

# Resort Village of Thode®

From Alan Thomarat, on behalf of your Council and our Professional Team

## ***We Try to Plan for a Rainy Day but Some Things are Hard to Plan For***

*To our Thode community, our families, our neighbours;*

*No one could have predicted this at the start of this decade but in December we already heard about the ravaging virus that was ripping through Wuhan, China with ruthless speed. It seemed so far away but today it is an invisible enemy in our midst, taking our loved ones, our neighbours, our way of life and our sense of security. This has left all of us puzzled and feeling uncertain about the future.*

*Our firm belief at Council is that we can and will prevail. Our compassion for each other, our unrelenting commitment to keep our community, province and this great country safe and strong will keep us focussed on controlling this virus and this will help us return to the lives we want to live,. We will be sharing time with family and enjoying the company of friends and neighbours soon. Many among us need to be at work where we depend on social interaction to operate businesses. Many among us employ staff that have families too and some of us work for businesses, some owned by families living here that can no longer support their staff. The multiplier impact of this virus is at this time, incalculable in both human and financial terms. Compared to how things were in February, this is, to say the least, devastating.*

*We are a small municipality and by city standards were too small to even make us a neighbourhood. However, that should not be a reason for us to do nothing. We are a united community and we have always punched above our weight. Over the last 10 years we've tried hard to save for new amenities while still building for the future. We have a bold vision and exciting plans for the future but we believe our focus at this time should be about now, and more importantly, be about helping you now.*

*We wish we could do more for all of you, we wish this wasn't happening at all but we don't believe we can pretend it's not happening. We have determined it's best to suspend indefinitely all capital initiatives and we will redirect our focus towards maintaining all infrastructure, utility operations and supporting our staff and residents as much as possible. We've considered scenarios, all of which had us maintaining our zero tax increase for the third year in a row. None of us were in any way convinced that that could achieve our desire to step up if we could help in this difficult time. I will try to highlight the conclusions we've come to and what you can expect from your community for as long as necessary.*

***...Please stay safe and let's stay apart so we can be together soon Sincerely ...Alan Thomarat***

# Resort Village of Thode®

***THAT WE ARE SMALL IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO DO NOTHING...***

***IF WE DO NOTHING, NOTHING HAPPENS***

## **SPECIAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**

*YES WE DID BUILD UP RESERVES, "A RAINY DAY FUND", AND YES WE HAD OTHER PLANS ...*

*...BUT IT'S A DIFFICULT TIME AND NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THE OTHER PLANS*

- *All development initiatives requiring significant spending including roadways, new park improvements, facility improvements, boat lot development are suspended until further notice.*
- *At all times we will act proactively and aggressively to comply with federal and provincial COVID-19 Pandemic response directives.*
- *Thousands of guests, relatives and members of the public visit our Village between April (Easter) and October (Thanksgiving). Council is considering safety measures that may restrict entrance to the community to residents, families and property owners only in order to increase compliance with gathering orders and social (physical) distancing requirements.*
- *Public parks and the public washrooms are closed and green space areas are subject to the gathering limits set by the Provincial Government and Saskatchewan Health Authority.*

## **SPECIAL BUDGET ACTIONS TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS AND MAINTAIN SERVICES**

- The 2019 surplus will be used for 2020 operations. The Amortization Reserve account contributions are suspended for 2020. Projects and repairs in progress will be funded from reserves. ***The result is a lowering of operating requirements totalling > \$150,000***
- Council does not control School Board taxes but they have not increased. Mill rate = 4.12
- The 2020 Base Tax for all property is being reduced over 50% from ***\$1,325 to \$650.00***. The 2020 Mill Rate for Thode will be cut in half from ***2.0 to 1.0***. Average savings per property \$1,000.
- Tax deadlines extended, ***if paid by July 31, municipal portion qualifies for a 2% discount***
- There will be no penalties on 2020 current taxes, outstanding amounts after 2020 are subject to a 10% surcharge January 1, 2021. Please work with the office so we can help.
- Utility Billings - Penalties and late fees will abated through 2020 but unpaid utilities at year end will be added to the property tax bill in accordance with the Municipal Bylaw.
- Boat Slip fees for 2020 are also reduced ***from \$125 to \$25.00***. Council asks for assistance maintaining and manicuring the shoreline near boat docks and even your ditches too.

*Best wishes from all of us for your families, your health and your safety*