



A Newsletter from
the Village of Keremeos

MARCH 2019

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Expert Reports Complete on Wildfire Protection



In 2018, the Village undertook grant-funded studies to examine wildfire protection strategies for Keremeos, and to establish a pilot site in the Village for a neighbourhood FireSmart program (the Riparian Park area). Reports from Registered Professional Foresters on both projects are complete and have been presented to Council.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan provides sixty pages of fire history, baseline data, and analysis, and makes eleven recommendations for the Village's consideration.

The wildfire threat assessment included inventorying potential wildfire fuel sources in the area. Findings were that fuel threats within the Village are low and some measure of protection is offered by orchards, the river, and irrigation in parks. The fuel sources mostly consist of grass which would burn with "relatively low intensity and short duration".

The FireSmart project in the Riparian Park Area involved an information session for residents followed by an assessment/recommendations for individual properties and an assessment of the Riparian Park area. Findings were that the unmowed Riparian Park does not pose a significant threat to neighbouring properties, primarily due to the type of fuel and breaks in the landscape that would likely limit the fire.

For more information and to read the reports, go to <http://www.keremeos.ca/emergency-services>

The Village has applied for grants to continue fire preparedness work in 2019. See article in this newsletter for more detail.

“Steps to Better Health” Walking Group



Plans are underway to build on the success of the Steps to Better Health walking group in Keremeos. Selena Despres, who initiated the existing group, is exploring ways to expand on the concept which included organized walks, talks on a variety of health-related topics, and a coffee and chat after the walk.

Council’s Age-Friendly Advisory Committee is assisting Selena, by acting as a steering committee and adding more ideas and feedback to her great work. Council is also supporting the project by offering the use of Victory Hall as a place to meet if the weather isn’t good for walking.

If you have thoughts that you wish to share about the Steps to Better Health walking group, please email cao@keremeos.ca or call the Village Office at 250-499-2711.

2019 Façade Grant Program now accepting applications

The 2019 Keremeos business façade program is now accepting applications. The deadline for applications is **June 14, 2019**.

In an effort to encourage revitalization of business properties in our community, the Village of Keremeos is once again offering a Business Façade Improvement Program in 2019. Between 2016 and 2018, a total of eight local businesses have successfully applied to the program and beautifully updated their storefronts.

Businesses and owners of property zoned as C1 (General Commercial) and C2 (Tourist Commercial) who hold a valid business license with the Village may apply for grant funding to help offset the cost to renovate, restore or redesign their business storefront façade. Applications from the downtown M1 (Light Industrial) zones will also be considered. Successful applicants are provided with a 50% reimbursement grant up to a maximum of \$2,000 per building.

The selected applicants will be notified by the Village Design Committee by June 28, 2019. The number of grants awarded is dependent on the total value of applications, but a minimum of two will be available.

Further information about the Business Façade Improvement Program can be found by contacting the Village Office or by visiting our website at:

<http://www.keremeos.ca/business-facade-improvement-program>



The Ranch installed a beautiful new sign in 2018!

Keremeos Grants for 2019 concentrate on health and safety

The Village is fortunate to have received several grants so far this year:

- **Age-Friendly Steps to Better Health Walking Group** - \$15,000 was received to help grow the program of walks with “guest speakers” to talk about health topics of interest, followed by a social coffee.
- **Evacuation Route Planning** - \$25,000 was received to prepare a comprehensive plan for high risk areas vulnerable to threat, evacuation plans and alternate measures.
- **Emergency Social Services Coordination** - \$75,000 was received (to be shared by Keremeos, RDOS and Princeton) to coordinate and improve program delivery, provide training and support.

Applications for the following grants have been submitted, but grants have not yet been awarded (fingers crossed!)

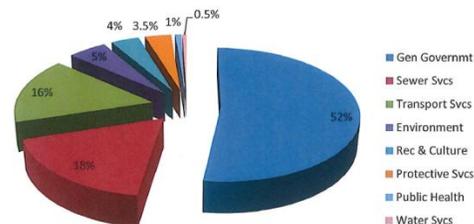
- **Flood emergency planning** - \$150,000 has been requested for flood risk assessment, flood mapping and flood mitigation planning. The RDOS and Princeton have also applied separately for this grant to allow a coordinated regional initiative.
- **Community Fire Resiliency** - \$50,000 has been requested for the development and promotion of a Community Wildfire Resiliency Program built around the FireSmart disciplines of education, planning and a public FireSmart demonstration project.
- **Community Resiliency through Arts and Culture** - \$7,500 has been requested for community story sharing leading to the development of a mural facing the new downtown pocket park.
- **Manhole repairs to reduce flooding complications** - \$353,949 has been requested for repair of leaking manholes which are compounding the effects of groundwater flooding on the Village’s sanitary collection system and wastewater treatment plant.

The grant applications align with the Village’s strategic priorities for 2019.

Have your say on the Village budget

Keremeos Council invites residents and property owners to a discussion regarding the Village’s 2019 operating budget on **April 1, 2019 at 6:00 PM**.

The meeting will take place in the Council Chambers, at the Village municipal office 702-4th Street, Keremeos. Attendees will be given an opportunity to speak. A copy of the draft budget will be available at the Village Office as of March 29, 2019.



Doggie waste bags are disappearing!

Village staff have noticed that some of the dog waste bag receptacles are being emptied as soon as stock is replenished. Certain users of the bags have been observed taking far more than their share of the bags (or all of the bags)!

The bags cost Village taxpayers about \$1800 per year, and are offered as a convenience for those who unexpectedly find themselves in need of a bag. Pet owners should generally be supplying their own dog waste bags.

Due to the increased incidences of bags disappearing, and in order to control taxpayer-funded costs, the Village will now only be replenishing supplies in the receptacles intermittently, rather than as soon as they are empty.

Sign up for the Keremeos Resident Notification system at keremeos.ca!
(or complete the form below and submit it to the Village Office, 702-4th Street, Keremeos)



Keremeos Resident Notification System Sign-up Form

First name

Last Name

House number

Postal Code

Street Name

Apartment Number

Email address (one per person)

Phone number(s) for automated call

Cell phone number(s) for text message

(You are automatically signed up for urgent messages and statutory notifications from the municipality)

- Also wish to receive Keremeos news to my email
- Contact info is for a business
- Contact wishes to make officials aware of an impairment

Terms:

Your municipal alert system is an emergency communication tool that should not be used as a sole source of information. If you feel threatened, you should not in any event, rely solely on this alert system and you must immediately take the necessary precautions to make yourself and your belongings safe from any danger. Although the system is an important tool to your municipality, in case of an emergency, it bears no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or notification of any alert posted on or transmitted by the system. Your municipality, its officers, employees and right holders shall not be liable for damages arising directly or indirectly, should a warning not be received by a subscriber. By checking the box below, you accept the terms of this notice and waive accordingly the right to pursue your municipality, its officers, employees and right holders.

- I've read and accept the terms and conditions

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