 4 summer students to assist in the Municipality.

In August, the Eriksdale Street Lighting project was started and four additional street lights were installed.

In September, the municipality purchased two hand held sanitizing machines in order to efficiently sanitize municipal buildings. These machines are also made available for the public to rent. The civic addressing atlas was completed, and the posts and signs were ordered for installation.

In November, the posts for civic addressing were received and installed by Public Works staff. Unfortunately, there was a delay on receiving the signs however, they have now been received and will be installed shortly.

In December, an LUD member and a Council member resigned. A by election will be held for both of these positions in the new year. December also brought the confirmation of 17 new LED street lights being installed at Lake Manitoba Narrows. Plans for the new Fire Hall in Ashern have been finalized with the hopes of breaking ground in the Spring of 2021. The LUD of Ashern purchased the salt/sand spreader that they budgeted for and also finalized the plans for the Pavilion going in Railway Park with plans to start construction in the Spring of 2021.

The RM wrapped up the year by hosting a Santa Claus parade in both Ashern and Eriksdale (a huge thank you to both Fire Departments for their contribution in bringing some joy to our communities). The RM also provided \$65,000.00 worth of grant funding to fifteen various organizations in the municipality that were affected by the pandemic. Ashern Arena, Ashern Daycare, Ashern Legion, St. Erik's Church, Eriksdale Curling Club, Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre, Siglunes Community Hall, Eriksdale Active Living Council, Eriksdale Community Club, Eriksdale Museum, and Eriksdale New Horizons all received \$5,000.00 each. While Lakeshore Regional Wellness Commission, Lake Manitoba Narrows Game & Fish, Ashern Rodeo Inc., and Interlake 4H Club all received \$2,500.00 each.