

Maintenance Report

**Project:** **Fire Prevention clean-up**

Project leads: Howard Kirby and Chris Sarsons

Project Status: Underway

Background: During the spring and fall when the trees don't have leaves there is a significant amount of deadfall visible within the 66ft road allowance and private lands on both sides of the road. While some people feel it is unsightly, your OHDB Board is more worried that these dead trees and bush are building up into a significant source of fuel for an out-of-control fire. The recent drought has exacerbated matters by killing additional trees and bush. Your Board is also mindful that the trees and bush along Lakeview Avenue are a major attraction to residents of Day's Beach. Needless to say, no living trees would be removed. However, a good "cleaning out" of deadfall will reduce the severity of a fire and also encourage healthier new growth.

Cabin owners are encouraged to do their best to keep their own properties clear of deadfall to reduce the risk of a fire and it is the responsibility of the OHDB to clean-up the 66ft road allowance. Recent fires near other Saskatchewan lake communities and in the Cochin area in 2023 and have added impetus to this objective.

In 2024 we highlighted the project and said we would develop a plan. Our review has identified three area types that are high risk; Roadside Bush, Long grass and lightly treed areas and Lakeside lots. We have considered each area separately and have split the project accordingly.

Area #1 - Roadside Bush

1. Obtain quotes for a contractor to clear and remove the deadfall
  - Done – Key's Enterprises Ltd – 3 people, 2 truck & chipper – \$2,750 plus taxes per day
2. Schedule 2 to 3 days of work to assess how much can be done in a day
  - Work to be done mid to late Oct when it is easier to move through the bush
3. Consider increasing the number of work days, working within the budget approved by the hamlet residents, to get as much cleanup done in 2025 as possible.
4. Review work done and estimate how much additional time is needed to complete the project in 2026

Recommendation: Your Board recommends that we hire a contractor to spend up to 5 days/\$15,000 on the Roadside Bush project in 2025. The 2025 Budget currently includes \$5,000 for annual maintenance work that could be assigned to this project so we recommend that an additional \$10,000 is approved and the cost is added to the 2026 Budget.

## Area #2 - Long grass and lightly treed areas within or adjacent to the Hamlet

1. Identify areas that need to be cleaned up
2. Get permission from the landowners to clear grass and deadfall from their land
3. Develop a plan for the work to be done and estimate the cost of the work
  - a. Consider requiring the landowners to pay for the work - as the work benefits the hamlet more than the landowners they may decide not to have the work done unless the hamlet pays for it
4. Clear the areas with the RM's mulcher
5. Maintain the areas with the Tractor's mower or Kuboda mower

Project scoping is underway, we will provide an update at the Annual General Meeting.

## Area #3 - Lakeside lots

It is the property owner's responsibility to manage the trees and associated fire risk on their lots. We encourage all owners to do their best to keep their properties clear of deadfall and other fire 'fuel' to reduce the risk of a fire.

Is there anything we can do to help?

## **Projects that were completed since the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

### East Storage area

The site work was completed as described in the 2024 maintenance report. The cost of this project was included in the regular 2024 expenses and included in the budget for gravel. We did not have to withdraw funds from the Hamlet Reserve to pay for this project, the expenses incurred were offset by savings in other expense categories.

Residents are asked to help keep our storage area in good shape. Please do not leave items in the storage area that are not currently being used and please be reminded that there is absolutely no dumping or storage of any dirt or organic material in this location.

### Widening of Lakeview Drive

This project was completed in 2024. We did not have to withdraw funds from the Hamlet Reserve to pay for this project, the expenses incurred in 2024 were offset by savings in other expense categories.

### Drainage Ditch

As identified in last year's maintenance report the drainage ditch beside #73 Lakeview Avenue required additional work. We worked with the civil engineer who designed the waterway and Kat Construction to add additional riprap to the slope where the ditch directs water down to the lake. The work was done in the fall of 2024 at no cost to our Hamlet, the RM of Meota paid for the work to be done.

## **General information/Reminders**

### **Water Line**

This a reminder to all residents that all waterline leaks must be reported to both to a member of the Board of the OHDB and to Interlake Regional Water Board (“IRWB”), the Interlake Plant Operator. Only contractors approved by the IRWB may work on the water supply system. As a general rule, the OHDB is responsible for the costs of repairing waterline leaks up to and including the curbstop and lot owners are responsible for the costs of any repairs from the curbstop to the cottage. Leaks can occur within the legal boundaries of your lot, on the municipal reserve and on the road adjacent to your lot.

It is in the best interests of all residents of Day's Beach to reduce the amount of water loss through leaks and breaks. Water loss can be actively reduced through the identification of waterline leaks. Leak detection is difficult and may not always be evident. Visual signs of underground leaks:

- unusual wet spots or water pooling on the ground surface... especially if the surrounding ground is dry;
- an area that becomes green, mouldy or soft surrounded by drier conditions;
- a notable drop in water pressure;
- water pressure is too low to pop-up sprinkler heads;
- sink holes or wet potholes forming;
- unexplained sudden rise in water usage or water usage continuously climbs over several billing periods

Should a possible leak be detected, contact a member of the executive of the OHDB or a member of the maintenance committee so an inspection can be done to determine the nature of the leak and what needs to be done. If a representative of the OHDB cannot be reached contact Barry Kulyk, Interlake Plant Manager, 306-230-6744/ [interlakewater@sasktel.net](mailto:interlakewater@sasktel.net).