

# Gillams Gazette

April 2009

Vol. 09, No. 1

## **Garbage Collection**

The Town of Gillams is changing to a local contractor for garbage collection services as of May 5, 2009. Garbage pickup will continue to be on Tuesday mornings. As of May 5<sup>th</sup>, residents will be able to dispose of old appliances (hot water tanks, kitchen stoves, refrigerators, etc.) every week, not just during the annual cleanup week. It is important to note that old refrigerators and freezers **MUST BE CERTIFIED FREON FREE BY A QUALIFIED REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN.** Refrigerators and freezers that do not have a certificate attached will not be picked up by the garbage collector.

## **Annual Cleanup Week**

Cleanup week this year is from April 29 - May 5, with pick-up on May 5. The following list of items will be collected: 1. Sofas, chairs, beds and mattresses. 2. Tree branches and grass cuttings. Branches must be tied in bundles. Contractor is not responsible for large quantities of branches - i.e. pick up loads. 3. Small automotive parts such as wheel rims and small parts. 4. Hot water tanks, stoves and certified refrigerators and freezers. Contact the Town Clerk for more detail. Council asks all residents to do their part to clean up our town and keep it tidy.

## **Historical Society Plans for Summer 2009**

The Gillams Historical Society plans to operate its museum again this coming summer, pending funding approval for student employment.

Last summer was a great success for the Museum, which saw several hundred registered visitors from near and far during July and August. The interest and support for the Gillams Museum were fantastic! The Historical Society would like to thank the Golden Sunset Seniors Club for the arrangement to use their building last summer. We were very fortunate to be able

to operate the Museum at no cost to the Town of Gillams. Museums provide an opportunity to experience the history of our community and the Bay of Islands area. The real value of the Museum experience was best seen in the faces of the Grade 5 students of Templeton Academy who visited our museum in September 2008. Pictures of their visit can be viewed on the Town's website at <http://gillams.net>.

## **Reminders**

- A. Check out our town website at <http://gillams.net> for notices, town calendar, pictures, budget and more.
- B. Regular business hours for the Town Office are; Monday, Tuesday Wednesday & Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- C. Our volunteer fire department is seeking new members. You can join by attending one of the Monday night meetings at the fire hall, starting at 8 p.m.
- D. Building permits are required before construction/renovating begins.  
  
PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING: replacing roof shingles, building renovations, building extensions, erecting fences, dismantling and removal of building, new building construction, building repairs, building relocations and erecting portable garages/greenhouses. Contact the Town clerk for details.
- E. All property taxes, poll taxes and business taxes are due to be paid in full by May 31, 2008. Accounts not paid in full by this date are in arrears as of June 01 and will be charged 2% simple interest per month.

## **How are property taxes calculated?**

Residential property tax bills are calculated by

multiplying your total assessed property value by the mil rate set by council. The current tax rate in the Town of Gillams is set at 12 mils. Additionally, the minimum property tax in Gillams for 2009 is set at \$400.00, so no property owner in the town will be billed less than that amount. The examples below illustrate how property tax is calculated.

**Example #1:** Mr. Smith owns a house and land in Gillams with a total assessed value of \$50,000.00. His property tax bill is calculated as follows:

$\$50,000.00 \times 0.012$  (12 mils) = **\$600.00**.

**Example #2:** Ms. Brown owns two houses and land in Gillams. House & land #1 has an assessed value of \$40,000.00. House & land #2 has an assessed value of \$30,000.00. Her property tax is calculated as follows:

Total value of Ms. Brown's property is,  
 $\$40,000.00 + \$30,000.00 = \$70,000.00$ .  
 $\$70,000.00 \times 0.012$  (12 mils) = **\$840.00**.

**Example #3:** Mr. Jones owns a house and land in Gillams with a total assessed value of \$30,000.00. His property tax bill is calculated as follows:

$\$30,000.00 \times 0.012$  (12 mils) = \$360.00.  
However, since the minimum property tax in Gillams for 2009 is set at \$400.00, Mr. Jones' property tax bill is **\$400.00**.

If you have any question about how your property tax is calculated, please contact Shelley Fillier at the Town office.

### **Right to Appeal Poll Tax**

Section 127 of The Municipalities Act of 1999 outlines the right of individuals to appeal a poll tax levy. The Act stipulates that a person is not liable for the poll tax in a given year, if his/her income from all sources under the Income Act of Canada is less than the basic personal exemption under that Act for the year immediately before the year in which the poll tax is due. It should be noted here that pension income received under the *Old Age Security Act* (Canada) and pensions and allowances that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may prescribe by regulation shall not be considered to be income.

Anyone seeking an exemption from poll tax

must make written application to the Town of Gillams before July 1. The application must include a copy of the individual's personal income tax forms from the previous year.

### **Junk Mail Mess**

Canada Post recently removed garbage cans from our local mailbox site. Unfortunately, the flyers, pamphlets and other unsolicited "junk-mail" continue to come, and some people choose to drop the unwanted flyers on the ground thereby creating a very unsightly mess. Council has contacted Canada Post to protest its decision to remove the garbage containers.

However, as individual residents of the community we can take action to eliminate or at least reduce the mess. One option is to tape a **No Junk Mail** sign like the one shown below to the inside, front bottom of your mail box. These simple little signs really work! Canada Post will not place "junk-mail" in mailboxes displaying the sign. **A limited quantity of free "Red Dot" signs are available at the town office.** You can also print your own red dot sign from <http://www.reddotcampaign.ca/>. Another option is to make sure that you carry all your mail home and dispose of the "junk-mail" in your weekly household garbage. Please do your part to help keep our community tidy.



[Back to Newsletters](#)

[Back to Home Page](#)