

Town of Blaine Lake August, 2010 Newsletter

Landfill Hours

Summer landfill hours are Tuesdays 3 – 8 pm; Wednesdays & Saturdays 10 am to noon & 1 – 4 pm. Compostable material (grass, leaves, garden refuse, etc.) can be taken to the Landfill on regular landfill days for free.

Communities in Bloom

Thank you to those resident's that put forth that extra effort on their yards for the Communities in Bloom judges when they were here on July 22nd. We will receive a report back from Communities in Bloom telling us how well we did (or didn't do) early this fall.

Parking in Back Alleys

Residents are reminded that parking vehicles in the back alley is against the law. It is important that back alleys are kept open to ensure fire and other safety equipment can get access to them. Any vehicles parked in back alleys will be ticketed and towed away at the owner's expense.

Sidewalk Repairs

There will be a Contractor in Blaine Lake doing sidewalk repairs for the Town in the next few weeks. Anyone requiring a contractor to do this type of work can contact the Town Office for details.

Grass/Weed Cutting done by Town Employees

Anyone who allows the grass or weeds to become overgrown and unsightly (longer than 20 cm) on their property and that Town Employees have to cut will be charged \$100.00 per lot. If they do not pay the bill, it will be added to their property taxes.

Sarcan Gives Back

Recycle your milk containers to support the BLCA. Bring your crushed milk cartons and jugs into our SARCAN depot during the month of August and they will make a donation to the BLCA. \$350.00 for every tonne of plastic milk jugs recycled and \$150.00 for every tonne of paper milk cartons recycled. Also, buy a \$1.00 ticket for your chance to win a double deck chair. Raffle draw will take place September 3, 2010.

Blaine Lake Library

The Blaine Lake Library Board would like to say a Big Thank You to all the contributors who have donated money, time, work, and equipment to the Blaine Lake Memorial Park. We have had a great start, and there is still a ways to go, but we will keep working. This is for the future enjoyment of all.

Beet Festival

St. Andrew's Parish will be hosting their Annual Beet Festival on Saturday, September 4th, 2010 at the Blaine Lake Memorial Hall 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Protecting yourself against West Nile Virus (submitted by Kim Kenke, Nurse Practitioner)

This time of year is the danger zone for West Nile Virus. The mosquito carrying the West Nile Virus in Saskatchewan, the *Culex tarsalis*, is most abundant in July to mid September. It is extremely important that we all take precautions to reduce our risk of becoming infected with West Nile.

There are several things you can do to reduce your risk of becoming infected with West Nile:

- limit the time you spend outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active
- wear light coloured long-sleeved shirts, long pants and a hat
- Use insect repellent containing DEET
- Make sure that door and window screens fit tightly and have no holes
- Clean up and empty containers of standing water or add a fountain
- Empty and clean birdbaths weekly
- Cover rainwater barrels with mesh or screens
- Don't let things pile up around the yard
- Cut your lawn frequently

The concentration of DEET in insect repellants is very important as its safety depends on the age of its user. DEET should not be used in children under the age of 6 months, and avoid being outside at peak mosquito hours, if you must be outside use insect netting. It is safe to use one application of 10% DEET product on children aged 6 months to 2 years, which last approximately 3 hours. Children 2 to 12 years of age may use 10% DEET up to 3 times per day. 30% DEET is safe for children over 12 and adults and will last up to six hours. Please note that there have been no indications that DEET will harm an unborn or nursing child, so it is safe to use during pregnancy.

Most cases of West Nile are mild. Generally symptoms will show up 2-15 days after the bite. Severe neurological form of the infection are most worrisome, as there is no cure. If you or someone you know begins suddenly experiencing extremely high fever, confusion, weakness, lack of coordination and stiff neck please see your health care provider. West Nile testing will only be offered if we are concerned about the case being the neurological form.

Our best form of treatment is prevention- FIGHT THE BITE!!

For more information visit Saskatchewan health at www.health.gov.sk.ca or Public Health Agency of Canada at www.westnilevirus.gc.ca, or call Blaine Lake Clinic.

Any non-profit organization that has a community event they would like included in the Town's monthly newsletter or on the website should contact the Town office by not later than the 25th of the month. We will try and include your event!