

# Town of Arcola

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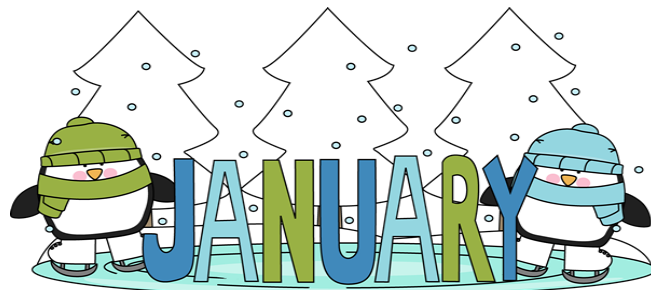
Council and staff of the Town of Arcola wish each and every one of you all the best in 2019!

Happy New Year!

## History for JANUARY

The Latin month name *Januarius*, from which we get the word *January*, was associated by the ancient Romans with their god *Janus*. *Janus* was a god of doorways and gates (in Latin, *janua*), and also of beginnings, so the name seems appropriate for the first month of the year. Curiously, however, the early Roman calendar began with March, not January, so the origin of the Latin name is somewhat mysterious.

Farming was a big deal in ancient Rome. Roman farmers harvested wheat, spelt and barley which were basically all the ingredients to make their favourite food, bread! Farming was so important to Romans that King Pompilius didn't even bother to name the time in between harvests. The calendar year began in March and end



### Reminders:

- Business Licenses are up for renewal/purchase again in January.
- Cat and Dog Licenses are up for renewal/purchase again in January.
- A 5% penalty is added to all taxes outstanding as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, and an additional 5% penalty is added to all taxes outstanding as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. Tax enforcement proceedings will commence in January on outstanding 2018 taxes.
- Utility bills are due at the end of January. A \$5.00 surcharge will be added to all outstanding bills as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, and in subsequent months for outstanding balances.
- No smoking in any and all town-owned buildings.
- **Snow Removal Policy:** Council wants to remind you that the first streets to be attended to after a snow fall are Main Street, Prairie Avenue East (Main Street to the hospital) and Brock Avenue, from the hospital to #604, in that order. The remaining streets will be done in the order determined by accumulation and need.
- Snow removed from private property is not to be placed on boulevards at intersections or on any street or avenue.

### ***And a Little More History:***

Arcola was incorporated as a village on April 11, 1901. Two years later, in 1903, Arcola became a town. The first meeting of the town council was held in the rooms of Sam McGurk on January 4, 1904. Concerns that council of that day dealt with included water supply, police protection, dogs, lighting, sidewalks, tax collection, garbage and health. Sound familiar??

*(information courtesy of Elaine Hislop from the Arcola History Book)*

**Don't forget: Optimist Snowmobile Rally  
January 26, 2019**

**Please support this local fundraiser!**



*A Little More  
History:*

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**New Year's Day** - The most celebrated holiday around the world.

**JANUARY 01, 1832** - Grosse Île, near Québec, was opened as a quarantine station during the cholera epidemics and all ships stopped there for inspection. This station was a futile attempt by the government to control the disease that killed up to 10% of the population.

**JANUARY 01, 1845** - The first volume of François-Xavier Garneau's *Histoire du Canada* was published at Québec. It was the most outstanding history book for a century in Québec and an incentive to patriotism and pride.

**JANUARY 01, 1847** - Egerton Ryerson published his Report on a system of public elementary instruction for Upper Canada describing an education system based on Christian faith, universal access and government support that would be a model for English-speaking Canada.

*Welcome back Christie Hislop! We missed you! Christie resumes her duties as Chief Administrative Officer on January 2, 2019.*



*Welcome our new Public Works Operator, Spencer Dyer. We wish Hayden Cutler well in his future endeavors!*

## Radon Gas in Your Home

Radon is an invisible, odourless gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. Radon gas escapes from the ground into the air. In open spaces, the concentration of radon gas is small and does not pose a health risk.

In confined spaces, such as basements and underground mines, radon can accumulate to high levels and become a health hazard. Prolonged exposure to high levels of radon can increase the risk of developing lung cancer.

Radon can enter a home through any opening where the house contacts soil, such as cracks in foundation walls and floor slabs, construction joints, gaps around service pipes and support posts, floor drains and sumps, cavities inside walls, and the water supply.

To reduce radon levels within your home, you can renovate existing basement floors, particularly earth floors, seal cracks and openings in walls and floors, including openings around pipes and drains, and ventilate the soil around the basement floor.

The Canadian guideline for radon in indoor air is 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>. Radon levels can vary from home to home depending on the soil, construction and ventilation. Testing is the only way to check the radon level in your home. You can purchase a test kit online or hire a radon testing company. If testing shows levels of radon above this threshold, remedial measures should be taken.

*Courtesy Government of Saskatchewan*