

APRIL 2013



VILLAGE OF HILL SPRING

Newsletter

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

The Village will be having their annual clean up week this year April 22—27. To accommodate this project the Transfer Site will be open additional days that week. It will be open on the regular days Wednesday and Saturday plus on April 25 & 26th (Thursday and Friday)



COMMUNITY HALL

The community hall is missing several tables. If you have borrowed them and forgot to return them please do so.

TAKE NOTE

The Village Office will be closed on the following dates!!!

Monday April 8

Wednesday, May 1

Monday, May 6

Wednesday, May 8

JUST A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Life is like a library owned by the author.
In it are a few books which he wrote himself,
But most of them were written for him.

Harry Emerson Fosdick



Village of Hill Spring

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*April showers
bring May flowers*



CULTURAL SOCIETY

The Cultural Society is pleased to announce that the grant they applied for to renovate the kitchen at the Community Hall has been approved.

Way to go Hill Spring!!

VILLAGE NOTES

Village Office Hours:

Monday 8am—12pm

Tuesday 1pm—5pm

Wednesday 1pm—5pm

Council Meetings will always be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Village Office on 2nd Ave South, unless otherwise posted.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, April 16, 2013 @ 7:00p.m.

SPRING GLEN PARK

Bookings are available for Spring Glen Park. Please contact the Village of Hill Spring for all bookings.

Powered Campsite—\$18.00

Non-powered Site—\$14.00

Tenting—\$12.00

Entire Park—24 hr. booking—\$300.00

All Day Kitchen—\$75.00

Kitchen Use—4 hours—\$30.00

EVENTS



APRIL 19—Baxter Black

April 29—Seniors Luncheon



The 2013 Provincial Budget and its Impact on the Village of Hill Spring

The Village has to make some difficult decisions over the next few years as a result of the 2013 Provincial budget. With another deficit forecasted for 2013, the Province has made 3 decisions that will negatively affect the Village's ability to remain a viable municipal entity. Your elected Council wants to make sure that everyone is aware of these Provincial changes and how it will impact our community.

ELIMINATION OF THE SUMMER TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

There will be no funding assistance for the Village to hire a summer student worker to assist with the maintenance of the community. The Village used to receive \$2,200 from the province to help cover the costs of hiring a seasonal employee to work outside and beautify Hill Spring. In order for this position to exist the Village will have to cover the full cost of employment and will not receive any funding support from the Province. This decision in and of itself would not be detrimental to our viability; however it is magnified by the following.

FUNDING FORMULA FOR THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATION REQUISITION

This year the province changed the formula they used to calculate the education requisition from each municipality with Alberta. A new policy for determining the property tax requisition has been implemented. The amount of revenue to be collected (or the requisition amount) will now be based on 32% of total operating expense of the education system. The province stated that this change will provide a clear link between the revenue collected and the education service provided, while resulting in less volatility as the amount of tax revenue to be collected will be known one year in advance. Property owners will continue to pay their share of the taxes based on the assessed value of their property. The concern for municipalities is that education costs have traditionally grown at a relatively fast rate. As a result, this policy leads to an even more rapid escalation of the provinces' municipal requisition and therefore a greater invasion of the municipal tax base.

As a result of this change our Provincial education requisition will be increasing by \$3,469 or 9%.

2012 Requisition	\$37,485	2013 Requisition	\$40,954
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ELIMINATION OF THE MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE OPERATING GRANT (MSI-OP)

The Village receives funding from a Provincial grant known as the Municipal Sustainability Initiative. There is a capital grant and an operating grant that makes up this program. The capital grant is remaining and the Village will receive \$128,690 in 2013 to be used for capital projects within our community. This year the province announced that they will phase out the \$50 million operating component of MSI over the next four years.

The Provincial MSI operating budget will be reduced as follows:

- \$30 million in 2014-15.
- \$15 million in 2015-16.
- \$0 in 2016-17.

The Village will receive \$36,172 in 2013 from this program, but will face a considerable challenge to our operating budget starting next year (2014) as we will have to make up for this lost revenue. The totals for the next two years will not be known until the New Year is reached, but based upon the reduced percentage in overall funding during the next three years *we project* that we will receive the following in MSI Operating.

2014	\$21,703	2015	\$10,851	2016	\$0.00
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As a result of this loss of revenue, Council will either have to significantly raise taxes or cut spending, which will be difficult to do as the Village is already operating at minimal capacity.

HILL SPRING BUDGET 2013

Council after much discussion and planning will be passing their 2013 Operating and Capital budget during the April Council meeting. There will be an increase to the resident in the 2013 tax year to cover the cost of the 9% increase in Provincial Education Taxes as well as to start implementing a program to gradually soften the impact to the resident on its municipal tax. The Village is planning on increasing its Municipal tax rate by 4% for this fiscal year.

Tax & Assessment Notices will be mailed out to each property owner on May 15th, 2013 with taxes being due on July 15th, 2013.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Council is aware that this is not encouraging news and is engaged in finding alternative ways to reduce the impact that these decisions will have on you, the taxpayer over the coming years. More information will be forthcoming as it is made available regarding what can be done and how it will affect our community.

If you have further questions regarding these developments, please feel free to schedule an appointment to meet with CAO Kurtis Pratt on Tuesdays between 1-4pm; by phone at 403-752-3322 or by email at kurtispratt@raymond.ca.

As always you are free to speak with a member of Village Council regarding this or any other Village related concern.