

ERIN RIDGE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Budget for 2019-20

At our April 23 meeting, we approved the Budget for 2019-20. In addition to routine and contracted expenses, we have allocated funds to repair grass damaged over the past winters by the ice melt product. We are not contemplating an increase in Homeowner Fees for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Do-All Grounds Maintenance

The contract with Do-All now switches to grounds maintenance. The spring clean-up has been completed. Do-All has indicated that Tuesday will be grass cutting day this summer.

Project Approval Guidelines

The **Project Approval Guidelines** document was updated on November 30, 2018 to provide choice in the allowed colours for garage doors. Garage doors painted in Wedgewood or Blue Spruce fade much more quickly than the doors painted Albright Pure White. After due consideration, the Board has decided to provide Homeowners, who have Wedgewood or Blue Spruce trim on their house, the **option** of changing the colour of their garage door to Albright Pure White. When the colour of the door is changed to Albright Pure White, the colour of the door trim must be left in the original colour. So, now you have two options for the colour of your garage door – Albright Pure White, or the colour of your house trim.

If you are thinking of painting your garage door, please refer to the Project Approval Guidelines document on our website.

<https://www.erinridgealhoa.com/association-documents.html>

Tree Committee

The Tree Committee continues to work with Branches Tree Care. Dianne Hutton will be doing her spring inspection once leaves appear on the trees, and she will provide a report to the Committee. The Committee has prepared information about watering and fertilizing which you may find useful. That article is on page 2 of this newsletter and it will be posted on our website for future reference.

Resignation of Board Member

We have, with regret, accepted the resignation of Paul Boutin, who is moving from our community, effective June 1. We thank Paul for his dedicated service to the Board.

On behalf of the Board

Peggy Corner, President

NOTICE BOARD



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Jeanine invites all friends and relatives to attend a celebration of life for Norm Cloutier. It will be held at the Legion, Cornerstone Hall, 6 Tache Street, St. Albert on **May 18 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm**. Stories of Norm to be told at 2:00 pm.

LADIES LUNCH – NEW TIME

The Ladies Lunch is held the first Wednesday of the month. The time has been changed to **11:30 am**. If you wish to be included in the email communications for the luncheons, please contact **Mary Smith** at 780-459-7251 or email marygord@telus.net

SUMMER BLOCK PARTY

A very pleasant summer tradition was started many years ago by Ray Rohr and Ray Corner. They have indicated they are willing to head up organizing a Block Party in late June or early July. As last years “appetizer” event was well received, it is proposed to follow the same format again this year.

Every year, we need to find a venue. Two adjacent homeowners who volunteer the use of their garages – one for the food tables and one for seating in case the weather doesn't co-operate is preferable. As in past years, they are also looking for volunteers to help with set up and clean up. Please give either of them a call if you would like to offer your garage or volunteer to help:

Ray Corner – 780 458 1740 Ray Rohr 780 460 7866

MAILBOXES VANDALIZED

Recently the Community Mailboxes at the north end of Enderby Crescent were broken into. If this should happen again, report the incident as follows:

● Canada Post – 1 800 267 1177 or register the event on this webpage: www.canadapost.ca/cmb

● call the RCMP with the details – 780 458 7700

Tips to Keep Your Mail Safe

✓ Ask folks not to send you cash or gift cards in the mail.

✓ Try to pick up your mail each day.

✓ Shred pre-approved credit card applications in your junk mail that you are not interested in.

✓ Deposit mail near scheduled pick up times at your mailbox.

✓ For a fee, Canada Post will hold your mail while you are away.

✓ Deposit sensitive, financial or business mail at the post office.



STUCCO NESTING BIRDS

Spring has finally arrived, and we hear the lovely sound of the Chickadees.

Take a good look at your stucco. The front of our stucco homes has a panel just under the eaves which is a "stucco/drivet finish" (plaster and stucco over Styrofoam).

Some bird species like to peck through the stucco of buildings, Downy Woodpeckers and Black Hooded Chickadees are the most common. If birds notice the stucco has a hollow sound, they will instinctively begin pecking at it to find a space to nest. This has happened to a couple of homes in our community.

If left untreated, nuisance birds can cause serious damage to your stucco. It is advised to take steps immediately before further damage is done. You can purchase a nontoxic repellent from Home Depot called 'Critter Ridder' and spray it in the hole. This will not harm the birds, but they will experience a burning sensation around their eyes and vacate the nest.

Do not use poison to get rid of them, neighbourhood pets may eat the birds and become poisoned too. Give them a week or so to vacate. Once you know they are gone, you will be able to get the stucco repaired. There are a number of Stucco companies in our city that will give you a quote and match the colour.

HOMEOWNER PROFILE



Watch for another profile in our next issue.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE.....

www.erinridgealhoa.com

Association documents, such as the Project Approval Guidelines and the Tree Committee Report are available on the website. You can also access back issues of this Newsletter, as well as Board Meeting Minutes.



TIPS AND HINTS FROM OUR ARBORIST

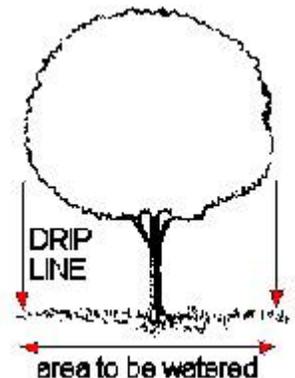


Tree Care

Trees that are kept in healthy condition are better able to withstand insect pests and disease. Newly planted trees should be watered regularly for at least the first year after planting. In our climate, most mature trees do not require watering, but in prolonged drought trees can suffer and some types will suffer more than others. When Dianne Hutton of Branches Tree Care inspected our community in October 2018 she noted that a number of trees in the Dry Pond area, especially the pine trees, were showing signs of drought stress. Some were so stressed that their survivability may be threatened. Hence, she provided the following guidelines for keeping your trees healthy.

Watering

- Check if the soil around the tree is moist to the touch, if so your tree may not need it.
- If there has been an extended period without rain and the soil is dry, or the tree leaves/needles show some yellowing, it would be prudent to water the tree.
- When watering a tree do it in the early morning or evening.
- Water around the tree's drip line (an imaginary line extending from the outermost branch tips straight down to the ground), never water close to the trunk. There are no feeder roots at the trunk. If you water too close to the trunk the feeder roots will grow toward the water. This is not desirable.



- To reach the roots responsible for gathering water make sure the area around your tree is moist to a depth of 30-45cm below the surface, depending on the size of the tree.
- During drought conditions, the soil may first repel the water. Water lightly several times on the first day until the soil will accept the water.
- Trees can be drowned! Instead of watering often, water generously in one long, slow application. A soaker hose is the best for watering trees.

- The water should barely make a small pool if any at all. Leave water run like that for hours. After a good watering, let the area dry for at least a week before watering again.
- Wood mulch will help to keep the roots cool and moist. Use natural mulch not painted mulch. Painted mulch does not allow the nutrients to leach into the ground. Black painted mulch gets hot and aids in evaporation, making the ground drier. Mulch should be 3 - 4 inches thick for maximum effectiveness.
- Wait until the snow is melted and the ground is fully thawed before watering. Give the ground time to balance off. Trees don't do anything fast, so waking up from their winter nap and having very wet ground is a lot for them to handle. There won't be a need to be concerned about water until May. Water your trees well in the fall to prepare for winter.
- Drought characteristics look the same as overwatering. The needles/leaves turn yellow, sometimes a patchy yellow too. If the needles on the inside of the branch are the ones turning this is okay unless it affects the entire branch. Yellowing and inner die back of needles is normal. Only be concerned if the yellowing is on the outer tips of the twigs (ends of the branches).
- Pines do not tolerate overwatering. Don't point eaves trough downspouts towards a pine tree – especially during a period of heavy or prolonged rain.

Fertilizing

Fertilizer is like cocaine for trees. Only fertilize if the tree is in serious decline and only one time. If a tree is on a fertilizer program and is getting it one or more times a year regularly, it will always have to be like that. The tree gets addicted to it and also becomes lazy in looking for its own food. It doesn't have to make roots to seek out nutrients when it's provided. This is also the case for watering. Therefore the tree doesn't grow the strong long root systems it needs for good anchor roots. If fertilizing, trees have to be deep root fertilized or the grass takes most of it.

Only fertilize if an Arborist has advised it. What time of year to fertilize? I prefer spring; it gives the tree the most nutrients it can get to make big leaves so it can photosynthesize all summer at maximum efficiency going into dormancy with the most energy stored as possible. Fall fertilizing helps the roots out but not all energy is stored there. So I prefer spring, or immediately after I have assessed the tree and recommended it.



NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Myrna Howell
 Bev Miller
 Lynne Perry
 Peggy Corner – Board Liaison

CONTRACTOR'S CORNER



With spring in the air, you may be looking to do some repairs or painting. Burtine Kendall can connect you with another Homeowner who can recommend the following kinds of contractors:

- ✓ Interior and exterior renovations including fireplaces
- ✓ Garage door repair
- ✓ Window and gutter cleaning
- ✓ Deck repair and building
- ✓ Christmas light installation
- ✓ Arborist
- ✓ Appliance repair
- ✓ Grout and tile cleaning
- ✓ Stucco repair
- ✓ Patio door repair

Burtine's number is 780 458 3380, and her email is arbur@shaw.ca

Board of Directors

Peggy Corner – President
 Paul Boutin – Vice President
 Jody Reekie – Treasurer
 Ray Rohr – Secretary
 Irene Clark - Director
 Bob Gabourie – Director
 Jim Terry – Director

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

KDM Management Inc.

103, 205 Carnegie Drive
 St. Albert T8N 5B2

Office hours 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

Telephone: 780 460 0444

Fax: 780 460 1280

www.KDMMgmt.ca

Kelly Cruthers – Property Manager
 780 460 0444 extension 308

Email: KCruthers@kdmMgmt.ca