

Open Letter to All Property Owners re: Nuisance Beaver

With the recession of the fur trade throughout Canada, **the beaver population is thriving** and this fur bearing animal is very hard at work.

In every Tax Bill Newsletter, Council provides information to the taxpayers of Huron Shores of the impacts that can result from water held by beaver dams. The "tip" also discusses the risks to public safety and property and respectfully advises that landowners need to monitor and maintain such structures on their land.

The Public Works Department monitors, maintains and removes beaver and/or beaver dams on municipal property, within culverts and ditches in municipal road rights-of-way and municipal drains. Council has confirmed the policy that the municipal tax dollars should not be used to undertake stewardship of beaver activity on private or Crown lands both of which are not part of municipal infrastructure.

In the interest of protecting and preserving public infrastructure but *foremost* in the interest of protecting persons and property, **Council respectfully requests that, all landowners within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Huron Shores be responsible to monitor and control beaver dams or other structures on their land, that could potentially threaten and/or damage municipal infrastructure** i.e. roads, bridges, etc., should such structures breach and cause flooding and/or erosion.

During patrolling, the Public Works Department may identify evidence adjacent to municipal infrastructure in the vicinity of your property that suggests such a situation may exist on your land. Council would respectfully request that you investigate and take remedial action, to avoid a serious incident of injury and/or damages.

With the cooperation of all landowners accepting the responsibility of stewardship of their land in the Municipality of Huron Shores, and acting accordingly, we will succeed in protecting the travelling public from undue harm from flood water and/or damaged public infrastructure that may occur from the breach of such structures that hold back water.

We trust that you will acknowledge this plea for safety in our community, and look into and address any situations that may exist on your property. The Municipality thanks you sincerely for your cooperation in this matter.

ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL NOTICES:

ATTENTION RATEPAYERS: On-line property tax payment service is now available via the municipal website: www.huronshores.ca. In order to remit your property tax payments via the secure E-Payment portal simply click on the bright red button, login, and set up your account by following the step-by-step instructions. Please allow two (2) business days to receive your account confirmation. Please note that a fee will be charged by the provider for this service.

TAX BILL MAILING PROCESS: The Municipality strives to ensure that all tax notices are mailed out on time and to the most recent address on the assessment roll. **If your mailing address has changed, since the March 2013 Tax Billing, please provide written notification to the Municipal Office immediately in order to ensure uninterrupted delivery of correspondence.** It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to ensure that payments are made in a timely manner, regardless of receipt of the tax notice. The installment **due dates for the Final 2013 Tax Bill are September 30 and November 29/13** (the last business day of each month). Change of Address Forms are available at the Municipal Office or on-line via the Treasury Department page of the municipal website.

2012 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Copies of these documents are available on the municipal website and at the Municipal Office.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS: The Municipality will be implementing changes to the Open Air Burning By-law effective January 1st, 2014. For details please read the enclosed information sheet from Fire Chief Medve or visit the municipal website. **Fire Prevention Week is October 6-12/13: "Prevent Kitchen Fires"** The Fire Department reminds you that October is a great time to check your smoke alarms and change the batteries. To learn more about the volunteer Huron Shores Fire Department and the Junior Firefighter Program come out to the Department's **Open House and Barbecue** to be held from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8/13 at the Iron Bridge Fire Station **AND** Thursday, Oct. 10/13 at the Little Rapids Fire Station.

911 NUMBERING/CIVIC ADDRESSES: Maintenance of 911 signs is the responsibility of property owners. Please check the condition of your 911 sign as part of your fall yard cleanup. Visible, clear signage may be key to assisting you or someone in your household in receiving timely emergency assistance.

SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

Winter will soon be upon us; Council respectfully requests that you refrain from parking on, and plowing snow across, public roadways in the winter season. Doing so creates dangerous conditions for the travelling public and winter maintenance operations.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The Municipal Office will be closed from Noon, Tuesday, Dec. 24/13, to Tuesday, Jan. 1/14, inclusive. Our doors will re-open at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 2/14.