

TOWN OF LUSELAND

NEWSLETTER

December 2011

It's Christmas time again, and other than a little bit of snow that immediately resulted in really icy streets, we haven't seen much winter weather so far. For me, that means it's really hard to get into the Christmas spirit, though Boss' Nite Out helped at least get me started thinking in that direction. Add home-made cookies and some lovely cards, and I'm good to go.

Of course, the other thing that happens as Christmas draws near is that the daylight hours get shorter, and many of you find yourselves walking in the dark, especially in the morning. Please remember to wear light coloured or reflective clothing, or carry a light so it's easier for drivers to see you.

CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS

Just a quick reminder that anyone not wishing to have the \$325.00 added to their taxes over the next five years is welcome to make a donation at the Town Office before the end of the year. The payment must be received in our office by the end of the day Friday, December 30th. We'll be happy to provide you with a tax deductible receipt for your charitable donation.

While on the subject, anyone looking for ways to reduce the burden from the federal tax man is welcome to make donations to the Town of Luseland. You can specify where you want the money to go, whether to the pool, arena, museum, cemetery, golf course, hall, fire department, theatre or Pioneer's Club, and we will forward the money to them, or you can donate to the Town itself and council will determine the use. Each of the organizations is very grateful for any donations they receive.

LUSELAND AMBULANCE TOWN HALL

We would like to thank the public, the ambulance personnel and district staff for attending a community meeting to bring to the community's attention the need for trained ambulance personnel. Training sessions will be held early in the new year. It is critical to the continuance of this service in our community for people to step up, take the training and commit the time necessary to maintain this vital service, even if only for a shift or two each week. If you can do this, please contact Emily Eurich at 372-4380 (office) or 372-4607 (home). Anyone trying to catch the January training should have their application in by December 29th.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was suggested that a committee be struck to look at helping the ambulance service. In this regard, if you are prepared to help out with this, either with time or ideas, please advise the Town Office. We plan to have a meeting of the interested people at the Town Office on January 11, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.

LICENSES DUE

Once again it is time to renew business and dog licenses. On the dog license side of things, a \$5 discount is available for any license sold to and including January 15th. For those of you wanting to know why you should buy a license over and above the fact there is a Town Bylaw requiring you to do so, dog licenses work – in 2011 there were a few incidents where someone found a dog, phoned office with the license number, and the dog was reunited with its owner. Someone phoning to say they found a mid-sized black dog with no tag wasn't able to be helped.

For business licenses, there are a number of calls to the office each year asking about various services and contractors. If you're not registered with the Town by way of licensing, we don't know what you do, and your name can not be passed along.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Construction of the new water treatment plant is moving along well, and the system is on track to be providing water by the end of April. Won't it be nice to say good-bye to the peculiarities that happen to your tea if you bring the water to a full boil? Unfortunately, you can see the increase to your water, sewer and garbage invoices has already occurred, as we have to meet our financial commitments for the new treatment plant. It's kind of like building a house – you have to pay the contractors and suppliers long before you get to move in and enjoy it!

INTEREST CHARGE WILL BE ADDED TO LATE PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS

At their meeting on December 13, 2011, Council passed a resolution adding 2% per month interest charges to water bills not paid within 30 days of the billing date, effective immediately. Avoid the penalty by paying your bill promptly, or by pre-paying if you prefer to make monthly payments.

INTERNET BANKING

There has been some confusion lately over what is able to be paid by internet banking. The Town of Luseland only accepts water & sewer payments by that method. While for some of you it might be simpler to pay all your Town invoices online, for the office staff it is a total nightmare – were you paying your water bill and overpaid (or underpaid) by 30 cents or \$30, or were you paying a landfill invoice or, worse yet, were you paying your water and two landfill invoices? The payment notifications we receive do not provide this information, so all payments are assumed to be water and sewer.

CONTAINERS, SHEDS, AND OTHER STORAGE

Just a reminder that the above are not to be moved in or put up without first checking with the Town Office for permit requirements and whether what you want to do is actually permitted under the Town Bylaws.

A WORD FROM THE BOYS IN THE BACK

Bert and Alan ask that you please check with the Town Shop (372-4474) before ploughing or pushing snow onto Town property, to prevent problems during spring runoff where culverts and water runs are inadvertently plugged by frozen snow piles and can cause water to back-up onto the street. We try hard to keep the problems to a minimum, but could sure use your help!

When shovelling sidewalks and driveways, if the snow has to be thrown onto the street, please push or toss it at least 3 feet out so it can be scooped up by the Town equipment. This is especially important on Grand Avenue, where we need to keep our curbs ice free as long as possible.