

Organized Hamlet of Guernsey 2021

Summer Newsletter

Hamlet Board – A reminder that the Hamlet Board now consists of the following *volunteers*:

Chair: Kevin Powell

Board Members: Don Koch & Trevor Baker

The Hamlet Board deals with the day-to-day issues in town year-round – they are very much appreciated and their efforts to keep the town running smoothly do not go unnoticed. Thank you!

Questions or concerns may be directed to any Board Member at any time. **Note: if you have issues with your neighbours pets, property, etc., you are encouraged to discuss these directly with your neighbor to resolve the issue!**

COVID-19 – we are so thankful there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel! What a challenging 16 months we've all been facing in this pandemic.

If you're feeling unwell or showing any symptoms of illness, please do not enter the office. If you do visit the office, we ask that you please sanitize and follow all protocols as signed/mandated by the province.

Pets – a reminder of the dog bylaw that involves fines for proven complaints of dogs at large, starting at \$250.00 for the first offence. Unfortunately, we continue to receive an influx of complaints regarding dogs at large. **A reminder to all residents to please be mindful of your neighbors, businesses, and their property, and keep ALL pets contained/at home. In addition to this, if you walk your pet, please clean up after them.**



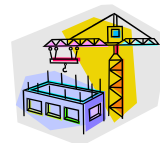
Website – visit us at www.rmusborne.ca for policies, information and updates – we are always posting new items!

Water bills continue to be billed quarterly. The meter reading policy and dates can be found on the website. Reminder – **NO EXTENSIONS** will be granted if bills are not paid in full by the specified deadline. If water is disconnected due to non-payment, a reconnection fee of \$150.00 is added to the account. **Reminders are not issued via phone, text, or email; rather, by postal mail approximately 2 weeks prior to the cutoff date.** If your property is rented out, please note the office **must** be notified, and a form must accompany a \$200 meter deposit for all new tenants. Water is now physically shut off at the curb if a property is vacant.

Tax & Utility Payments – A reminder that we're registered with "Telpay", which allows ratepayers to pay their taxes and invoices online with most major banks and Credit Unions. Your billing account number is your owner number (shown after your name, upper right corner) followed or led by zeros – usually 6 digits total. We do not offer credit card or interact. We also accept e-transfers to rm310@sasktel.net

JEB – we continue to hold rentals in the JEB Community Center (as Covid allows). We have regular weekly rentals – cadets, dojo, pickleball & seniors. The building is also available for day and weekend rentals. Please visit our website for rates.

Assessment – you may see a representative from SAMA out and about in the spring months (annually) performing assessment maintenance, if there have been any changes to your property or any clarification is needed for your assessment. Ratepayers are reminded to be respectful while the assessors complete their data collection. Please contact SAMA, or the RM office at rm310@sasktel.net with any questions regarding assessment.



Development & Building Permits – If you are building, you must apply for both development and building permits and our building official will ensure that the building is built to code. Please see the website for further details.

Roads – the RM is currently exploring options to repair the potholes. Unfortunately, we continue to face issues with street vandalism, which is making the task of fixing the roads much more difficult! Please be respectful of the streets, and patient while Council & the Hamlet Board assess the roads and attempt to come up with a solution.

If streets are being vandalized, please contact the local RCMP detachment if you note someone driving recklessly! **This, unfortunately, is not an issue that the RM can assist with as it is beyond our scope.**



Bylaw Enforcement Officer – Flaman Security continues to visit the Hamlet monthly. They monitor and enforce all municipal bylaws, including the Nuisance Bylaw and the Dog Bylaw for the Organized Hamlet of Guernsey. This involves pets at large, garbage and debris, junked vehicles, untidy and unsightly yards, just to name a few. Fines are issued if contraventions are not rectified. A copy of the bylaws can be reviewed on the website or at the office. You may also request these via email. An information sheet regarding Flaman was also sent out in January 2021 and is available at the office, where many FAQ's and misunderstandings were addressed. **Note: advance warnings were sent out prior, so please do your part to avoid being flagged/fined!**

SaskPower – is your streetlight out, or damaged? These outages can be reported online! Visit www.saskpower.streetlightoutages.com to report.

Annual Meeting: a reminder that there is an Annual Public Meeting held each fall. Due to the misconduct of several attendees at the 2020 meeting, all meetings going forward will be conducted differently. If you have any personal or specific issues with Council or the Hamlet Board, we ask that you please bring these matters forward at another time (ie: requesting to attend a monthly meeting to discuss). Verbal abuse will absolutely not be tolerated, and any attendees in contravention of this rule will be removed.



REACT - you can take your garbage (for a fee) to the transfer sites at Lanigan, Watrous or Drake *or* a group can rent or purchase a bin that will be emptied on a regular basis. Curb side pickup is done on Monday mornings – please note there have been issues with birds picking open garbage bags and spreading waste around the community – please ensure all measures are taken to avoid this.

Recycle centers – we recently received a complaint about material that was in our newsletter last year in this regard. Please note certain recycle bins have been removed from Guernsey. This was a decision that was made solely at REACT’s discretion, and the bins *were* in town at the time of our last newsletter. We apologize for any misunderstanding in this regard. For recycling locations, please contact REACT or visit them online.

Updated REACT information, including fees, can be found at www.rmusborne.ca.

Pests – RM Council, Administration and the Hamlet Board have received several reports of pests (skunks, crows, etc) in town. Residents are reminded that feeding and harbouring wild animals intentionally is **strictly prohibited** and subject to fines via Flaman. If you have food for pets outside, note that it may attract rodents/pests. The RM/Hamlet has appointed a resident to handle nuisance rodents and birds, and continue to work to mitigate the issue. There are also traps available from the RM for skunks – these traps, and the bait, must be returned to the RM after use. **If you have issues with pests on your property – be advised that discharging a firearm is not permitted in town. Please contact the RM or Hamlet Board for use of the traps. If firearms are used by unauthorized persons in town, please call the RCMP.**

Mailouts/Information Circulation – Hamlet announcements, updates & information are often sent out via bulk mailout through the post office. This is for items such as boil water advisories, hydrant flushes, RCMP/Flaman notices (including yard cleanup & pet issues), etc. If you’ve checked “no flyers” for your box number at the post office, please note that you will **not** receive these mailouts.

Thank You! At this time, we would like to take the opportunity to thank our volunteers who help out around town. Your work & effort spraying weeds, reading meters, mowing the cemetery, etc., are vital to the success of our community.

CP Derailment – the work is complete at the derailment site, and the final remediation report is available. Please visit our website to see a copy – hard copies are not available from the office as it is nearly 1400 pages long.

Numerous incidents have been reported of disrespectful conduct toward the equipment operators. This is not being taken lightly - residents are reminded to **BE RESPECTFUL** of the RM staff/equipment operators as they are in town clearing snow or blading streets. The crew has the entire RM, including Guernsey and Lockwood, to cover and they are sure to get to all areas as quickly as possible. We are appreciative of the hours they spend to keep everything cleared & maintained, and the job they do when they are here.

In addition to this, there has been an increase in verbal abuse toward the office staff as well. **Please note this is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.** Due to this, we are currently assessing whether or not our doors will return to their locked state, with no public access permitted in the building. If you have issues with REACT, your neighbor’s pets and yards, streets & street vandalism, SaskPower, Flaman, etc. – please note that verbally abusing the office staff will not aide in these issues. The municipality will do our best to assist with issues as we are able; however, once again, we encourage you to reach out to one another and work directly to mitigate any issues.

Important Numbers:

CP Emergency	1-800-716-9132
CN Emergency (Dangerous Rail Crossing)	1-800-465-9239
RCMP:	1-306-365-1370 or 9-1-1