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# THE TOWN CRIER

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JANUARY 2012

## MAYOR'S NOTES

Hello Folks,

I hope you are surviving the cold weather we are experiencing. Hopefully this cold front will leave soon and we can enjoy the rest of the winter. I hope everyone has had the opportunity to read the special edition of the Town Crier, as it outlines some changes that Council is considering for this fiscal year.

I have heard from some members of the public, and there has been concern expressed on the approach we have taken in certain areas. I would like to clarify why we have taken these steps.

On the issue of taxes, we are aware that any increase is not going to make anyone happy, however as everyone is aware, the cost of doing business increases every year. We have not implemented any tax increase since 2006 and have been operating with the monies we have. We have not accumulated any debt and have substantial reserves. However we are slipping back. Even though we have shown a surplus in previous years and do have the reserves, we are still under the accounting standards for financial accountability and reporting developed through the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB). This process takes into consideration the depreciation of assets that we have. Therefore when we factor this in, we are showing a deficit. Realistically we cannot make up those losses with tax increases, no one could afford that. But through our reserves we can take precautions to ensure we have monies to deal with any situation that may arise.

The second issue is on the services which we provide. Council has taken the approach that these services have to be cost recoverable. This means therefore that the user base pays their fair share of the services that are provided. Waste, water, sewer, and heat are the services we provide and those which Council believes need to be cost recoverable. Items like water metering will allow us to obtain a more accurate recovery on usage and also allow for users to see how much water their households and business actually use. It also helps with the conservation aspect.

Thirdly, Council believes that we need to invest in this community. A healthy, vibrant, safe and sustainable community can only be achieved with investments that allow groups and individuals to provide services and activities that the community can benefit from. Although it may seem we are moving forward without the communities input, we have heard from most that the

need to invest in this community is the top priority. We need to develop land, services and infrastructure that will serve you, the residents, in the best possible way. It also needs to be attractive to those who may consider Watson Lake as a place to settle.

We are not doing you any service if we do not plan for the future. We are not being prudent if we do not ensure your fiscal well being. A sustainable, safe, vibrant and healthy community can only be achieved by ensuring we have the necessary resources.

We will be having a Town Hall meeting the third week in February to discuss these and any other concerns you may have.

If you have any concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mayor, Richard Durocher  
Town of Watson Lake

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## LANDFILL – HOURS OF OPERATION

The Watson Lake Landfill hours of operation are as follows.

Monday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Closed; Tuesday & Wednesday  
Thursday – Sunday  
12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

The Landfill will be closed all statutory holidays. All Commercial Waste must be weighed at the Yukon Government weigh scales and weigh slips presented to the Town Office.

The Town of Watson Lake does not accept: Concrete, asbestos or petroleum products at the landfill site.

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## BY-LAW UPDATE

The Town of Watson Lake is increasing its By-Law Enforcement and will be issuing fines to persons who violate, or fail to comply with any provisions in respect of offences committed under Town By-Laws.

**WINTER SNOW REMOVAL**

As winter approaches we would like to remind all residents of the Town of Watson Lake Snow Removal policies.

During snow removal from public roadways the Town will attempt to use the 'driveway trap' on the grader to clear the windrows of snow at the edge of the traveled portion of the road and the driveway or road approach to a property". The location and snow depth in the driveways affect the use of the driveway trap therefore the success of each trapping is dependent on circumstances.

***"Snow removal between the traveled portion of the road and the property line, together with any snow from private property may not be piled within 15' of any fire hydrant. "***

***"Snow removed from private property may not be placed on the traveled portion of any highway. When conditions warrant, the Town may limit the area of highway right-of-way available for placement of snow removed from private property. "***

Please ensure that vehicles are not parked or stored on the right-of-way. The Town will not be responsible for any vehicle damage incurred.

The Traffic Bylaw and the Snow Removal Policy may be read at the Town Office.

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**2012 BUSINESS LICENCES**

No business shall carry on or operate any business within or partly within the Town of Watson Lake without first having obtained a business licence from the Town.

Every person who fails to acquire a business licence as of February 15<sup>th</sup>, shall when such licence is finally issued pay a penalty of ten percent of the applicable licence for every thirty days or portion thereof during which the business has operated without a valid business licence. Every licence issued under the provisions of this bylaw shall terminate at midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December.

The annual Business Licence Fee shall be one hundred (\$100.00) for each business. Where multiple businesses are operated from one location by one individual or company, the fee for the first business licence shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and the fee for each additional business licence shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00).

For a Non-Resident business, the annual Business Licence shall be two hundred (\$200.00) for each business.

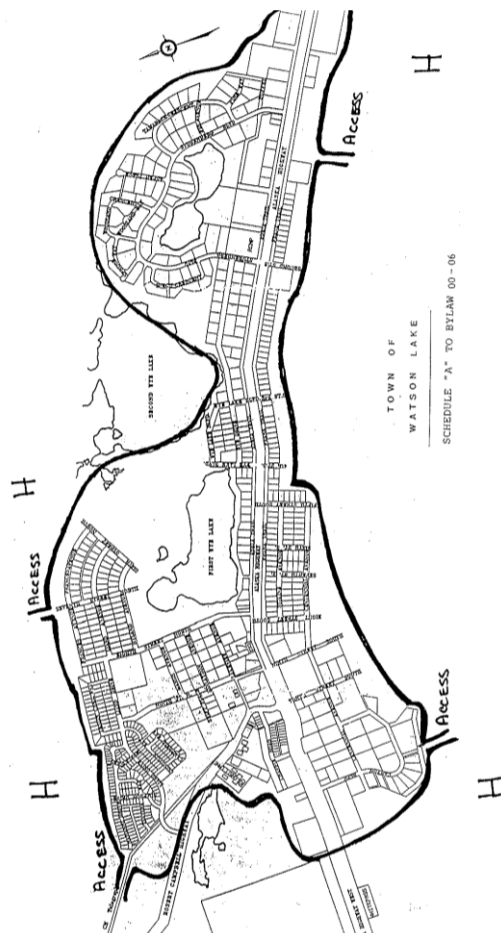


**SNOWMOBILE BY-LAW**

By-Law 02-07

***No person shall operate a snowmobile/motorcycle on Town property within the limits of the Town of Watson Lake except:***

- a) On a direct path between the residence of the operator of the vehicle and the nearest designated access point, and***
  - b) in an area designated as (H) Hinterland. Hinterland means all areas within the municipal boundaries marked with the letter "H" and appearing on Schedule "A" attached to and forming part of this By-Law.***
- No person shall operate any snowmobile in a Town park.***
- No person shall operate any snowmobile on private property without the consent of the property owner.***



Every person who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this By-Law is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or to imprisonment for a term not to exceed one month or to both fine and imprisonment.

An Officer may seize any snowmobile operated in breach of this By-Law and may retain custody of the same until the final disposition of any proceedings that may be taken under this By-Law.



**ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAW**

No owner of an animal shall permit such animal to run at large. No owner of an animal shall allow such animal to become a nuisance.

The Town has received numerous complaints regarding loose and/or noisy dogs. Due to the number of complaints the Town of Watson Lake is increasing its patrol and is reminding dog owners of the following:

***Whereby an animal is impounded, the animal may be recovered upon payment of the following:***

***1<sup>st</sup> offence: \$75.00***

***2<sup>nd</sup> offence: \$150.00***

***A charge of \$200.00 for each impoundment thereafter.***

***Where any animal wearing a current Town licence tag is impounded, such animal may be recovered by the owner within 72 hours after being impounded and after payment for such offences relating to any infraction against the animal control bylaw.***

***After a period of 72 hours has elapsed, and the owner has failed to redeem their animal, the animal may be destroyed or sold to another person other than the owner.***

All pet owners are reminded to keep their animals secured or confined.

For all animal enquiries or to contact the By-Law Enforcement Officer please contact the Town of Watson Lake at 536-8000 during the following hours:

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

After hours and on weekends please call 536-4766.

**COMMUNITY LOTTERY FUNDING**

The Town of Watson Lake received \$24,236.00 from Yukon Lotteries for the 2011/12 Community Lottery Program allocation.

Community Lottery funding applications for non-profit sports, arts and recreation groups are now available through the Watson Lake Recreation Advisory Committee and are reviewed three times per year. Deadlines are: January 15, May 15, and September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Applications are available at the Town Office or on the Town Website @[www.watsonlake.ca](http://www.watsonlake.ca)

**DONATION POLICY**

The Town of Watson Lake has established a donation policy with respect to funding groups and organizations for social, leisure and recreation purposes. A copy of the policy and application are available on the Town of Watson Lake

Website at [www.watsonlake.ca](http://www.watsonlake.ca)

**2011 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICES**

The 2011 YTG property assessment notices have now been sent out. All municipal properties are reassessed every other year. In 2011 all properties were reassessed in order to update the assessed value for buildings and land. If you disagree with the assessed value of your property, please contact YTG Property Assessment and Taxation directly at 667-5268. An Assessor will review all the facts and answer any questions that you may have. The Town of Watson Lake is required to set property tax rates on or before April 15h. Please review your Assessment notice for any discrepancies, as your 2012 taxes will be based on the information provided on your a Assessment.

**COMMERCIAL GARBAGE PICKUP**

In the Special Edition of the Budget 2012 Town Crier it was stated that the Town of Watson Lake will no longer be picking up commercial garbage effective April 1,2012. The date has been changed to July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 to allow commercial businesses to prepare for this change. Once implemented, all commercial garbage will be required to be weighed at the government weigh scales prior to entry into the landfill and will be subject to the following tipping fees:

\$35.00/tonne sorted  
\$50.00/tonne unsorted

The Town of Watson Lake is starting the process to comply with YTG no burn regulations that took effect January 1, 2012. We have applied for an extension to this regulation in order to allow the residents to prepare for these upcoming changes. The Town is addressing the consequences of the elimination of open burning and has been working diligently highlighting and reviewing the current and future waste management issues facing the community and identifying the means to address them.

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council Meetings are held the first & third Tuesday of every month. The next scheduled Council meeting is Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please approach members of Council on any agenda item that you wish to bring forward.

**ANIMAL LICENCES**

No person shall own any cat or dog within the Town unless such cat or dog is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Animal Control By-Law.

The licence fees are as follows:

- a) neutered cat or dog \$5.00
- b) lifetime neutered cat or dog \$25.00
- c) female dog not spayed \$25.00
- d) male dog not neutered \$20.00

## TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN COUNCIL IS IN THE PROCESS OF  
ESTABLISHING AN

#### **ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION WHO IS MR. LARRY BAGNELL. WHILE THE FULL MANDATE AND NUMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY WILL BE REVIEWED. SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM GOALS WILL BE SUGGESTED TO COUNCIL, GIVING CONSIDERATION OF REALISTIC AND RESOURCE MANAGABLE PROJECTS.

MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON A MONTHLY BASIS AND MINUTES OF THESE MEETINGS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AND OR APPROVAL.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN A POSITION ON THIS COMMISSION SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR NAME WITH A BRIEF STATEMENT OF BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE, TO THE TOWN OFFICE, NO LATER THAN;

4:00 PM FRIDAY  
JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2012

TO: MAYOR RICHARD DUROCHER  
BOX 590.  
TOWN OF WATSON LAKE  
867-536-8000

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#### GREETINGS FROM RECREATION

Happy New Years Watson Lakers! I trust you all enjoyed the holidays, I know my little family did. With the New Year comes new beginnings and new events! YEAY! Kiki Karnival will be taking place February 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and once I have all of the events finalized I will put out a Kiki Karnival brochure and have them on the front table here at the recplex for your convenience. This year I would like to bring back some of the fun Kiki Karnival activities...like the wife pack, sluicing ( I have NO idea if I spelled that right) and a few other gems from the past. So now we just need to wish for some warm weather. Kiki Karnival was always a huge town event when I was growing up, with everyone participating in the events and making it a tonne of fun, and it would be great to bring some of that spirit back and I will need your help to do it!



The Christmas Light Contest was a lot of fun to judge. It was great to see all of the local holiday spirit. We decided on a few different categories, Johanna Nugent got a solid 10/10 for her amazing display, we gave her most creative. Patricia Ball won most lights for the sheer volume of Christmas lights all over her yard, good job Trish! Dale Ireland's yard won aesthetics, he had beautiful blue lights and then coloured lights in his trees that looked absolutely beautiful, very pretty and pleasing to the eye. Cindy Porter won the most festive, lots of colours and holiday spirit, and Susan Magun won for her beautiful lights, we really liked the red lights on the wood shed and the Santa on the roof. Then we decided to give an honorable mention to Agnes Reid, who did not enter her house in the competition but did such great job! We also wanted to honorably mention the Geisbrecht's wonderfully festive yard. The Miller's had a tow truck in their yard decorated with lights and it looked great, so great I had to mention it. Hougen's Department Store beautiful lights, and Twilight Services did a really nice job making the home and business look very festive. I would also like to honorably mention the town lights that decorate the light posts throughout the town, makes our community look very festive! Everyone one who entered did a fantastic job, as did many that didn't enter and it was great to see all of the community spirit!

I would like to thank the Community Club for their amazing job on the New Years Eve Family Dance, it was a smashing success and an absolute riot! It is the first time I have ever gone to it and I must say I was impressed. There was a section at the back with toys from the Toybrary for the little ones to play on, and they hosted a dance off! It was the popular Kinect game that the contestants have to dance like the dancers on the screen and your body is scanned to see how close you are to matching the moves and you get points accordingly. There were prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and it was so much fun to watch and participate in. Everyone there participated and was dancing with their kids or dancing with other people's kids and really getting into it, no child was left out. Then there was a 10:00pm countdown to New Years for the kids and we all went home, with enough time for parents that wanted to, to go out and join their friends for some New Years cheer. It is an event that I, personally, hope is held annually as my family will be there for sure and we hope to see yours there as well!

We have set February 1<sup>st</sup> as the date for the Weight Room Grand Opening! We are swapping the weight room and our office for space and have acquired all new weight equipment. So come on down to the recplex and work off some of that Christmas Cheer! Good Eatz Café is now open so come on down for some grub....there is an espresso machine as well for those of you that like your cappuccinos!

I hope you have all managed to stay warm and we hope to see you down here at the recplex! As usual, if anyone has any questions, thoughts, ideas or anything you would like to contribute to recreation please do not hesitate to contact me with the information below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Meaghen Kimmitt  
Recreation Programmer  
867-536-8022  
recreation@watsonlake.ca

## Watson Lake Recycling Centre

536-2000

### **HOURS OF OPERATION:**

Tuesday – Friday	11:00 – 5:30
Saturday	10:00 – 5:30

The Depot will be closed Friday February 24 thru Wednesday Feb 29. We will return to our normal hours of operation Thursday March 1. There will be no drop off of bulk cardboard during this period.

The outside drop-off area for non-refundables will be unattended for 6 days....if you can wait until we re-open before dropping items off, it would be greatly appreciated. If you **MUST** drop items off before we re-open, please try and fit them into the bags as compactly as possible. Please do not drop off loose papers/magazines/soft plastics during this period.

### **E-WASTE:**

We continue to collect E-waste. E-Waste should be dropped off when the Depot is open. If you have large items (TVs or photo copiers), or several smaller pieces please let us know ahead of time, so we can arrange a time that works for both of us. Lack of space is always a major concern in the Depot and if we are ready to ship a load of bottles, we may need to ask you to wait a day or two until we have some room to move again. Please **DO NOT** unload e-waste to the Share Shed.

### **INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES:**

If you are considering using the Depot services, please come and talk to me so we can figure out a system which works well for both of us. We can take your plastics, paper, box board and corrugated cardboard for recycling.

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## NORTHERN LIGHTS CENTRE

The Northern Lights Centre staff would like to congratulate Casandra (9 - 12 yrs. old) and Racheyll (5 - 8yrs. old) for winning our Christmas coloring contest. There were so many beautiful pictures it was really hard to pick the winners. Thank you to everyone who submitted their pictures.

The Northern Lights Centre is back on a winter schedule now with movies on Friday night and a children's matinee on Saturday afternoon. Please call 536-7827 to check what's on at the movies. Also you can check our sign board for the weekend movies.

If you would like to rent the centre for your child's birthday party where they could have a movie or play video games on the big screen please call 536-7827 for more information.

## Town of Watson Lake Web Page

The Town Crier is on the web page for you to read or print. The Council minutes are all there as well and a lot of other information

If you see any omissions or mistakes please call 536-7827.

[www.watsonlake.ca](http://www.watsonlake.ca)



The next HomeRoutes Music Show is Friday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ski Chalet. Cost is \$20 per person at the door. The Ski Society has their bar open; refreshments also served.

Performers:

Colleen Eccleston from BC. "A gifted songwriter and a very strong rhythm guitarist. Her emotional range is riveting and her voice will leave you breathless."  
John Gogo from BC. "Singer, songwriter and guitarist. His latest release displays his original heart-felt focused songwriting with excellent musicianship and arrangements.

For more information contact Susan/Barry Drury 536-2996

Susan and Barry Drury

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### Keeping Your Pets Safe and Warm in the Cold Weather

It might be tough to stay warm in the cold temperatures coming our way, but it's even more difficult for your pets. Cats and dogs are more sensitive than people to the low temperatures. The SPCA suggests keeping your pets inside as much as possible, with the exception of brief walks. They also suggest keeping your kitty or pup bundled up in a jacket. Though some may think clothes for pets are unnecessary, they can be useful in the cold winter months.

Aside from the cold, please be mindful of ice melt and antifreeze, which are often used in the winter, but can be harmful to your pets.



Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!!!



The temperature out at the "Weedmarks" on Jan. 17.  
Photo by Shelley Weedmark  
This photo made it on Global TV



Watson Lake Airport 1943..photo by Robert R. Whyte

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

- |             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Mayor       | Richard Durocher          |
| Councillors | Cynthia Armstrong         |
|             | Howard Fick               |
|             | Bev Lister                |
|             | Rick Relkoff              |
|             | Leigh Relkoff (Youth Cir) |