**Winter Newsletter 2015**

Likely, most of us have just returned from yet another snow clearing event that has challenged our athletic ability to heave-ho …and throw the snow to an even greater height! Oh my, when will it end ☺

The main purpose of this newsletter is to inform all residents of the board’s decision to hold a re-election of its members. We have continued to maintain all the necessary routine functions such as paying our lighting and snow clearing bills, but have grappled with our inability to continue to deal with more important items that come to our attention. Please review the overview for more details.

The directors have been adjusting to their new roles and responsibilities and have generated a list of jobs that each member will manage. Our first few meetings focused on a sharing of ideas, resources, and procedures. The all too familiar ‘do we know what we know’ expression has revealed that we have made significant progress in our need to have our corporate history aligned with current methods of reporting, terms of reference, and with the ever-evolving methods of communicating.

We hope, that with the creative input of residents, we can design a website to be proud of…something that everyone is easily able to access in order to share their interests, ideas and concerns. From time to time you may experience that a link, or perhaps the entire site, is ‘closed for construction’. Thank you for your patience as we make those upgrades!

You may have noticed that a few of our signs on the bridge have been removed as they did not allow sufficient clearance for the snow plow blade to pass-by without causing damage. In addition to these signs being replaced in the spring, all signposts will receive an inspection to ensure they are erect and are sufficiently tall enough to be seen over ‘most’ snow banks.

There has been a marked improvement in the number of calls made to the board regarding ‘pet issues’. This indicates that pet owners have done a great job of ensuring their pets’ safety. Here are a few suggestions to further your quest to have a safe pet: use a heated water bowl; use a 40 watt light bulb for heat in outdoor kennels; add straw to the outdoor kennel/crate; check effectiveness of wireless fencing re interference from snow/ice; avoid walking pets in areas with concentrated amounts of salt; and, consider that 10 minutes of playing with your pet (outside) is more beneficial than 60 minutes by themselves!

Our Operating Assessment, which directs our funds towards all of our yearly expenses, is due May 15, 2015. We have been able to maintain our assessment level for another year, and again, residents will be paying $1,200. Payments can be made in advance using post-dated cheques. We encourage all residents to mail their cheques in order to avoid any issues.

Please ensure that you send the board an update of your personal contact information. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have the information necessary to send you notices and assessments. Late penalties, due to out-dated personal information, are not considered ‘cause’ to negate paying interest charges.

We bid a respectful thank you to our Clerk, Melanie Parks, who in her very brief time with our Board, has made a significant contribution to our office.

We wish her well in her new full time employment!

**Overview of the need for a re-election of Board members for 2015.**

Since 2006, our most recent review of the by-laws generated a process for the election of directors. This bylaw (3.04 in our current version of by-laws) clearly describes the method to be used, and that is ‘to elect each member *by position’* (ie. Elect the Chair, then, elect the Vice-Chair etc).

Throughout the past 10 years, we have used this method, along side, another method better known as elected ‘*by* *slate*’ (ie. List all the names of individuals who are letting their names stand for any position – then elect a maximum of 7 members from all the names listed. This elected body will then self-determine who will hold the various roles of officers).

This irregularity [in the use of 2 varying election methods] was brought to the attention of those that attended the 2014 AGM. The newly elected board had had several discussions regarding this irregularity and deemed it necessary to seek a legal opinion.

The issue here covers several items within itself, and for our purpose of ensuring that our election process is akin to our existing bylaws, we will be holding a re-election. The board has asked for a legal opinion – and it too, verifies our need to redo the election.

This small, but important, step will generate a Board of Directors for 2015 that have been elected by a process consistent with our existing by-laws, and thus be able to continue to govern without any future encumbrances from potential appeal due to an invalid election process.

We continue to remain fully vested to continue with our due diligence in paying our bills and issuing our assessments.

It is vitally important that we have quorum for this meeting in order for the board to continue with its work. Please remind your neighbours of the following details….

**Important General Meeting Information:**

**Date**: Sunday, April 19th

**Time:** 7 pm

**Location**: Steady Brook Town Hall

**Agenda:** Humber Village Ltd. re-election of its directors for 2015.