

# TOWN OF MILESTONE

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## **MILESTONE NUISANCE GROUNDS – IMPORTANT CHANGES**

Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM), Environmental Protection Branch, has recently stepped up compliance enforcement for all **WASTE DISPOSAL SITES (Nuisance Grounds)** in the Province. Many communities, including Wilcox and Rouleau, have already been issued warnings and have started to modify current landfill practices in response to these warnings. Milestone has now been included and in December of 2002 the Town was issued 2 written “Notice of Violations” for non-compliance and ordering the town to comply with SERM regulations which includes fencing and gating the nuisance grounds and ceasing all burning activities. Non-compliance by the town will result in significant fines and possible closure of the site. Alternate suggestions for garbage disposal by SERM is combining resources to develop regional landfills or contracting the waste collection service to a private contractor. While being considered, initial studies indicate these alternatives to be extremely costly. Therefore, council is of the opinion it is best at this time to comply and continue the operation of the town’s nuisance grounds. SERM has made it very clear the town must comply with their directives and therefore the town will move to modify current landfill practices. These changes will not be subtle, like other communities they will include:

- **ABOSLUTELY NO BURNING -except white woods (trees etc.) in a specified burning pit**
- installing a gate, closure and restricted hours of supervised operation
- improving the perimeter fence
- no tires, no batteries, no concrete and no treated wood. (Council will be contacting SERM for alternate methods of disposal of items not allowed in the site)
- materials will have to be placed in the appropriate signed area.

SERM advises that anyone setting fire at the nuisance grounds, dumping of unauthorized material in the site or dumping of materials outside the fence or locked gate will be prosecuted and subject to significant fines. While council may not be in agreement with SERM’s “stepped-up, no-exception” enforcement of the “Landfill Regulations”, council is committed to complying as best the it can to the requirements and will also investigate and/or prosecute those who violate the regulations.

With everyone’s cooperation and understanding council is confident the transitional period will not create any undue hardship and the town’s method of waste collection and disposal, modified for regulatory compliance, will continue to meet the needs of the community in an efficient and economical way. More information will be provided as council implements the waste disposal changes for SERM compliance.

**Until the new regulations and guidelines are in place the following garbage pick-up/disposal policy are in effect.**

### **GARBAGE PICKUP**

Garbage pickup in the residential areas during the winter months (usually after the first snow fall) is on the street. During the summer months (as soon as the lanes are passable in the spring) pickup is in the lanes. Garbage pickup is usually on WEDNESDAYS, weather permitting. **Remember in wet weather if your lane is impassable there will be no garbage pickup that week as the road to the disposal site will be impassable as well.** Please ensure your refuse is placed and secured in plastic bags and if put out prior to the morning of pickup, deposited in containers that will prevent it from being exposed and scattered by the elements or animals. The total weight of the container should not exceed 50lbs.

### **IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT**

**Garden refuse, leaves and grass clippings must be bagged. The public works crew will not pick up any refuse, including garden, leaves and grass clippings, that is not bagged or stored in proper containers. Sod trimmings also fall into this category.**

### **BUILDING AND MOVING PERMITS**

Once again you are reminded that it is necessary to obtain a development permit, that is a building permit, moving permit or demolition permit prior to any development of your property. New construction, renovations, moving a building/trailer etc. onto or off of your property is considered to be development and requires council’s prior written permission and a development permit. The “**BUILDING PERMIT PROCESS**” includes a “Plan Review” by MuniCode Services Ltd. to ensure compliance to all building codes and regulations. **The building permit will then be issued subject to the conditions of the “Plan Review”.** **APPLICATIONS FOR A BUILDING PERMIT MUST BE MADE AND A BUILDING PERMIT ISSUED PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY CONSTRUCTION.**

### **UNTIDY AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES**

Under the authority of the Urban Municipality Act council can declare land or buildings untidy and unsightly and can order the owner/occupant to remedy the untidiness and unsightliness. This has improved, however, there are still a few properties that are in violation of the Act. Council is requesting everyone’s cooperation in cleaning up his or her property. **If these properties are not cleaned up council will be taking action under the Urban Municipality Act, a step council is most reluctant to take. The cost of the clean up will be added to and form part of the taxes on the property.**

### **DOGS BARKING and PETS RUNNING AT LARGE**

Every year council receives numerous complaints regarding dogs and cats running at large. Please ensure that your pet **is at all times restrained on your property, and when walking, continually on a leash of no longer than 4ft.** When leashed, your pet is not able to wander onto private property creating the possibility of it causing damage to flowers, shrubs or newly planted trees. **Also, please ensure that your dog does not create an annoyance by barking continuously etc.** Recently there have been complaints of this received by council. Continued barking creates undue hardship on shift workers, seniors and sleeping infants, as well as proving an annoyance to all neighbours, especially during the summer months when windows are open in the evenings and during the night. Council is requesting your cooperation in being a responsible pet owner. It is worth mentioning that if you feel aggrieved or annoyed, more times than not, friendly communication with your neighbour will resolve the grievance or annoyance.

### **PET (DOG AND CAT) LICENSES:**

Please ensure your pet is properly registered and licensed at the town office. Pet licenses are \$10.00 for each pet. The registry ensures proper identification of your pet in the event it is impounded or otherwise required. Enclosed with this notice is a letter of concern by council and an invoice for a pet license to the pet owners.

### **IMPOUNDING**

Any stray animal (running at large), whether licensed or not can be taken to the Regina Humane Society where it will be impounded. Also any person finding a stray animal can take the animal to Humane Society. Every attempt will be made to notify the owners of the animals impounded. This of course is made much easier if the animal is properly registered.

### **DIRECT DOOR TO DOOR SALESMEN**

During the year a number of "Direct Sellers" (Door to Door Salesman) will come to Milestone. Every direct seller is supposed to obtain a LICENSE from the town before they go door to door to solicit sales for goods and/or services. For your protection you should first ask any direct seller to show you their **Town of Milestone Direct Seller's License** before they try to sell you a product and/or service. If they don't show you a license-they probably don't have one.

### **GENERAL CONTRACTORS**

As with "Direct Sellers" all Contractors performing any trade, service or business within Milestone are also required to obtain a LICENSE, unless they are otherwise assessed for a business tax. You can request any of these workers to show evidence of their license prior to commencement of work or you can contact the town office to see if they are properly licensed to carry on work in Milestone.

### **NEW PAVEMENT, HEAVY TRAFFIC, EXTENDED PARKING OF VEHICLES ON STREETS ETC.**

The town will be going ahead with proposed street repair and resurfacing Local Improvement Project and the work is expected to start in August or September. Weather permitting the project should be completed within 4-5 weeks. Affected property owners will be sent "Notice of Assessment" for their share of the cost of the work after the work is completed. One might also expect stricter enforcement of the "Heavy Truck Route and Parking" provisions of the Town's Traffic Bylaw once the work is completed.

In accordance with town's TRAFFIC CONTROL BYLAW, council is requesting your cooperation in ensuring that your vehicle(s) are not parked on the street for more than a 24 hour period. This includes trailers, campers, buses etc. The extended parking of vehicles etc. is not only in violation of the Bylaw but it also creates undue and unnecessary hardship for street cleaning, street maintenance and snow removal operations. It also creates an unsafe play area for small children as well as being unsafe for the general pedestrian traffic.

**Also please ensure your vehicle is parked on the right-hand side of the street having regard to the direction in which the vehicle was proceeding. If your vehicle is not parked in that manner and is hit or sustains damage, you may be liable for damages and your insurance may be void. Also, it is in violation of the town's traffic bylaw and you may be fined if not parked in the proper manner.**

### **RCMP POLICING MATTERS**

The RCMP relies on public assistance with policing matters in the community. The following are some ways your assistance can be given.

i) Driving offenses - contact the RCMP with the appropriate information i.e.: time, place, vehicle and driver if known. The RCMP will follow up on this information and issue the appropriate summons.

ii) House parties - An overly loud and obnoxious house party creating an annoyance should be reported. Again the RCMP will take the appropriate action in accordance with the town's bylaws.

iii) thefts, break-ins etc. - Any vehicles, persons or situations which you feel may be suspicious in nature should be reported to the RCMP, again given the pertinent information, so the appropriate action can be taken by the RCMP

If you have a policing concern please call the RCMP. Remember, an attempt to resolve the problem can only be made if it is reported.

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS-** Each year volunteers make a substantial contribution to your community. The time and effort expended by all volunteers and their respective organization help in providing a great number of community programs, activities and the operation of recreational facilities. Without their participation, dedication and commitment to the community many of the services and programs provided in Milestone could not be funded or achieved. All are important and play an integral part in the development and betterment of our community. The numbers are varied and many, and each individual volunteer is as important as the organization itself. There can never be too much emphasis made of the important contributions you make to the community. **Council extends their heartfelt thanks and appreciation and congratulations on a job well done. THANK YOU TO ALL.**

It might be noted at this time that Milestone was incorporated as a Village in 1903 and as a town in 1906 and the Province celebrates its centennial in 2005. Council is asking through this newsletter to let your views be known whether or not you feel the town should celebrate the Province's centennial and if so, should the town celebrate its 2006 centennial incorporation anniversary a year early in conjunction with the Province's Celebration. Also, if these anniversaries were celebrated would you be willing to volunteer on a planning and/or project committee? Provincial funding is available for eligible projects.

Enclosed is your 2003 tax notice. The "BASE TAX" (That is: each class of land and improvements separately recorded on the assessment roll will pay a \$200.00 BASE TAX, the same as last year). The mill rate remained the same in 2003, that being 11.0435. The municipal mill rate of 11.0435, using the same mill rate factors as last year, will be calculated on the assessment. The combined total will be your 2003 municipal tax levy.

Members of the council are as follows: This **is an election year and municipal elections will take place in fall of 2003 – Notices will be published in the Weyburn Review.**

Mayor Richard Galbraith  
Councillors Donald Nixdorf  
Paul Haack  
Dwayne Baker  
Jack Hancock  
John Summers  
Lyle Cole