



Oxbow's Good Neighbour Guide



AROUND YOUR PROPERTY

A homeowner's general responsibility is the property in and around their lot including boulevards, sidewalks and alleys connected to their property. As a homeowner it is important to keep in mind that property maintenance plays an important part in being a good neighbour.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND BOULEVARDS

Lawn Care

Regularly mowing, watering and fertilizing helps keep your lawn green and healthy. Maintaining a yard care routine will likely be noticed and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Overgrown Grass and Weeds

Property owners, including those with vacant lots, are responsible for keeping grass and weeds in check ensuring they do not grow higher than 15cm tall (6 inches). Tall grass and weeds can become a fire hazard and can attract unwanted insects and vermin.

Untidy or Unsightly Properties

Keeping the areas around your home tidy will improve your curb appeal and help foster a sense of community pride. Unsightly properties look unappealing and can pose dangerous risks to others around you.

Owners/occupants are responsible for ensuring their properties remain tidy. The storage of any materials on a residential lot must not be visible from outside the property. This includes loose garbage, yard waste, household furniture, bottles, cans, packaging materials, building materials, abandoned vehicles/campers, machinery, equipment or automobile parts and appliances.

PRIDEPOINTS

Tips for Property Maintenance...

- Prevent trees on your property from encroaching over sidewalks or roadways.
- Trim all landscaping to ensure its within your property boundaries and intersection sightlines are not obstructed.
- The location and verification of property lines is a civil matter to be addressed and resolved between neighbours.
- Blowing grass and other yard debris into the sidewalk, street, storm drainage system or neighbouring properties is a violation and can create a safety hazard.
- Do not leave piles of grass/weed clippings in rear lanes decompose.

Boulevards

Well-maintained boulevards increase curb appeal and contribute to a sense of pride within the community. Boulevards provide space for municipal services and may be an entrance point for municipal services on to a property.

It is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain the adjacent boulevard in accordance with the Town of Oxbow's Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw.

Back Alleys/Lanes

Property owners are responsible for trimming trees and shrubs that overhang the property line. Keep the back alley/lane around your property free from waste, abandoned furniture, bikes, or other household items and overgrown weeds, trees and shrubs.

FIRE PITS

A warm evening fire is a great way to spend time outdoors with friends and family. It is important to follow the Town's guidelines so it can be enjoyed and safe for everyone.

Owner's/occupants are responsible for the appropriate use of fire pits on their properties: Fire pits must be controlled and contained by utilizing a non-combustible container or fire barricade erected in such a manner so as not to allow the fire to spread on the ground and be fully extinguished at the end of the activity. Open fires for the purpose of burning rubbish or other flammable combustible waste materials within the Town of Oxbow is prohibited.

PRIDEPOINTS

- There may be times when a fire ban is in effect as declared by the Fire Chief, who has the authority to declare a ban at any time. This ban is separate from any provincial fire ban and may remain in effect within Town boundaries even after a provincial fire ban has been lifted.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

When removing snow and ice from the sidewalk or driveway place it on your own property. Snow and ice from private property cannot be placed onto any Town street or property.

As a best practice snow and ice should not be stored in a way that will cause melting snow to drain onto your neighbour's property.

PRIDEPOINTS

- Consider helping your neighbour by offering to shovel their sidewalk or driveway if needed.

PETS

Dogs and cats are valued family members and as responsible pet owners, it is important to ensure that all pets always wear licensed tags.

Licensing your pet helps to identify and protect your pet in case it becomes lost. Pet licenses can be purchased at the Town Office.

The off-leash dog park provides an opportunity for dog owners and their dogs to exercise, play and socialize. Dogs may only be off leash in designated areas and must wear a current Town of Oxbow dog license.

Picking up after your pets is a part of responsible pet ownership. Whether it is on private property or in public, immediately dispose of your pet's waste. Allowing pet waste to accumulate on your property may pose a health risk to others and may attract unwanted vermin and insects.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Curbside Garbage and Recycling

On collection day e, place your carts on the street before 7:00 a.m. Leave at least 3 feet of space between other objects such as parked cars or neighboring carts. After your carts are collected, roll them back into a secure location on your property to avoid cluttering the streets.

Garbage is collected weekly on Thursdays.

Recycling is collected bi-weekly on Fridays.

To view the Collection Calendar, visit the Town of Oxbow website at www.oxbow.ca.

PRIDEPOINTS

- Keep cart lids closed and don't let them overflow.
- Do not place additional waste items beside carts.
- Make to not pack them too tightly.

Transfer Station

The purpose of the Oxbow Transfer Station is to temporarily store solid waste before that solid waste is transported to a treatment, recycling, recovery or disposal facility. The station stores solid waste in a receptacle, bin or container that prevents that waste, or any liquid in that waste from leaving the container.

Items That May Be Taken To The Transfer Station

- Clean wood for burning (not mixed with household refuse). This includes trees/branches, shrubs, untreated wood. **This does not include sorted or unsorted demolition debris. This is not to be accepted. The owner/person wishing to dispose of this material should be told to contact GFL or Loraas Disposal.**
- Recycling items: paper, cardboard, tins, bottles. These are deposited in the appropriate recycling bins.
- Household garbage which is deposited in the appropriate bin(s).

Items Not Accepted

- Electronic devices including microwaves – these items can be dropped off at the Town shop
- Liquid domestic waste (sewage)
- Hazardous substances or dangerous goods
- Petroleum products, remains or by-products
- By-products of a slaughterhouse
- Biomedical waste
- Shingles
- Tires
- Cement and rubble
- Vehicles

Transfer Station Hours and Fees can be found on our website at www.oxbow.ca.

TRAFFIC/PARKING

The speed limit in the Town of Oxbow is 40/km per hour on all streets, avenues, drives, roads and crescents except for school zones and playgrounds which is 30/km per hour.

Property owners and residents are responsible for ensuring that vehicles parked on their property and adjacent streets are registered, insured, operable and properly equipped.

Vehicles cannot be parked on anyone parking space on any street continuously for any period exceeding twenty-four (24) hours.

NOISE

All homeowners and residents are responsible for ensuring that activities on their properties fall within the appropriate sound restrictions and do not disturb neighbours and adjacent properties.

If you plan to host a party, talk to your neighbour about your plans beforehand so that they may be more understanding and tolerant of the noise.

Barking dogs can also disturb and annoy the peace and quiet of the neighbourhood. Be proactive to ensure your dog is not barking, howling or whimpering continuously for a long period of time.

PRIDEPOINTS

- Noise travels further at night.

WATERWORKS

The Town of Oxbow installs water meters in every residential or commercial building, if applicable, for billing purposes. When below freezing temperatures continue over a few days, water pipes and meters close to cold air may freeze and can be expensive to repair or replace.

Water meters are read at the beginning of each month for the consumption of water used in the previous month and billed monthly.

If your water meter malfunctions or you need to install a new meter, please call the Town Office. For all other issues, please call a certified plumber for assistance.

WASTEWATER WORKS

Every time you flush the toilet, take a shower or wash your dishes, you send wastewater down the drain to the sewer system. The network of underground pipes, through gravity and lift stations carry the wastewater to the lagoon.

Pouring fats, oils and grease down your sink, toilet or shower can cause blockages in your homes sewer system and the Town's sewer lines resulting in sewer backups and costly repairs.

DRAINAGE

Lot Grading

Proper lot drainage directs stormwater runoff from snow, rain or hail away from homes and garages to public roadways, landscaping areas or drainage swales where runoff can flow into storm drains.

As a homeowner, ensure downspout and sump pump flows are properly directed, eavesthroughs are regularly cleaned of leaves, drainage swales are kept clear of obstructions and shallow depressions or settlements have been filled.

Homeowners and residents are responsible for ensuring that drainage from their property is directed appropriately and does not negatively impact neighbouring properties.

PRIDEPOINTS

- Only flush the 3P's – pee, poo and paper (toilet paper). Flushing anything other than the 3P's can damage your home's sewer system.
- Before washing pot and pans or dirty dishes, wait for the fats, oils or grease to harden then wipe them with a paper towel and in the garbage.

Storm Drains

The Town of Oxbow uses above and below ground storm sewer pipes to collect rain and melting snow for proper drainage to protect against flooding.

Every spring and summer, a collection of storm drains help keep Oxbow roads clear and properties dry. When storm drains are frozen or covered with debris, storm water cannot drain rain and melting snow away from alleys, streets and greenspaces next to your property. You can help by ensuring storm drains next to your property are cleared during a weather event.

PRIDEPOINTS

- The Town's sanitary sewer system transports wastewater from your home to the lagoon to be cleaned and treated.
- Everything that enters the storm sewer through storm drains goes directly into the lagoon untreated.

ZONING AND BUILDING COMPLIANCE

Zoning Bylaw

The Zoning Bylaw is a regulatory document that facilitates implementation of the Town of Oxbow's Official Community Plan. All land in Town is assigned a zoning district and subject to development standards associated with the zoning district. Parking, permitted uses, discretionary uses and setbacks are included in these regulations, among many others.

Fences

Before putting up a fence, there are a few things to keep in mind.

If your fence is shared, talk to your neighbour(s) and give them a heads up that you are considering building a fence. In some cases, you may be able to share the cost.

In Oxbow fences cannot be higher than 2.0 metres (6.5 feet) in rear yards and 1.0 metres (3.3 feet) in front yards. If you live on a corner lot, make sure the sight triangle is not obstructed.

A building permit is not required to build a fence, but the fence must comply with the Town's regulations and bylaws.

The Town does not locate property lines, but you can refer to a surveyor's certificate or real property report to locate your property lines. If you do not have one of these it may be an added cost to consider.

It is the homeowner's responsibility to contact Sask 1st Call to locate utility lines in the construction area.

Deck

Consider your neighbour's when designing a new deck. Think about how your deck will impact your neighbour's privacy or if it will cast a shadow on your neighbour's garden or flower bed.

Both a Development Permit and a Building Permit are required for a deck regardless of the height or size, covered or uncovered. Ensure that your proposed deck does not encroach upon any easements on your property.

Detached Garage/Accessory Buildings

Both a Development Permit and a Building Permit are required for all buildings or structures larger than 9.0 metres sq. (100 feet sq.). Only one accessory building under 100 feet sq. per property is exempt from obtaining a Building Permit; all other buildings require a permit, even if it does not require a permit, it still must meet all Zoning and Building Bylaw requirements.

Home Development & Improvements

When designing your new home, an addition or renovation to your existing home, take a close look at your neighbourhood. Being a good neighbour means asking yourself questions in the early stages of the design process such as how will my design affect my neighbours, or will my new home fit with the neighbourhood?

Both a Development Permit and a Building Permit are required for a new build, an addition or renovation to your existing home.

PRIDEPOINTS

- If you are planning to build, renovate or demolish a residence, accessory building, industrial or commercial property, it is important that you are issued a Development Permit and/or a Building Permit.
- A Permit ensures that all buildings comply with safety, health, building and zoning requirements for the owner, the Town of Oxbow and the Province of Saskatchewan.
- Permits help protect the resale value of your property with proof for future buyers that the work was done properly.
- If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit, call the Town Office to inquire or go to our website at www.oxbow.ca

Other bylaws or regulations might apply, and other permits may be required including electrical, plumbing and gas.



GOOD NEIGHBOUR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Town of Oxbow is an ideal place to live and a great place to raise a family. The Town is full of caring residents, businesses and organizations whose acts of kindness, and neighbourhood pride make a positive impact on the Town.

The Good Neighbour Recognition Program seeks to identify and honor individuals who embody the spirit of neighbours helping neighbours and strive to recognize those who are making a difference in our Town and to their neighbours. It also gives residents in Oxbow the opportunity to recognize individuals for their efforts and calls attention in a positive way to the benefits of being a good neighbour.

The Nominated Resident will receive a thank you card signed by the Mayor and Council and a \$25 gift card from a local business.

The number of nominations per year will be limited to 4.

A good neighbour is someone who might:

- check on a neighbour in need
- invite their neighbours to a get together
- keep their boulevard and property looking nice
- take care of a Little Library
- shovel snow or cut grass for a neighbour
- pickup garbage or organize a neighbourhood clean-up
- help a neighbour with a project
- help with a neighbourhood project
- act neighbourly in other ways

If you would like to nominate a “Good Neighbour”, please complete the information on the Good Neighbours Nomination Form on the next page. All nomination forms are to be **submitted no later than August 31st** in any given year for the current year’s recognition.

