



Photo Courtesy of Laddie Wesolowski

Hello Residents of Thode,

Hmmm! Looks like winter isn't done with us yet! Just when we get some plus temperatures and start cleaning off our decks, winter says "Hold on a minute! I'm not done!". But we all know spring is on the way and the ice fishing shacks will be replaced with boats and paddle boards!

And now for the following messages:

## Village Updates

### **Connector Road**

Starting with our biggest bit of news! The RM of Dundurn was able to award the tender for the construction of the connector road on Feb 18 to Strom Earthmoving! Construction will likely take place this summer with construction being completed prior to October 31. It was crucial that this project was tendered prior to Feb 28th, to align with the requirements of the Rural Integrated Roads Grant. This provincial grant will be funding half of the eligible road construction and its associated costs! Without this grant, the project would have been too costly for our village and the road project would not have gone ahead.

This also means the road access will be shut down for a period of time while construction takes place, and residents will be required to use the current Thode Road to access the highway. The office will send out an email in advance of when this construction will occur.

### **Pelican Trail Lot Sales**

We are also excited to inform our residents that all four new lots in the boat house district have sold. This puts some more revenue into our budget which we will be needing to help with the costs associated with the construction of connector road. This also means additional annual revenue from the boat house district. All a part of our effort to keep our property taxes in line.

### **Dundurn Fire Commission**

The Dundurn Fire Department has found a suitable replacement truck to add to their fleet that falls within the \$150,000 budget they were allotted. This has been quite a long process to find a compromise between what the fire department needs and a vehicle that fits within the budget. We are grateful that this issue has been resolved at this point. The focus between the partners of the Dundurn Fire Commission (RM of Dundurn, Town of Dundurn, RV of Shields and RV of Thode) will now be on securing a location for a new fire hall and applying for a grant to help fund the construction of that fire hall. The RM and Town will be leading this initiative as they are the majority partners, but the village will be supporting where we can.

### **Pelican Pass Lot Development**

In February, if you saw some snow clearing activity slightly off connector road, that was geotechnical work being done as part of the proposed construction for the new Pelican Pass lots. Associated Engineering was awarded the design of those lots, and we are looking forward to seeing their report hopefully within the next month or two. There has been a lot of interest in those properties and once we have some confirmed sales and an approved design and cost estimate, that construction will be going to tender.

What does this mean for the village? There will likely be some construction headaches but to keep our property taxes from growing at the rate of inflation every year and to grow the services in our community, we need to increase the tax base by having more residents contribute. But council will be cautious with our growth by making sure we build at a sustainable level and not overextend ourselves or our resources.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

You should have received a newsletter from our Parks and Rec Committee last month. I just want to highlight some of the events our Parks and Rec Committee are planning this year:

- March 16 – St. Patrick's Potluck
- May 11 – Mother's Day Brunch
- June 15 – Father's Day BBQ
- June 29 – Pre-Canada Day Bike Parade & BBQ
- August 23 – Thode Boat Rally
- November 2 – Fall Potluck and Pumpkin Drop
- December 31 – New Year's Eve Bash

We are so proud of our resident volunteers of our Parks and Rec Committee! Please come on out and get involved, even if you can't make their monthly meetings. They are always appreciative of event volunteers, people to help with grant applications, and hearing your ideas for bringing this community together!

The Parks and Rec Committee has also setup an account at SARCAN! When you take your empty bottles to the Drop & Go section of the SARCAN Depot, use the phrase “THODE” when prompted on the screen and the deposit money will go to the Parks and Rec Fund. Great idea and an easy way for residents to donate!

### **SUMA Village/Resort Village Caucus**

What is SUMA? SUMA is the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association which represents the interests of municipal governments on policy and program matters within the provincial jurisdiction. In simpler terms, it’s a recognized association that represents urban centres-cities, towns, resort villages- when it comes to dealing with the provincial government policies, strategies, and programs that affect those urban centres.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to let residents know that I was nominated and elected to the SUMA Villag/Resort Village Caucus as there was an opening that needed to be filled. I wanted to make sure that we had representation on a larger scale and our voices, along with the voices of other villages/resort villages, were heard. The Caucus meets quarterly throughout the year to discuss SUMA’s advocacy work.

### **Building and Development Permits**

**I cannot stress this enough! When you are considering doing any kind of structural work, such as driveway resurfacing, installing a deck, or house additions, please fill out a permit application and submit it to the office at least a month prior to your planned start date. All applications need approval before any work commences.**

Any work done to the RV of Thode’s right of way (outside your property line) needs to be approved by council at their next available council meeting. There may be restrictions or utilities that you are unaware of, therefore, if you construct without permit approval, you may have to remove your project at your own cost. We would like to prevent this kind of situation from occurring.

If you are unsure whether a permit is required, please contact the office to inquire.

*Until the next update,*

*Mayor Corey Fernets*  
[mayor@thode.ca](mailto:mayor@thode.ca)