



Elections - 2010

Municipal Newsletter

(The Municipal Newsletter is now available on-line @ www.redlake.ca)
June 1, 2010 Volume No. 12-10



MUNICIPAL OFFICE

2 Fifth Street
Box 1000
Balmertown, Ontario
POV 1C0

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone Number:

807-735-2096

Fax Number:

807-735-2286

E-Mail:

municipality@red-lake.com

Website:

www.red-lake.com

After Hour Trouble Calls

Please call 727-2597

VOTE-BY-MAIL FOR THE 2010 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake has passed By-Law No. 1339-10 at a Special Meeting of Council held Wednesday, May 26th, 2010, to authorize Vote by Mail as the method of voting for the 2010 Municipal Elections.

BACKGROUND

The biggest challenge for the Elections – 2010 was to ensure that all areas are accessible to voters with disabilities. The *Municipal Elections Act* states that the Clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

The Clerk's Office reviewed many options with regards to voting places in order to be fair and equitable to all electors. A survey of the Kenora District was completed with regards to voting methods. Presently five out of nine municipalities in the Kenora District utilize the Vote by Mail method.

Accessibility formed a large part of the decision for Vote by Mail, as polling stations shall be held in locations that are fully accessible. This accessibility extends beyond physical barriers to include items such as assisted hearing devices and magnifying sheets. These accessibility issues would be eliminated with vote by mail, as the voter would be casting a ballot from their residence. Vote by mail makes it easy for everyone to participate in the democratic process.

HOW DOES VOTE BY MAIL WORK

Each elector will receive a ballot kit in the mail from Canada Post (replacement kits will be issued from the Revision Centre, located in the Municipal Office). Follow the instructions included in the kit, complete the ballot and place it in the secrecy envelope. Sign the Declaration Form and place both pieces into the larger outer envelope and mail in the self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Municipal Office. You may also personally drop it off at the Revision Centre (Municipal Office).

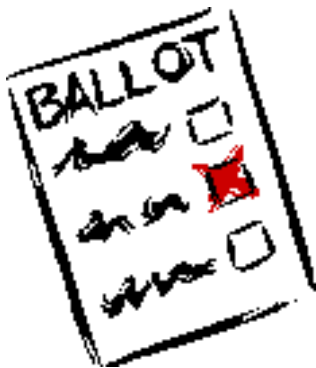
Canada Post will be asking voters to mail or drop off their packages approximately one week prior to the October 25th Election Day. We will still accept your package at the Revision Centre right up to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (October 25th, 2010)

Additional information will be communicated in upcoming newsletters, as well as through our web-site. See page 2 for benefits of vote by mail.

VOTE TABULATOR

In addition to vote by mail, Council may decide to use ballots that can be read electronically, such as Kenora, Dryden and Sioux Lookout. This form of tabulation could shorten the time needed to count ballots and produce results on Election Day.

Shelly L. Kocis
Clerk & Returning Officer
735-2096, Ext. 232



Candidates and/or School Board Trustees

Election Forms & Documents, including Nomination Papers, Guides, etc. are available at the Office of the Clerk

Municipal Office
2 Fifth Street
Balmertown, Ontario

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE VOTE BY MAIL METHOD?

As prepared by Jim Stewart, National Director of Elections Services for DataFix

Improved Organizational Capabilities

- Eliminates need for advance polls and proxy voting.
- Eliminates the urgent need to find, and pay rent for, polling stations.
- Reduces costly recruitment and training of electoral staff.
- Reduces expensive overtime requirements.
- Frees up election officials to focus on election activity.
- Ensures that election staff are focused at the critical counting time.

Increases Voter Turnout

- Non-Residents are more likely to participate.
- Removes many barriers which keep voters away from the ballot box such as inclement weather, family commitments, work commitments, transportation.

Meets the Integrity requirements of the Election Process

- Ballots are available for potential recounts or investigations.
- Potential for duplicate voting is eliminated.
- Blank kits are available for last minute additions to the list.

Online Data Management and Ballot Creation

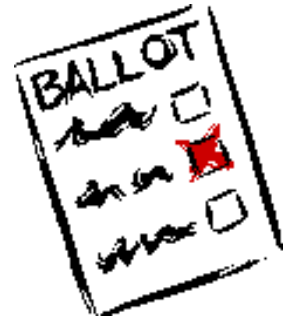
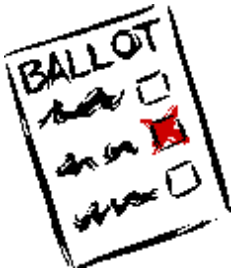
- User-friendly list management application.
- Ability to create ballots on-line.
- Comprehensive voter participation tracking.

Elections become a Team Effort

- Ensuring that key dates are met.

Enhanced Technology Options

- Working with staff to ensure a successful event.
- Automated voter strike-off capabilities.
- Ballots are compatible with tabulation equipment.



Watch out for our next Elections 2010 – Municipal Newsletter which will include information on frequently asked questions and answers to vote by mail method, filing a nomination, qualification of municipal elector, etc.

If you have any questions with regards to the upcoming election, please contact the Shelly L. Kocis, Clerk & Returning Officer at 735-2096, Ext. 232. We may also use the question in an upcoming newsletter.