

Thode Newsletter

Fall 2019



A Message from the Mayor



The year is passing quickly like so many others, harvest presses on in a year that's so hard on farmers. We, on Council continue to build for the future of our community.

We've built so much in the last decade and the more we do, the more we realize how much potential we have in this great community... but there is more opportunity ahead and still more to do...

Yes time still passes quickly ... I checked again to be sure and indeed as this summer passed us by it marked a new milestone for me. I've had the honour to serve in this Municipality's as mayor for over ten years and with Council for nearly fourteen years. Encouraged by dear friends that are now close neighbours, I have been part of this community since 2001. While I have served with numerous different councillors, I am proud of the direction of this Council, our many accomplishments but we all still see so much potential and opportunity. Being part of this community and serving this community as we build for the future is a humbling exercise. This is mostly because of the clear realization of how much this small community accomplishes. We really punch over our weight.

51 years young... yes that's right our Village passed a milestone without much fanfare, but I can't let that fact go unnoticed. We incorporated officially in 1981 but this community was formed while the Reservoir Development Area was under development circa 1968. So we missed our birthday. Seems like it's like some we know that tend to lie about their age. Seriously though, this is a busy place and we have busy lifestyles with families always on the go in this young growing community. We have great partners in our region too, helping renew all our communities and make the Blackstrap Lake area stronger. We will be planning belated celebrations with our partners and hope to host a community gathering befitting the history, accomplishments and potential of this vibrant place.

The 'to-do' list is growing but we're up to the task ... We continue to examine our core services and invest in maintenance and improvements. In this newsletter we will bring updates regarding our water system, the access roadways, our Planning Statement and the new Official Community Plan. We are very fortunate to have Jessie keeping a watchful eye on our Village with Fred, our General Manager and Kaija and the rest of the team looking after Thode and Shields and thank you Council for all for all you do, everyday.

All the very best,

Alan Thomarat

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We Give Thanks and We Remember

This Thanksgiving we think of all the fortune we have as we share this community and the bounty from this great place, Saskatchewan.

Some of our dear friends have felt loss and pain this year and they think of those that they miss every day. We think of all of you and your families and we hope all of you find comfort in your many fond memories.

We think too of many families who work hard on farms across this province today and as they struggle through a difficult year. We hope that the harvest this year exceeds all expectations.



Council for the Resort Village of Thode and your Administration and Operations Team offer our sincerest best wishes for you and your family and friends at this time of year when we enjoy being together and give thanks for the many blessings we share.

We Remember Bev Johnson, a Special Part of our Community – Bev Johnson left a lasting impact on our community and we lost Bev earlier this year. In the coming weeks we will place a special bench in Angel Park commemorating her good work in this community with her husband Al Scholz and her family. Thank you Al for helping us make this happen.

Honourable Bill McKnight, SOM, 1940 - 2019 — MP, Minister, Honorary Chief of Muskeg Lake, community builder, politician and our neighbour in Thode passed away October 4th, 2019. Bill left a mark in many communities, made positive changes to the Treaty Land Entitlement framework building a clearer path for First Nations Communities to build for the Future.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee works to improve our green spaces and advise Council on matters formerly handled by both the Social Committee and the GreenScapes Committee

The work of the Committee under the direction of Melanie Olafson has brought successful events to our community and the committee continues effort to improve Village services. Residents that want to get involved should contact the office at 306.492.2259

Angel Park facilities and playground access has been restricted while the repairs to shore up play structures and install new retaining beams. Despite weather delays this work is nearly complete.

Thank you Fred and Melanie for your work on the site and help acquiring new equipment for the play area.



*WE SHOULDN'T FORGET THAT THE WARMTH OF SPRING
WILL RETURN AS QUICKLY AS WE SAW IT PASS*

FIRE FIGHTING & FALSE ALARM FEES UP

Please note the following changes effective immediately. False Alarm call out fees;

- 1st time - no charge
- 2nd time - \$ 500.00
- 3rd time - \$1,000.00

After one year passes reverts to 0 (nil)

Fire fighting fees are charged at \$1,000/hr

Speed Limit in Thode is

20 KPH

Please drive carefully

2019 STORAGE FEES UNCHANGED

The storage site fees remain the same at \$150 per year or \$100 for 6 months. There is a black box inside the gate that has numbered tags. Please tag your item and let Fred or Jessie know what number you have on your item

Please keep streets clear of all vehicles and obstructions. Nose in parking is not permitted in the Village unless by permission

Pest Control – Use of fire arms in village is prohibited unless authorized by Council

Use of poison by individuals on municipal or Crown land is also strictly prohibited

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Fire Pits, Fire Works and Fire Bans

...Public Safety and Your Community

As we've advised earlier this spring, we are concerned that as an urban community, we need to be sure to adopt all measures possible do prevent grass fires and another catastrophic incident in our Village. We thank all those that have supported our Fire Safety Initiative and for working with Fred to be sure that fire pits and places are safe.



Residents may use approved fire pits if they provide the following (**the fire pit above will not get a permit in Thode**)

1. pictures of the pit or box to the office
2. drawings indicating distance to flammable objects
3. proof of nearby pressurized water supply
4. approval of General Manager or Administrator

If a Full Ban is in place without allowance of the above exception, no fires are allowed

OUR ANGEL PARK UPGRADES CONTINUE – STILL PLENTY OF POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENTS

SPORT COURT IS READY TO USE BUT PLEASE HELP TAKE CARE OF OUR FACILITIES

After years of planning, fundraising and significant donations clearly we can say today that we have a terrific opportunity to organize community events and sports activities in Thode since the addition of our Sport Court. This project was an investment of over \$250,000. Angel Park and our walking spaces, as well as municipal reserve lands are all scheduled for improvements in the near term and we encourage you to consider making a donation to support your community.

If you make a donation to our Community Building Fund and support our work in our parks and the future development of our community you will receive a receipt for a tax deduction in 2019. This helps keep money in your pocket while you make a real difference in your community. Call Jessie at (306) 492-2259 for more information or to make your contribution Thank you to all that have helped to Build a Better Thode

Fibre Optic Plan for Blackstrap Brings 21st Century Wireless Coverage to area

Recently the mayors of the Resort Villages of Thode and Shields met with officials from the Government of Canada and the leadership group from FlexNetworks as it was announced that the Resort Villages would be the beneficiaries of a national plan to improve rural internet service. Further meetings are scheduled for November and we remain hopeful that all the necessary federal approvals will be in place and that construction for the lines to our Villages will begin soon.

There will be further updates after the November meetings as we hope to learn how the access to the new service will impact current providers and we are updated as to next steps for the area.

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VIEW BEFORE MORE UPGRADES TO PLAYGROUND WITH DEFINED BORDERS AND DEEPER SAND BASE

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN NEARING COMPLETION

We are still on a sound footing in our community but living within our means calls for tough choices. As a small community, there isn't a shortage of worthwhile initiatives that we might commit to; but there certainly is a limit to that which we can afford to consider. This is no different than any municipality, whether urban or rural and we are further constrained in that our Village isn't experiencing any of the growth in tax base which occurred in many other communities.

Water and Sewer Utilities a constant concern - Council is reluctant to allow spending on 'wish list' ideas that aren't financially sustainable and that might threaten the provision of basic services. We are ever mindful that our residents all have budgets and have made commitments over the last ten years that have supported our 'new state of the art' water and waste water services that are both the envy of other small and medium sized municipalities.

Road Improvements, Egress and Access and Public Safety - As many will know from the last ten years, we have made a commitment to stick to the basics. While considering rising costs, a limited tax base and the need to provide the basic services that a municipality must provide we look for new ways to bring improvements to services. Recent years and recent storms give more emphasis on the deficiencies within the road network that serves the community of Thode and the region. Wear and tear and more full-time users on Thode Rd are both causing real safety issues and Council is determined to address this immediately.

A Safe Road – The 211 Connector Project - This Council had deliberated for several years now with the EMO on the lack of safe roads and emergency egress options from Thode. Your Mayor and Deputy have had many meetings with RM Council and their support is encouraging. The mayor has also met with Minister Eyre and her office has arranged meetings for the Mayor and Minister of Highways later this month. We are hopeful for the Ministry's approval so that we can begin work with the RM and Colony to put safety first for the Colony and Thode and build a safe connection to Highway 211 and also upgrade Thode Rd for local traffic.

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Thode has No Increase In Taxes, the Mill Rate or the Base Tax - Two Years In A Row

SUMMARY OF BASIC (REQUIRED) SERVICES FOR THE RESORT VILLAGE OF THODE

➤ Administration/Accounting/Audits		\$ 55,800	
➤ Fire and First Response (DFD)		\$ 12,880	
➤ Environmental/Recycling		\$ 22,600	
➤ Maintenance/Certified Water/Sewer Operator		\$ 70,000	
➤ RCMP / Crime Stoppers		\$ 7,000	
➤ Snow Removal and Sanding		\$ 4,500	
➤ Asset Reserves		<u>\$ 46,616</u>	
TOTAL BASIC SERVICES		<u>\$ 219,396</u>	/116 PROPERTIES
BASIC SERVICES PER PROPERTY	=	\$ 1,891.35	
BASE TAX PER PROPERTY	=	<u>\$ 1,325.00</u>	
SHORTFALL	=	\$ 566.35	

We have maintained our base rate since 2017 at \$1,325.00 and kept the mill rate to a low of 2.0 mills. All this considered, we remain committed to continuous improvement in the services we offer and look for new opportunities for growth while keeping in mind the constraints that challenge our Council and Administration.



Thode Village Centre with the new large L-Shaped deck with natural gas heaters, stairways and ramps made our Centre more functional and accessible. New washrooms and the Sport Court complement Angel Park Playground and improve the gathering spaces in our community. We are glad that our Community finds this facility useful for family functions and we hope to continue improvements to all our buildings and facilities

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COMMUNITY SETS BENCHMARKS AND SEEKS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

As we've discussed at numerous meetings, we are working hard to add more amenities in the park, on public reserves and within the Village generally for our residents to enjoy. To work towards the achievement of our goals, Council established a Community Building Fund in 2010. This fund allows us to manage the fundraising efforts and to set priorities for planning and development in our community.

The work to develop the entire recreational area in the area around Angel Park and the Village Centre continues. There have been many improvements since 2009:

- Improvements to landscaping, adding stairways and improving accessibility for strollers and wheelchair access.
- Tiered decking north and lakeside up to the Village Centre with deck lighting and natural gas heat supply for outdoor events and private functions,
- New washroom facilities and change rooms in the area of the Sport Courts equipped with heat, power and washing services.
- Improved and larger beach area complete with larger swim section & expanded seating
- All Season Sport Court south-west of the Village Centre for basketball, skating, hockey, badminton, pickle ball, tennis and other community activities

Future plans could include continued improvements to the landscaping and seating areas as well as;

- Upgraded children's Water Park/Spray Park located to the southwest of Village Centre
- Covered Band Shell(s) near the beach area and Children's Waterpark for shade

Council hopes to continue its plan to develop walking trails and rest stations on the Crown property behind and south of Summerfeldt Drive. Other ideas that might be allowed on this leased property are also under review.

Council is considering best uses for this property but all these must satisfy the conditions within the lease. We ask that our entire community support us in caring for the Reserve Lands so that we can keep them for our residents

**Hey all new and longtime residents of Thode!
Come out this fall to our
Community Potlucks**

**The get-togethers are informal for all ages!
Bring any food item, your cutlery, plate, a beverage & guests
Put the last Friday evening of the month on your calendars!**

**October 25th, November 29th and December 27th
5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Village Centre**

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Thode Continues its Commitment to a Cleaner Lake and Shoreline Preservation

Most of you have seen the Algae build up recently on the lake in the vicinity of Thode and our office sent out a precautionary advisory for our residents. We are still unsure of the cause. Summer storms bringing above average rainfall and the breach of a berm holding back a cattle feed-lot on Hillcrest land near the Village brought a large volume of water laden with manure to the lake level. With government supervision, our maintenance team with help from neighbours and the colony worked to mitigate the damage from the run-off as much as possible. At the request of Ministry officials the feed lot and cattle were moved away from the Village to the west of Highway 11 and we will continue to monitor the lake for abnormal nutrient loading.

We thank Karl Lindenschmidt, Fred Fehr and several councillors that brought attention to this matter and worked collaboratively with government officials and leaders from the Hillcrest Colony to help mitigate the impact to our environment and our community.

Double Check Valves installed with Water Meters may need Replacement

Over the past several years we have received calls from residents indicating that their double check valves were leaking. Their purpose is to prevent cross contamination of the potable water system. The back flow preventers that are found to be faulty will be replaced by the village. Please contact Fred Fehr at 306 492-7922 if you have questions or if you would like to arrange a time for an inspection.

VILLAGE CENTRE RENTAL INFORMATION:

Resident Rental Fee \$100 plus
\$250 damage deposit.
Damage deposit will be refunded if the Centre is
cleaned after use.

**For bookings contact Jessie Williams
at 306-492-2259**

INCREASE IN FIRE CALL CHARGES

Charges for fire calls are \$1,000 per hour.

Please check your home insurance policy and contact your insurance broker/agent to ensure that you have adequate coverage on your property for fire and protective services.

Coverage should consider the water consumption used for fire suppression and the time spent by the Dundurn Fire Department fighting the fire directly and preventing the spread to other homes.

Council Meetings

Please note that Council meetings are held in the Village Centre at 7:00 pm. The 2019 dates are;

October 24th, 2019 November 28th, 2019
December 19th, 2019

Council Members

Mayor:	Alan Thomarat
Deputy Mayor:	Randy Fernets
Councillor:	Melanie Olafson
Councillor:	Steve Schwenker
Councillor:	Christina Taylor

Administration: (Part time hours)

Jessie Williams 306-492-2259 – 9:00 to 5:00
(Call for appointment please)

Facilities & Operations:

Fred Fehr 306-492-7922

admin@resortvillageofthode.ca
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Fire Steals the Evening Calm in Thode

...fire devastates two families as home in Thode is levelled

We are deeply saddened to confirm what most already know, that the Boehm residence was engulfed by fire last Monday late at night and was a total loss. Longtime neighbours and property owners in the Village are devastated by this news and Council has reached out to support them as much as possible as they work through this tragic event.

It is fortunate that everyone in the home escaped the fire safely. Another family with close ties in our community Allison and Mike Whittington who have lived in the home for more than five years now lost all their possessions in the fire and while they escaped safely from the raging fire, this event is devastating for their family too.

We as a community offer both families our kindest wishes and hope that time will help the healing so all can see hope ahead as you recover from this terrible event.

Chief Bradley, Dundurn Fire Department Quick to Respond to Fire in Thode

...neighbours step up to assist and prevent further damage

Monday night and into the early hours Tuesday the 7th and 8th, Fire Chief Ryan Bradley and the Dundurn Fire Department fought a raging fire that took the Boehm home. Ryan and his team worked for many hours to suppress the fire and help prevent further damage. Neighbours assisted as embers threatened other properties. Our Council and community are grateful to Ryan and the volunteer team that all put their own safety and lives at risk for our Village. We can't thank you enough for all you do.



We don't have sidewalks in Thode and we share the road with everyone. Watch our for children playing, neighbours walking with children and pets and ...

STOP FOR THE SCHOOL BUS AND PEDESTRIANS CROSSING THE ROAD

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Province is Planning Improvements to Causeway and Highway 211 Lake Crossing

In a verbal report from Associated Engineering regarding the Bridge at Blackstrap

- Ministry of Highways requested design work for project for tender offering Fall of this year - construction through Winter - completion February 2020 - open March 15, 2020.
- Intent is to shut down causeway through construction - detour through RM roadways to the North.
- Meeting with RM took place about two weeks ago - RM requested the necessity for signage re: detour and process.
- after construction the surface will be gravel until such time as the application of paving the roadway (that has been under construction) can be completed as weather permits
- The road top crossing the Lake is to be wider with retaining walls to be installed to reduce “overspill” in widening process
- The road crossing the Lake will be made higher but the bridge will not be extended beyond the current concrete width.
- The waterway under the bridge will not be wider but the bridge will be approx. 1.5 meters higher than current height allowing additional clearance for passage

This is a Transport Canada requirement/regulation – apparently not from the Province

DANGEROUS DRIVING, DISREGARD FOR SPEED LIMITS AND ERRATIC DRIVING

- The office still receives complaints about erratic driving in the village – not just speeding.
- The RCMP are encouraging those who witness these events to file a written statement otherwise they can not act upon the complaint or help your Council make this community safe.
- The Village cannot file these reports because there needs to be a witness to the incident and we have no standing in court without a complainant that will give witness testimony to the incident.

We encourage witnesses to contact the RCMP regarding these incidents before there is an accident and you wish you had called.

**THE SPEED LIMIT IS
20 KPH!
DRIVE CAREFULLY**



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