

# Hamlet Happenings



## Letter from the Mayor

Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of *Hamlet Happenings*, a newsletter we will produce on a regular basis to keep you informed about what is happening at the Hamlet.

A lot has happened in the past couple of months that you need to know about. Most importantly, you've probably heard that we have a new Senior Administrative Officer. James Wilson, whom I'm sure most of you know, has returned to lead our organization. At this time I'd like to publicly say "thank you" to Mary Ann Rose Tetlichy for her years of dedicated service to the Hamlet. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

James' immediate tasks include examining our raw water hauling to see how we can improve efficiencies and reduce costs, and ensuring the Hamlet completes the *Integrated Community Strategic Plan* (ICSP) that is required to access federal government funds that go to maintain and build our community's infrastructure.

We need your input into the ICSP process, so we're starting with a community survey this month and a community meeting in November. Please take a few minutes when the survey team visits your house to answer the anonymous survey. A good response to the survey and good participation in the community meeting will help us write a good plan. A good ICSP will benefit all of us who call McPherson home.

I look forward to talking to you about Hamlet Council business. Feel free to give me a call or stop me to chat.

Regards,

*Bill*

## Water rates are heading down

If you pay for water in Fort McPherson you know water rates took a dramatic hike last year. Taking the direction of our Auditors, Hamlet Council was forced to increase water rates because of persistent budget deficits that went back a number of years.

Before that rate hike, the Hamlet had not increased rates in many years *even to account for increased costs in fuel, labour and water hauling contracts*.

The good news is that since the Hamlet has taken over hauling raw water, we expect to save at least \$140,000 *per year*. We want to pass as much of that savings onto residents, and will be looking at rolling back water rates in the next few weeks. We will decide on a rate that ensures the Hamlet doesn't run any more water budget deficits.

Under the guidance of our new SAO, we will continue to look for ways to improve all services delivered to residents while controlling costs.

## Lottery Committee Request

The Hamlet's Lottery Committee, which operates at arms-length from Council, is looking at how the Hamlet's licensing for bingos, Nevada ticket and raffles is being done.

The Committee and Hamlet must follow the law, as set down by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Failure to follow the NWT's law could result in the Hamlet *and* bingo/Nevada/draw organizers getting in trouble.

The Committee is *not* implementing any new regulations and is *not* trying to get rid of bingos/Nevada/raffles – but it must enforce the Hamlet's by-law and the NWT Government's laws. The Committee must ensure that both license holders and the

Hamlet are transparent and accountable.

The Lottery Committee will make sure that license holders who conduct bingo/Nevada/raffles adhere to Hamlet By-law #233/09, Section 17, which states:

- Only those people who are registered as committee members can call bingo games. (Remember, bingos are not to be called by anyone under the age of 16 years.)
- Updated quarterly financial statements are required by the Hamlet from the Bank, Northern Store or Co-op. (This shows money deposited and how the money is spent.)
- No person shall receive compensation (be paid) for conducting, managing, planning or assisting with a lottery scheme, be it bingo, Nevada, raffle or casino
- Those bingo games held outside the Hamlet's jurisdiction are required to submit their application to Mike Gagne, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, at #400 – 5201 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9. It is illegal to conduct these games without a license.

The Lottery Committee reminds license holders that failure to comply with these regulations will result in your lottery license being cancelled or suspended for two years.

Please be assured we are not trying to shut down these games. The Hamlet has supported them for many years and the Lottery Committee is simply enforcing the rules set out by both the territorial government and Hamlet to avoid anyone -- or organization - from getting into trouble.

A copy of the By-Law is available for you to review at the Hamlet office. Should you require further information please contact the Hamlet office. If your organization has questions, we would be pleased to arrange a meeting with our Lotteries Officer or the Lottery Committee.

***Rec Centre Repairs***

The Recreation Centre is in need of immediate repair. The Fire Marshall's Office has expressed concern about public safety – and we agree.

We will begin immediately to address the major problems and will try to make repairs without shutting the facility down. We apologize for any inconvenience.

***Integrated Community Strategic Plan***

Our planning is underway with a community survey and community meeting planned for November. We will be working with Arctic Energy Alliance to create a Community Energy Plan, and helping them to promote residential energy audits to homeowners in town. Listen for us on the radio as we talk about the ICSP, and plan to participate in the survey and community meeting.

***Recreation happenings***

**A report from Ruby Koe**

I would like to thank the Co-op, Northern and community members for your donations of sewing material, books and movies. Your donation was greatly appreciated. The centre is open Tuesday – Saturday with programs that suit the youth. Beginning Thursday, Hannah Alexie and I will be doing youth bible study and I feel this will be a good opportunity for the youth to take part in. November will be a busy month as we received funding to do a traditional sewing program. I am ordering materials and will be having community members teach the youth about traditional sewing. Fur mitts and mukluk making will be the first project and I am anxious to start. Each month approximately 140 youth and teenagers drop by the Centre and take part in project that I do. Adults and Elders are invited to come to the centre; you can use the Internet or play a game of pool.

***Dog Owners***

***Tie them up – keep them safe!***

Dogs running loose can present a danger to the public – especially children. Please keep control of your pets and keep them safe.

