

April 23, 2017

Paradise Park, President's Report

It is with a sense of satisfaction I write this annual report sharing some of the activities and successes of the past season. While I draw attention to these activities I am sure that I shall miss some so please accept my apology for any missing detail, however, this doesn't mean anything more than poor recollection on my part!

The 2016/2017 season has seen many happy and sad times in the park, I will acknowledge the passing and leaving of a few long-time park members. It is always with sadness that we bid farewell to people that mean so much to us. To the families and friends who have lost loved ones, I send you all my deepest condolences. To the owners that have chosen to move on to new surroundings, I send you many wishes of happiness moving forward.

This year saw a big change in the park at board level. We as a board held a monthly meeting (at least monthly) and kept you all informed and up to date on all the happenings and the decisions from each meeting. We were all very happy with the work Patti did as Secretary and the recorded minutes. The positive feedback we received showed that people thoroughly enjoyed being kept in the loop for the year. The concept of keeping everyone "informed" was the objective. Everyone had a chance to have input throughout the whole year instead of just once a year at an AGM. Thanks to all board members that gave their time and commitment on a monthly basis.

The lower washrooms were a huge project in the park this year and it was taken on with such enthusiasm by the washroom committee. The washrooms look great and most owners that have been in the park are thrilled with the outcome. Special thanks to all that took their time and contributed on the washroom committee. They really do look amazing.

To all the volunteers in the park that spent any amount of time helping out we send you so much thanks for your time and dedication. This is one subject that I would like to touch on as times have changed and it becomes apparent that new people are coming in and not as many people in the park want to step up and volunteer for many different reasons. Some are no longer able and many use Paradise as a vacation destination and do not want to show up and spend hours doing volunteer work. We all have to be okay with this and accept the fact that this is the case and moving forward. We may have to spend a few more dollars on maintenance and such, but it is affordable. We can all take pride in the fact that we run a very well balanced budget every year and we don't owe any money. It does cost money to hire people and get things done. Being involved in minor hockey, I will tell you most parents will vote to pay the extra money needed to not have to contribute their time, as time is not as readily available to everyone. This is just a part of many changes that are taking place. For the people that do want to volunteer their time, we are grateful for that and I believe a volunteer list should be created so people can sign up and commit to different projects they would like to participate in.

The changing of the landscapers and washroom maintenance workers was a somewhat contentious issue for the board and some park owners this year. Some long-time owners had grown a relationship with the previous people that had held the contracts. When the new board came into power we tried very hard to work with the people that were doing the maintenance but it was determined by both parties that an agreement couldn't be reached and it was time for a change. Sometimes change doesn't sit well for all involved. Our current board voted unanimously to go in a new direction and I think the change has gone well.

The electrical service has also become a big contentious issue in the park with accusations flying everywhere about power theft, people changing breakers, and this work being completed without accredited electricians overseeing and completing the work. We tried to rectify this by having an experienced and well liked electrician, that is based in the town of Osoyoos, come in and do an analysis of the system so that we could figure out exactly what was happening and how everything worked. This man is a certified, licensed electrician in the Province of B.C. and was unable to finish this project due to interference from a few owners. He has now refused to complete the work for Paradise Park. Everyone needs to remember that this is a small town and people that live and work here operate very much by word of mouth. There are a small number of trades people that work in this town and they are as qualified as anywhere and deserve to be treated with respect for their trade. I believe we have a huge power issue in this park and it needs to be seriously looked at. We as a board tried to get this done but unfortunately it was derailed. Hopefully next year we can re-address this issue and complete what was started. It might also be time to look at whether or not we as 69 owners really need to have "metered" power anymore? If we simply did away with the meters and split the hydro 69 ways annually it would definitely eliminate a lot of argument and it would surprise many that it wouldn't be much different than what is being paid currently.

Before closing here I would like to bring up the washrooms again in regards to the two sewage back ups we had in the newly renovated washrooms. The initial occurrence that took place saw sewer back up into the lower washrooms creating a huge mess. Thankfully Grant went in and handled the clean up and we are still unsure why the initial backup happened. Another back up occurred a few weeks back and at that point we knew we had a problem that was bigger than what we had anticipated. Dave from Action Plumbing came in and scoped the sewer and found a blockage and it was removed. We haven't had a problem since. I believe that we should be having the entire system looked over as if there are problems it is always better to be pro-active than leave it until mid summer when the system is taxed to the max. Again, like the removal of the meters the sewers maybe should be reviewed in the coming year.

Thank you again to the entire board of directors and all their participation over this last year, and thank you again to all the owners that volunteered their time and offered advice and input.

Hope to see everyone at the AGM this coming May long weekend. Come out and be involved in your park. Paradise Park is truly a great place to be!

Sara van der Hoeven, President
(Lot number 66)