



# Village of Port Edwards

Newsletter - October 2008



## Leaf Pick-up

It is again that time of year for leaves. Due to the tremendous quantity of leaves put out in just a short time, please remember to **place leaves in the gutter section** of the street in a long row along your property. ***Only leaves may be placed along the gutter and please note that this is the only time of the year that anything can be placed in the gutter.***

Separated piles of brush and grass must be placed on the boulevard area behind the curb and the brush must be stacked neatly with the cut ends facing the street. Also, roots must be removed from the brush and placed separately from the branches.

If you follow these rules, your leaves and other yard waste will be picked up in a timely manner.

New benches have been installed at Ripple Creek Park overlooking the pond. With the completion of the retaining wall project last year, the aesthetics have improved greatly and the Karberg family has generously donated benches so people can enjoy the pond and new view. Thank you, Bill and Joanne Karberg, for donating a park bench in memory of their daughter, Lisa Karberg-Machotka. Thank you, Dorothy Karberg, for donating a park bench in memory of her husband, Russell Karberg. The Village will be planting a new tree behind the benches to provide some future shade over this beautiful spot.



## Thank you for Flag Donations

The flags have been flying brightly in the Village this year thanks to donations from our wonderful residents.

Our recent contributors are:

Pat Sullivan

Patrick & Leslie Arendt

Richard & Jeanine Hess

Gary & Julie Allworden

Jerry & Jan Jacobs

Rick & Page Clark

Client Focus (Dean Ramsden)

David & Mary Cervenka

Bill & Joanne Karberg

Wisconsin Rapids Kennel Club

Leo & Marge Adamski

The flag project is funded entirely from private donations and the flags require replacement every one to two years, so donations are always welcomed and encouraged so we can keep our flags flying bright and proud.

## Donation of Benches at Ripple Creek

## Possible Recycling Change

Veolia Environmental Services, the company that provides our garbage and recycling pickup services, may change their methods of picking up our recyclables. Veolia has determined that sorting recyclables at their facility is more effective than sorting as they load the trucks. As a result, they may soon start collecting recyclables in a vehicle that looks like a standard garbage truck rather than the recycling type truck we have been accustomed to seeing. Rest assured that your recyclables are indeed being recycled and reused.

Village residents have done a good job recycling and we have rated well above the state average for years. Keep up the good work and remember to recycle!

## Engineer – Administrator Notes

Due to other projects that have required significant staff time, the capital outlay street projects for this year have been postponed until 2009. The funds for the Morrill Ave and Harrison Ave projects will be put into a capital outlay fund and these projects will be bid with next year's projects.

The Village continues to receive questions about the future of the Domtar property, the devaluation request Domtar has made, and how it may affect the property taxes.

Members of the Village Board have met with the local Domtar administration several times in an effort to work together to expedite the reuse of the mill property. In addition, the Village Board is working towards developing an economic positioning strategy to specifically define our infrastructure and available industrial assets, assess the Village's place in the regional economy, and to identify economic development opportunities for the community. These efforts should help guide the Village in the future and should help add value to the community.

Until Domtar justifies their devaluation request to the State Department of Revenue and thereafter the State reviews those justifications and makes a decision, we will not know what the tax implications may be. At the same time, Erco Worldwide is investing over 100 million dollars into their facility with their mercury abatement project which will be a conversion from mercury cell to membrane cell technology. Those investments will add value to that facility and depending on how the Department of Revenue determines that value, the resulting increase should help offset the devaluation of the Domtar mill. At this time there is just no way to know what impacts we face until the values are specified making it challenging for the Village to plan for immediate needs.

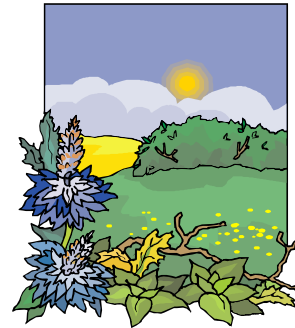
Adding to the challenge, Domtar has not disclosed any pending sale, probable use, or even if the mill is for sale, so the Village will continue to try to work with Domtar in an effort to promote good productive use of the property that will benefit both the community and Domtar.

## Water & Sewer Billings

Water and sewer billings are quarterly, the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, April, July, and October with the bills due 20 days later. After late notices are sent out you have ten days to pay or your water will be shut off. If your water has been shut off, there is a \$20.00 reconnect charge. Water bills can be paid at the Municipal Building from 8:00 A.M.-Noon and 1:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M., dropped in the silver payment box in front of the Municipal Building, or mailed in. *Please pay promptly.*

## Public Access Change

Charter Communications has changed their public access channels effective September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Analog Channel is 96, the Digital Channel is 985 and the QAM Tuner Position is 985.1. At this time we have not received notification from Solarus on any changes.



## Village of Port Edwards

Municipal Building  
201 Market Avenue  
PO Box 10  
Port Edwards, WI 54469  
715-887-3512

### Village Board

President: Ed Saylor  
Trustees: Patrick T. Arendt  
Tim Jensen  
Scott Machotka  
LuAnn Martinson  
Rita Schneider  
Jonathan Smith

### Village Staff

Engineer-Administrator-Joe Terry  
Clerk-Treasurer-Julie Bodette  
Cashier-Secretary-Kim Holcomb  
Meeting notices, agendas and all other legal notices are posted at the Municipal Building, Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank, Valley Communities Credit Union and Port Service at least 24 hours before a meeting.

# Police Department News

## Multi-Metro Deer Management



This is our third year of participation in the Multi-Metro Deer Management (MMDM) program, which includes the City of Wisconsin Rapids, Township of Grand Rapids and the Village of Biron. We began participation

in this program after one year of securing extra antlerless permits from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which in turn we gave to our local bow and arrow hunters to harvest extra antlerless deer. The original purpose for the antlerless deer harvest was based on the number of deer sighted, and the amount of complaints received from property owners who were experiencing yard and shrub damage from deer.

The MMDM hunters are allowed to hunt in specified areas or on private land with the landowner's permission. The program has been successful, as we have not received any complaints from landowners of deer damage in the past year. In fact, the opposite is true. I have personally had residents mention to me that they are seeing less deer and three residents in particular have voiced the opinion that the MMDM should be put on hold for at least a year. In fact, in the main areas where we received previous complaints about deer damage, only one area harvested any antlerless deer and there were no deer harvested in the other area.

This brings me to the central point of this article, I would like to hear from our residents on whether you feel we should put a one year halt to the MMDM hunt (this does not prevent regular bow and arrow deer hunting) as it appears by most accounts that "we are not seeing the deer we used to". Again, I would like to hear from as many of the residents as I possibly can, as it will be my responsibility to make hunting recommendations to the Planning and Legislative Committee in early 2009. I ask for your advice due to receiving more "we are not seeing the deer like we used to" as opposed to "there are too many deer in the Village".

You may contact me at the police department at 887-3030 or if I am not in, please feel free to call me at home, 887-3149. I look forward to hearing from many of our Village Residents. My recommendation to the Planning and Legislative Committee will be based in large part on the comments I receive from our residents. If you prefer you may write a note to me on the deer matter. These notes may be dropped off at the Municipal Building with the Village Secretary or put in the drop box outside if I am not around. When calling or writing please keep in mind the following options:

1. Continue the hunt as is
2. Put the MMDM hunt on hold for 2009

3. Revert back to pre MMDM hunts and issue bonus antlerless tags to residents, landowners and area hunters.

Currently, the MMDM hunt goes from August 1<sup>st</sup> until January 31<sup>st</sup> each year. The Village Administrator and I are considering making future special hunts run from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## The Canadian Geese Dilemma



As I am sure everyone has noticed we are fast becoming the Horicon Marsh of Central Wisconsin,

as the local population of Giant Canadian Geese has skyrocketed. We have been in touch with the DNR and have received feedback on possible solutions. The only problem being, none of them appear to fit our needs. There is one other option that I have mentioned to the Village President, and that is a controlled hunt in the Village. As with the deer issue, I would also like to hear from you on this matter.

Ripple Creek Park, the high school football and track fields, and yards along Wisconsin River Drive (especially from Ver Bunker Avenue south to Edwards Avenue) are becoming littered with "goose droppings." Beside the mess involved with the droppings, the chance for pets and pet owners becoming sick because of the droppings is a concern. Also, as more geese congregate, the chance for waterfowl diseases increase possibly leading to a die off of the birds. In fact, one young boy in the Village became ill last year, and this may have been due to the fact of goose droppings in Ripple Creek Park.

Before a controlled hunt, under the supervision of the police department, could be held we would have to meet all U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wisconsin DNR rules and regulations. If a hunt were to be held it would coincide with the Wisconsin Early Goose Season, which runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The hunt would be held in safe locations, such as along the Wisconsin River and the north end of Ripple Creek Park. Hunters would be following very restrictive hours, be limited to the amount of shot shells taken a field and be required to register geese taken with the police department. Also, the number of hunters per day would be limited by the use of a lottery drawing system. Successful hunters in the lottery would be assigned an area to hunt for the day.

I would appreciate any feedback that you may be able to send my way and I hope you have a very enjoyable fall season.

*Joseph H. Zurfluh*  
*Chief of Police*

## **Port Edwards Water Utility Rates**

The Public Service Commission requires that water rates be published semi-annually.

The following rates are in effect since September 12, 2007:

### **Quarterly Service Charge:**

5/8" meter - \$ 12.38	3" meter - \$167.18
1" meter - \$ 30.96	4" meter - \$275.54
1 1/2" meter - \$ 61.92	6" meter - \$523.22
2" meter - \$ 86.69	

### **Quarterly Service Charge for Sprinkling Meter:**

5/8" meter - \$ 5.40
1" meter - \$ 10.50
1 1/2" meter - \$ 21.00
2" meter - \$ 28.00

**Plus Volume Charge:** First 25,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.07 per 100 cubic feet  
Next 375,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$0.96 per 100 cubic feet  
Over 400,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$0.72 per 100 cubic feet

**Billing:** Bills for water service are rendered quarterly and become due upon issuance following the period for which service is rendered. A late payment charge of 3 percent but not less than 50 cents will be added to bills not paid within 20 days of issuance. This one time 3 percent late payment charge will be applied to any unpaid balance for the current billing period's usage. This late payment charge is applicable to all customers. The utility customer may be given a written notice that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued, and, unless payment or satisfactory arrangement for payment is made within the next ten days, service may be disconnected pursuant to Chapter PSC 185, WI Admin. Code.

## **Community Calendar Items**

- Oct. 7 Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- Oct. 14 Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 4 Election Day – Remember to VOTE!**
- Nov. 4 Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- Nov. 5 Port Business Council**, Alexander House, 7:00 a.m.
- Nov. 11 Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 2 Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 2 Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- Dec. 3 Port Business Council**, Alexander House, 7:00 a.m.

**Does your organization or church have an event you would like publicized?** Submit it for the next Village newsletter by stopping at the Municipal Building or calling 887-3512 for more information.